

			
(2 nd in month) Sunday, 14/05/2023 Easter 6	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play Activity Bags available; refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Being observed as Bellringers' Sunday
	18.00	Contemporary Worship (Church)	See posters
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org , *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter
Monday, 15/05/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	10.30-17.30	UCI Groups (Hall)	
Tuesday, 16/05/2023	18.30	1982 Eucharist (Lady Chapel)	St Matthias
Wednesday, 17/05/2023	10.30	1970 Eucharist (Church), followed by refreshments (Hall)	
	18.30	Choir Practice (Hall)	
Thursday, 18/05/2023 Ascension Day	12.30	Mothers' Union Lunch & Guest Speaker (Hall)	Pamela Crosbie, of Bethany Trust. (See notices below). Last MU meeting until September.
	Afternoon TBC	Galloway Regional Council meets	Portpatrick/Stranraer...details to follow
	19.30	Bell Practice (Tower)	Please contact bells@stjohnsdumfries.org or 07754 596140 if not a regular.
Friday, 19/05/2023	10.00-17.00	Church Office open	
	18:30-20:00	Mystery evening in the hall	
Saturday, 20/05/2023	10.00-17.00	Scottish Association of Changersingers' Competition (Tower, Church, Hall)	
(3 rd in month) Sunday, 21/05/2023 Easter 7	11.00	1982 Family Eucharist (Church); Godly Play (Hall); refreshments afterwards (Hall)	Being observed as Aldersgate Sunday
	14.00	Forest Church	Meet outside Crichton Church, dressed for weather
	18.00	Sung Evensong (Church)	
	Any time*	Service online	www.stjohnsdumfries.org . *Available on website from about same time as actual event & for some days thereafter

And, as always, if you need us, you can contact

- The Rector on 01387 254126 / 07487 653069 / rector@stjohnsdumfries.org
- The Church Office on 07754 596140 / pastadmin@stjohnsdumfries.org

Coronation Lunch: Thank you to everyone who contributed to, or participated in, last Sunday's Coronation Lunch. The Hall looked beautiful and the food was well up to the usual St J's standard. It was also a really nice occasion, well supported by lots of people. It can be a bit dangerous to start mentioning individuals, but thank you, particularly, to Annette for co-ordinating it all.

Thank you, also, to the **St J's Bellringers** for the quarter peal they rang last Sunday afternoon, to celebrate the Coronation.

The St John's bellringers will also be hosting the annual Scottish Association of Change Ringers striking competition **here** on the afternoon of **Saturday May 20th**. Approximately 8 teams of bellringers from all over Scotland will ring in turn for 5 minutes and will be judged 'unseen' on the quality of their performance. There is a trophy for the winners in each of the 'more experienced' and 'less experienced' categories and St John's bellringers are entering two teams on the day, one in each group. Although the competition ringing will not be heard outside the church, there will be **open ringing for local and visiting bellringers** between 6pm and 7.30pm, which can be heard outside.

Outings:

- There will be no St J's outing, as such, in May, but you might like to consider joining one of the Spring Fling Tours, operated by Thornhill Community Transport and others: in particular the Green Route (Nithsdale) on Saturday, 27/05/2023, the Red Tour (Annandale & Eskdale) or the 'New & Emerging' Tour (Dfs & Solway Coast and including our own Andy Brooke), both on Sunday, 28/05/2023, or the Pink route (CD & Glenkens area) on Monday, 29/05/2023. These tours, which need to be booked through Spring Fling [www.spring-fling.co.uk or on 07787 299487], all depart from Gracefield at 10am and will last most of the day. There are other tours, starting from Stranraer – see Spring Fling brochures or their website. These are a longish, but fun and interesting, day out. David Kerr has more details, but cannot take

bookings. You can also, of course, visit any of these studios any time they're open, under your own steam. There is an outline of what to expect at the back of the church.

- The next 'purely St J's' outing is planned for Saturday, 24/06/2023 and we expect it to offer the chance to visit combinations of the Burrell Collection, Kelvingrove and/or the People's Palace and any other Glasgow venues for which there is a demand. More details in due course.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday, 26/05/2023, 19.30, here in St J's: there will be an organ recital by our great friend and frequent organist, **John Turner**. Tickets (£10, in aid of St J's) are available from the Church Office and via the usual church sources. This will be an impressive evening, the pairing of a skilled musician and a wonderful instrument: don't miss it!

Saturday, 27/05/2023, 19.30, here in St J's: there will be a **Concert for the King's Coronation** by **Annan Town Band** (Musical Director Lewis Wilkinson) with special guest choir, directed by our own Jamie Brand, MBE. Tickets, also £10, available via the Church Office (in due course) and already via Pet Savers, Annan, the Midsteeple Box Office in Dumfries, and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/annantownband. Don't miss this one either!

And, further off...

- Saturday, 08/07/2023: Strawberry Tea } More
- Friday, 06/10/2023: Beetle Drive } details
- Friday, 19/01/2023: Burns Supper } in
- Thursday, 14/03/2023 Pamper Session } due
- Saturday, 16/03/2023 Men's Breakfast } course

MU Meeting

- The last Mothers' Union monthly meeting of our 22/23 programme will take place on Thursday 18th May in the Hall. Pamela Crosbie

will be coming to talk to us about Bethany Christian Trust. We will gather from 12.30, with prayers at 12.45 and lunch at 1pm. Please bring a sandwich lunch, and soup, tea / coffee and cake will be provided.

- Despite its name, MU is an inclusive organisation, with 4 million members, supporting families and projects around the world. Anyone is welcome to come along - you do not have to be a mother, married, or even female! Please be assured of a warm welcome.

Dumfries Fairtrade Group says...

- Do you like coffee, tea and chocolate? Celebrate **World Fair Trade Day** by taking part in the Dumfries Fairtrade Town Trail and Quiz, available between 9th - 22nd May. Have fun with friends and family; learn about Fairtrade and be in with a chance to win prizes.
- There are ten questions and the answers to each can be found on cards which appear in ten participating businesses based in and around the High Street. Simply answer the questions correctly and you will be entered into a Prize Draw to win some Fairtrade goodies!
- If you need any clues about who the participating stores might be, try the Directory on the Dumfries Fairtrade Group website <http://www.dumfriesfairtrade.org.uk/>
- Complete the quiz digitally on <https://shout.com/s/dH10wnNK>, or, if you prefer, you can collect and return completed paper forms via the Ewart library - or the Flourish shop (next to Midsteeple).

Please note that the next **Silent Prayer @ Elshields** will be on Saturday, 20/05/2023. revann@stjohnsdumfries.org for details.

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May:

- This year Christian Aid Week focuses on Malawi. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months and hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the

climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather. Christian Aid's partners are helping farmers improve their growing of pigeon peas, a local crop which is a source of food and if the harvest is sufficient can be traded or made into bread or fish food. There is more information on the lit noticeboard.

- If you can support Christian Aid Week please make a donation in the envelope and hand it in with the collection or give it to either Christopher Pierson-Harvey or myself. If electronic giving is more your thing we have a Just Giving page which you can access using this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/dumfrieschristianaidweek2023>
- Or use the QR code (opposite and on the lit noticeboard):
- We started the week with the Coffee Morning yesterday (Saturday). Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

Margaret Morton

