

ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

MAY 2021



Ascension

SERVICES FOR MAY

5 th Sunday of Easter	2 nd May 10.30am	(Reserved Sacrament) Mrs Gerry Ewan
6 th Sunday of Easter	9 th May 10.30am	Eucharist Rev. David De Verney
Ascension Day	13 th May	See page 5
7 th Sunday of Easter	16 th May 10.30am	Eucharist Rev. John McHale
Pentecost	23 rd May 10.30am	Eucharist Canon Barry Gilbert
Trinity Sunday	30 th May 10.30am	Eucharist Canon Robin Whitehead

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Canon B. Gilbert	Tel. 420665
Secretary	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
Treasurer	Mrs C. Agnew	Tel. 430212
Eucharistic Asst.	Mrs J. Dowswell	Tel. 420372
Lay Representative	Mrs N. Wise	Tel. 430218
Ladies Guild Pres.	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
Property Convenor	Mrs J. Marsden	Tel. 420419
	Mr N. Wise	Tel: 430218

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

Barry Gilbert our Priest-in-Charge, is the point of contact for baptisms, marriages or funerals. Telephone 01644 420665 or email: barry_gilbert@talk21.com

UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY

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.

HELPING WITH SERVICES

After many years, Jean Dowswell has decided that the time has come for her to step down as our Eucharistic Assistant. We are most grateful for all she has done and for all the quiet help and support she has provided over many years - and we are pleased she still remains on the Vestry.

However, the Vestry is conscious that we are now even more short of lay people who might be able to assist with our services – bell ringing, reading lessons, doing the intercessions or even taking a service with Reserved Sacrament if we don't have a priest on a particular Sunday. If you feel the latter is something you would like to find out more about, Barry would be more than happy to talk to you, and training would be provided, free of charge, by the Diocese.

Linda Gerraty has kindly agreed to oversee altar preparation for the Eucharist and is looking for volunteers to add to the rota. We already have several people who are happy to Read during services but it would be nice to expand that rota as well.

Please think about what you might be able to do: the more people we have the better!

FROM THE TREASURER – GIVING

Thank you to all those who have sent cheques in lieu of your usual giving during this challenging time. Please continue to do so if you can. If you would prefer to donate by standing order the Church bank details are below.

Bank Clydesdale Bank

Account Name St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Account Number 70077006

Sort Code 82-66-33

BISHOPS'S LENT APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Your generosity enabled us to send £700 to support Aberlour Children's Charity.

We have also received a letter from 'Crisis' thanking us for supporting them in our Christmas collections. The letter is at the back of the Church if you would like to read it.

Cathy Agnew
Treasurer

ST MARGARET'S WEBSITE

Our website is proving useful as another source of information about our worship – particularly with Covid rules changing all the time. Any changes to our services will be posted on the website, as well as news from the Diocese and in our own Newsletter. The website can be accessed at:

<https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org>

ASCENSION DAY – THURSDAY 13TH MAY

St John's Dumfries are kindly hosting the Regional Ascension Day service this year at 6.30pm. They can accommodate quite a few people but are still asking that anyone interested in attending let them know in advance. If anyone would like to go please contact Nicolette.

CHURCH CLEANER

Our Church cleaner Mandy Kennedy has recently moved away. We are very grateful to Mandy for her diligence especially during the recent difficult times. We are now looking for someone to replace Mandy, if you know of anyone who might be interested in cleaning St. Margaret's, for approximately an hour a week, please can you let a member of the Vestry know.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flower arrangers will now be able to arrange flowers in the Church as before, as long as they do so at least 24 hours before Communal Worship

FLOWER ROTA

2 nd May	Nicolette Wise
9 th May	Nicolette Wise
16 th May	Cathy Agnew
23 rd May	Cathy Agnew
30 th May	Venetia Forbes

REFRESHMENTS IN CHURCH

The current guidance from the Advisory Committee is that refreshment can now be served in Church before or after the service. However, people will be required to remain seated in their household groups and anyone moving about or serving will be required to wear a face covering at all times. Social distancing will still have to be observed between those in different household or support groups.

This Sunday we plan to serve tea and coffee after the service at the back of the Church. People not wishing to stay for refreshments will be asked to leave first. Those staying for refreshments will be asked to move to the back of the Church (wearing a face covering) and sit in the single seats, which have been positioned either singularly or in pairs. Please occupy the seats according to your household or support group. You should remain seated; coffee and tea will be brought round on a tray by servers wearing face coverings.

LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild will now be able to resume offering refreshments after the Sunday service and remain within the guidance. In order to do so, only people in the same household or support group can be in the utility area together i.e. making coffee or washing up and only one person will serve coffee or tea to those remaining seated. Coffee and tea will be prepared on a tray in the Utility Area and one person will serve it wearing a face covering. Please let me know if you would like to go on the Refreshment Rota.

Christine Rankin
Ladies Guild President

POETRY CORNER

ASCENSION DAY

By Christina Rossetti

“A Cloud received Him out of their sight.”

When Christ went up to Heaven the Apostles stayed
Gazing at Heaven with souls and wills on fire,
Their hearts on flight along the track He made,
Winged by desire.

Their silence spake: “Lord, why not follow Thee?
Home is not home without Thy Blessed Face,
Life is not life. Remember, Lord, and see,
Look back, embrace.

“Earth is one desert waste of banishment,
Life is one long-drawn anguish of decay.
Where Thou wert wont to go we also went:
Why not today?”

Nevertheless a cloud cut off their gaze:
They tarry to build up Jerusalem,
Watching for Him, while thro’ the appointed days
He watches them.

They do His Will, and doing it rejoice,
Patiently glad to spend and to be spent:
Still He speaks to them, still they hear His Voice
And are content.

For as a cloud received Him from their sight,
So with a cloud will He return ere long:
Therefore they stand on guard by day, by night,
Strenuous and strong.

They do, they dare, they beyond seven times seven
Forgive, they cry God’s mighty word aloud:
Yet sometimes haply lift tired eyes to Heaven—
“Is that His cloud?”

MAY READINGS

2nd May

Acts 8. 26-end

Cathy Agnew

1 John 4. 7-end

Christine Rankin

9th May

Acts 10. 44-end

Helen Keron

1 John 5. 1-6

Nicolette Wise

16th May

Acts 1. 15-17, 21-end

Clive Brayshaw

1 John 5. 9-13

Nicholas Wise

23rd May

Acts 2. 1-21

Christine Rankin

Romans 8. 22-27

Rosalind Hall

30th May

Isaiah 6. 1-8

Nicolette Wise

Romans 8. 12-17

Cathy Agnew

PRAYER FOCUS

- Sunday Pray for Bishop Kevin, the Clergy of the Diocese, Lay Readers and Vestry Committees.
- Monday Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire churches and congregations around the world through prayers and worship.
- Tuesday Pray for all those who suffer and are persecuted for their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Wednesday Pray for all of those who suffer severe hardship, for those who face famine and thirst around the world and those suffering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic
- Thursday Pray for the world-wide Anglican Communion and Church leaders of all Denominations.
- Friday Pray for Her Majesty the Queen and her family and for all who serve under her.
- Saturday Pray for the work of missionary societies and aid agencies in the troubled parts of the world.