**Whinnymuir**

**Dalry**

**DG7 3TT**

24th April 2021

Dear Member of St Margaret’s

**THE WAY FORWARD FOR ST MARGARET’S**

As you know, we are currently in the fortunate position of having Canon Barry Gilbert as our Priest-in-Charge, but this is and was only a temporary measure.

Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben have been giving a lot of thought to the future ministry of St Margaret’s and, after a number of discussions with Vestry members, they are proposing we consider the possibility of sharing a new Priest-in-Charge with All Saints, Challoch near Newton Stewart.

The following outline of progress to date has been agreed with Bishop Kevin:

**Ministry at All Saints’, Challoch and St Margaret’s, New Galloway**

The two Vestries of All Saints’ and St Margaret’s have been working with Bishop Kevin and the Dean to explore a way of resourcing ministry in Challoch and New Galloway in the coming years. At the moment, the two Charges are working with the Diocese and developing a plan to create a Priest-in-Charge post for 3-5 years.

Currently, we are in the stages of planning the financing and housing to support a full-time priest and we will be working with the Dean to put together a complete package which will help us prepare to start the process of writing a role description and Charges’ Profile. We then hope to move towards advertising and interviewing for a new priest. The anticipation is that the person appointed will work equally in each Charge as well as contribute to the life of the diocese, to help develop the ministry and mission of each congregation.

This initiative comes from Bishop Kevin who is committed to helping and supporting Charges grow in their outreach and worship amongst the communities they serve. Please pray for the planning, preparations and advertising which will be taking place during the coming months.

As a Vestry, we all feel this is a very positive step forward and are excited at the thought of sharing a priest with Challoch – which has a very similar demographic and style of worship to us.

We will keep you informed as and when we know more ourselves but, in the meantime, if you have any queries or thoughts you would like to share, please do get in touch with any member of the Vestry.

With kind regards



Nicolette Wise

Lay Representative, St Margaret’s