

**ST MARGARET'S
NEW GALLOWAY**

DECEMBER 2022



**ADVENT
St. Margaret's Church**

NUMBER 451

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

2nd Sunday Advent 4th December, 10.30am Sung Eucharist Ven. Stuart Bain

3rd Sunday Advent 11th December 10.30am Sung Eucharist Revd John McHale

4th Sunday Advent 18th December 10.30am Sung Eucharist Revd David Humphries

Carol Service, 18th December, 6pm Lessons & Carols Canon Barry Gilbert

Christmas Day 25th December 10.30am Sung Eucharist Canon Barry Gilbert

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Canon B. Gilbert	Tel. 420665
Secretary	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
Treasurer	Mrs C. Agnew	Tel. 430212
Lay Representative	Mrs N. Wise	Tel. 430218
Guild President	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
	Mr N. Wise	Tel: 430218
	Mrs P. Gilbert	Tel: 420665
	Mrs L. Garretty	Tel: 420829

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

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

ST MARGARET'S WEBSITE

Our website is proving useful as another source of information. Any changes to our services will be posted on the website, as well as events outwith our normal Sunday worship. News from the Diocese can also be accessed via our website.

<https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org>

UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY

Our AGM is normally held after the Christ the King service in late November but this year that clashed with All Saints' Challoch's service to celebrate their 150th anniversary so our AGM was postponed to the following Sunday, 27th November. Barry Gilbert, as our interim Priest-in-Charge, Chaired the meeting efficiently and speedily! The various Reports were all approved. Linda Garretty had volunteered to serve on the Vestry and this was approved by all. The Vestry was then re-elected en masse, all office bearers remaining the same. In the past the congregation has voted on which charity our Carol Service and Christmas Day collections should support - Médecins-sans-frontières was suggested and all agreed. The charity works in more than 70 countries (including Ukraine) providing medical humanitarian assistance to save lives and ease the suffering of people in crisis situations. (Please see their website for details of their work <https://www.msf.org/>).

Following the exciting news that a new shared Priest-in-Charge has been appointed for All Saints' Challoch and St Margaret's, we are still waiting for all the clearance procedures to be finished so are not yet able to share any more detail. Once these have been concluded there will be a formal announcement. In the meantime, the two Vestries remain positive and optimistic about the appointment, as do the Bishop and Dean.

NEWSLETTERS

If you know of anyone new to the area or have a new neighbour please give them a newsletter or put it through their door. Extra newsletters are being printed every month in order to let more people know about St. Margaret's

POPPY APPEAL

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. St. Margaret's raised £55.00, along with the Village and Balmaclellan collections the total was £322.20

Linda Garretty

ALL SAINTS' CHALLOCH – 150th ANNIVERSARY

A wonderful service was held on the Feast of Christ the King to celebrate 150 years of the consecration of All Saints' Challoch. The service was led by Bishop Kevin, assisted by Stuart Bain, and the congregation was enlarged with friends from charges all across Galloway - Stranraer, Gatehouse, New Galloway, Dumfries and Moffat. Inspiring music including Handel, Telemann, Tallis, Purcell and Vaughan Williams, and supported by a choir and violinist, added to the joyous occasion. In his sermon, the Bishop reminded us that the Feast of Christ the King was inaugurated following the First World War to celebrate the hope of new life. And he sees new and exciting life now as Challoch and New Galloway prepare for their new priest, making God's love real and known in our communities. At the end of the service Bishop Kevin dedicated a newly made textile panel celebrating 150 years of All Saints' Challoch, and this was followed by an enjoyable lunch'

FROM THE TREASURER – GIVING

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

We are aware that some people may wish to set up a Bank standing order for their 'giving' but feel uncomfortable not putting something into the collection bag on a Sunday. We have therefore produced small laminated cards that can be placed in the collection bag during the Offertory. These will be removed and placed at the back of the Church to be collected and reused. Please take a few if you wish to use them.

Cathy Agnew
Treasurer

OBITUARY

Clive Reginald Brayshaw MBE

The funeral of Clive Brayshaw MBE was held at St Margaret's Church on 25th November and followed by the interment at Balmaclellan Churchyard. Following a distinguished military career, Clive moved to Grantown-on-Spey in Morayshire and took up picture framing. After meeting Jane Douglas through their joint involvement with SSAFA, they married in 2000 and settled at The Hill just outside Balmaclellan

On moving to the Glenkens, Clive became a loyal and faithful member of the congregation at St Margaret's and served as a member of the Vestry for several years including a stint as Vestry Secretary. He was actively involved in the community and he and Jane were renowned for their generous hospitality, keen sense of humour and kindness to friends, neighbours and newcomers to the area. Our thoughts and condolences are with Jane and their families.

HELPING CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

The St Margaret's Guild has been concerned by the ongoing devastation in Ukraine and have been discussing what we could do to help. Sarah Watson, who has recently joined the Guild, is a trained and experienced Play Therapist and earlier this year, with support from her last church, she compiled 100 Play Therapy kits to send to Ukrainian children suffering from trauma. The Guild would like to support Sarah to compile 50 more Play Therapy kits and have agreed to underwrite the project.

Sarah explains, "Each kit includes 12 specific items ranging from Play Dough to help with sensory regulation to colouring pens, paper and a journal to help the children externalise and process what they have experienced. These are all contained in their own easily transportable drawstring bag with an explanation in Ukrainian as to how to use the kits. Bulk-buying the items, brings the cost down to around £10 per kit if we send a minimum of 50 kits."

It is important to note that the kits are designed to go to children where they will be supported to use them in a therapeutic way. Sarah says “the kits are not just toys and each item has a therapeutic value. And a nice addition is including a card with a simple signed message which is also therapeutic as it lets them know that someone is thinking and holding them in mind.”

If any members of the congregation would like to contribute to this project, please contact the Guild Treasurer, Nicolette Wise on 01644 430218 or nicolette.wise2@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CAROL SERVICE

Singing much-loved Christmas carols, and listening to traditional readings, is always a popular way to get into the Christmas spirit by reminding us of the simple joy of the Christmas story.

This year, we are holding our Carol Service on Sunday 18th December, at 6pm, and have extended an invitation to all members of the community and any visitors. There will be a collection for Médecins-sans-frontières. Following the service, the St Margaret’s Guild will be serving Mulled Wine, and Spiced Apple Ale (non-alcoholic) as well as a selection of festive nibbles.

Walking through Advent with the poetry of R S Thomas

Rachel Inglis, who runs the Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living courses here in Galloway, is running a faith-sharing group for Advent and is inviting others to join. Rachel will be using the poetry of R S Thomas in a recently published book, *Frequencies of God*, by Revd Dr Carys Walsh, as an Advent reflection.

Rachel explains, “The book has a simple format; each day we are offered a different poem by R S Thomas, selected for its resonance with one of the Advent themes of waiting, accepting, journeying and birthing, and

followed by a thoughtful reflection from Carys Walsh. Practically, how a faith-sharing group works is that during the week we each make space in our day for the daily reflection; we then we all meet up and listen to the fruit of our individual reflections, each of us sharing as much or as little as we feel comfortable doing. We don't give each other advice, or preach at one another, we simply offer the gift of listening to one another's faith journey – and discover that we ourselves have been heard and seen.”

The group will meet in Kirkcudbright on the following Saturdays – November 12th, 19th, 26th, December 3rd, 10th and 17th, from 2pm – 3.30pm. Anyone interested or wanting to find out more, please contact Rachel on rachelinkbt@gmail.com.

ST. MARGARET'S GUILD

The Christmas Coffee morning held jointly with the Kirk Guilds is this year taking place in Dalry Town Hall between 10.30am – 12pm, on Wednesday 7th December. Entry to include refreshments is £2.50, children free. There will be baking and gifts sales table and a raffle. Donations for these will be much appreciated.

Christine Rankin
St. Margaret's Guild President

REFRESHMENTS IN CHURCH

The St Margaret's Guild continue to offer coffee or tea and biscuits after our Sunday services. Anyone preferring to remain seated can have refreshments brought to them. The Guild is always grateful for any donations in the 'pig' at the back of the church.

FLOWER ROTA

No Flowers in Advent
18th December 2pm – Decorate the Church for the Carol Service

All Welcome

If you read our Newsletter and would like to join our flower Rota, please phone or email Pat Gilbert - [01644420665](tel:01644420665)/p.a.gilbert@hotmail.co.uk

POETRY CORNER

HOPE

As our body requires oxygen to move, to breathe, to know the taste of life
So too our soul needs HOPE to press on where there is no light, no touch-
stone

HOPE for we mortals is the essences of being; when hope is crushed,
removed

We are a skeleton, no flesh, no strength to move us on.

HOPE is like the sun is to the day, light for us to play; the well spring of
Wisdom to be living NOW, the awaited dream of expectation, aspiring us
to be real.

HOPE in the waiting is like the wings of the dove, lifting us high above the
daily commotion (routine) on the current of faith and prayer, aspiring us to
new elevations.

HOPE is the light we use to shine upon the path of life, as well as the light
to reflect who we are; in spirit and truth as we embody the deeds of
hospitality, kindness, peace.

HOPE can be the transfiguration of old to new; no longer bogged down by
“what if” but rather the uplifting surge of anticipation that calms and wills
our soul to hang in.

HOPE is not ours to own but we need to prepare, be ready to wait, for we
do not know exactly when hope will push us out to the deep, to believe
Jesus is capable, capable of working his personification through our words
and deeds

For the purpose of His kingdom come; His will be done; as much as you
have done to these little ones, you have done it as unto Me; the Shepherd of
Souls*, (be they new or old). As we open up our present moment for our
soul to breathe, the remarkable power of HOPE!

Inspiration: sermon by Sonya Lewthwaite \ © stephen c douglas

DECEMBER READINGS

4th December

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Nicholas Wise

Romans 15: 4-13

Nicolette Wise

11th December

Isaiah 35: 1-10

David Humphries

James 5: 7-10

Helen Keron

18th December

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Rosalind Hall

Romans 1: 1-7

Cathy Agnew

25th December

Isaiah 52: 7-10

TBA

Hebrews 1. 1-4

TBA

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 His Majesty the King and his family and for all who serve under him.
- Saturday Pray for the work of missionary societies and aid agencies in the troubled parts of the world.