

ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

AUGUST 2023



WORSHIP

NUMBER 459

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Transfiguration,	6 th August	5pm	Sung Eucharist
10 th After Trinity,	13 th August	10.30am	Baptism
11 th After Trinity,	20 th August	5pm	Sung Eucharist
12 th After Trinity,	27 th August	5pm	Sung Eucharist

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Rev. Dawn Matthew	Tel. 420431
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

Dawn Matthew Tel: 07543247180 or email: revdawnmatthew@gmail.com

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Dear Friends,

Unity and Inclusion: Reflecting Christ's Love to All

Even as we're now in the midst of summer, I have begun to plan ahead for the autumn term, and have even (dare I say it) begun to think about that special date in December! As I was planning and praying, I was reflecting on the characteristics that we would wish everyone to associate with St Margaret's Church, and the ways we can reflect them in our church, our community, and even more widely. Out of the many that sprang to mind, unity and inclusion were the two that have stayed with me. These essential virtues should define our church family and call us to be more Christ-like in our actions. Unity is a precious gift from God. In the diverse tapestry of humanity, our church should be a place where people from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences are united in the truth of the gospel. As we strive to pursue harmony and unity, we recognise God's creativity, as it enriches our understanding of his infinite grace. In Ephesians 4:3, the apostle Paul urges us to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace. I pray this verse would be close to our hearts as we work together for the kingdom of God. Inclusion is at the heart of the gospel message. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and he reached out to those who were marginalised, ostracised, and left on the fringes of society. As followers of Christ, we are called to emulate his example and extend a welcoming hand to all who seek refuge in his grace. Galatians 3:28 reminds us that There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. In God's eyes, we are all equal, and our church must be a place where everyone feels valued and cherished. Our commitment to unity and inclusion invites us to listen to one another with empathy and respect, seeking to understand each other's perspectives and experiences. We must be open to growth and transformation, recognizing that God's work in our lives often challenges our preconceptions and biases. As we move forwards in the gospel, may our prayer be that we would continue to foster an atmosphere of love and acceptance within our church family. When we are

united in Christ's love, we become a compelling force for positive change, not just within our church but also in the wider community. May we demonstrate Christ's unconditional love through our actions more and more each day.

With Blessings,
Rev Dawn Matthew

FROM THE VESTRY

Service times feedback and future plans

Thank you to everyone who responded so graciously to the recent church-wide survey in respect of our service time review. By way of an interim update, the vestry met this week, and received the anonymised feedback and preferences for the service time from Autumn onwards. There were a couple of possibilities that the vestry is considering, and we would ask that you bear with us as we seek the optimum way forward. For continuity and the growth of our church family, we would like whatever time is settled on to be for the benefit of all. Please continue to pray for the vestry as, together with the church, they prayerfully consider this important matter.

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

New Payment Facility

We now have our new electronic tablet and card reader at the back of church to enable us to receive card and cash donations and payments.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Summer message from Bishop Kevin...

Dear Friends,

Stories are very important. We each have our own story which we need to tell and share in order to better understand why we are the way we are. In reading stories, whether real or fictional, we learn a little bit more about the world in which we live and a little bit more about ourselves. That is why I never tire of the Old Testaments stories, especially the Genesis story of Abraham.



Genesis, the book of beginnings, recounts the story of the great person of faith, Abraham. There is something **for** everyone and something **of** everyone, in that one story. It is a love story, Sarah; it is an adventure story, in the desert wanderings; but, most of all, it is the story of faith which begins with a feeling, a feeling that what we see, touch, possess, is not all that there is to life. That feeling leads to the journey of patience and deepening love which produces faith that is not afraid of the desert wilderness, or of the questions, that knows doubts, that makes sense of our wanderings. All in the great story of Abraham which the Sunday lectionary offers us as our reading, this summer.

It is the importance of our own stories that is behind the **‘Bricks without Straw’** material that was launched at Pentecost. This material is not designed to increase numbers or money; only love can do that, remembering always that God is love. The material is designed to help us as individuals, as congregations and as a Diocese to share our own stories. In sharing out own stories then we can reflect and recognise where, when and how God is with us in our lives as individuals, congregations and as a Diocese. In Jesus we see God as God really is and in the story of Jesus all

the great themes of human life weave together to prove, to me, the truth of Abraham's feeling that there is more to life than what I can see, touch and possess.

The fact is, that in sharing our stories we begin to reflect and recognise the Holy Spirit active in our lives and in the lives of those around us. A part of the excellent children's programme, 'Godly Play', used in some of our congregations, has a section after the story is told in which the participants are encouraged to 'wonder.' They are then encouraged to share their 'wondering'. That is exactly what 'Bricks without Straw' aims to do to facilitate our wonderings and encourage each one of us to share our stories and our wonderings in ways that allow us to learn a little bit more about ourselves, a little bit more about other people and a little bit more about God.

There is always, understandably, a certain amount of cynicism about Diocesan initiatives. It may appear that more forms are to be filled in, or that the Diocese is checking up, or that the Bishop is acting as Pharaoh! And anyway, where is the Mission programme that will produce more people and more money? Such a programme does not exist: you cannot buy in a guaranteed magical method that will double congregations in a week and yes, it has been tried, and it has failed. That is why the cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again.

Abraham was no cynic: he wandered in the wilderness of doubt and confusion but constantly he found oases of meaning and purpose, of hope, which encouraged the growth of faith and from the growth the flourishing. Flourishing of the Hope of being with God, of recognising God is with us, even especially in the wilderness, in the tomb itself which Jesus left behind to prove new life and light is ours, that is **our** story.

Growth and new life will come to us and our congregations in sharing our stories and in sharing God's love and acceptance and welcome. The Scottish Episcopal Church has so much to offer through our liturgy and worship, through our social action programmes like food banks and other initiatives. In our facing the reality of climate change and in our rejoicing in exploring and celebrating the depth and breadth of human sexuality. All of which leads us to wonder at the excitement of life with God, which we

know through understanding, acceptance and the peace of love felt in ourselves, in our congregations and in our Diocese and shared with all. I wish you all a very happy summer.

Yours in Christ
+ Kevin

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>

GLENKENS HUB

The recently launched Glenkens Hub (see <https://glenkens.scot/>) is a great source of information about absolutely everything that is happening in the Glenkens. Amongst other things, the comprehensive calendar lists everything that is happening on any particular day, including all the St Margaret's church services. If you haven't already visited the Glenkens Hub, please do so as there really is something to interest everyone.

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

REFRESHMENTS IN CHURCH

The St Margaret's Guild will continue to offer refreshments as part of the church Fellowship which is now available from 4.15pm before the 5pm service. The Guild is always grateful for any donations in the 'pig' at the back of the church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES

Every Tuesday, 11.00-11.45am, we will be holding a short service followed by refreshments. We hope that this morning provision will be helpful to many, and that it will be an ecumenical opportunity for us to worship together and build good relationships.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS ON ZOOM

In line with our vision to broaden the accessibility of our worship provision at St Margaret's, alongside All Saints Challoch we will also be offering a weekly time of joint online evening prayers on Wednesday evenings. This will start at 7.30pm and last around 20 minutes. Our hope is that this will be another way that anyone can join in with our church families to worship and pray together. The Zoom link will be the same each week, as below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://Wednesday Evening Prayers>

Meeting ID: 865 7597 6261

Passcode: 116824

BAPTISM SERVICE SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST

Excitingly, we will be celebrating with the Davidson family in the baptism of their son, Jasper. The service will be at 10.30am, so there will not be an afternoon service that day. Please pray for Jasper, and Zoe and Simon as they prepare for this special day.

ST. MARGARET'S GUILD

The Guild will be running the Tombola at the Alternative Games on Sunday afternoon 6th August from 2pm. This year all funds raised will go to Castle Douglas Hospital League of Friends. Donations of bottles or gifts will be much appreciated and can be placed in the box in the Church porch

FLOWER ROTA

6 th August	Barry Gilbert
13 th August	Barry Gilbert
20 th August	Sarah Watson
27 th August	Sarah Watson

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

OBITUARY

William McConnel

July 1931 – July 2023

William died peacefully at home on 17th July, just over a week after his 92nd birthday. For many years he had been physically frail, which sadly for him prevented him from attending church, but mentally he remained as sharp as ever and could always be found at his typewriter in the mornings – he was a prolific writer.

When he and Chris were first married, they lived in Canada, moving back to Galloway in the late 1950s. In 1960 they moved to The Hill, Balmaclellan and so started their long and faithful membership of St Margaret's. As well as sheep farming, William gained his Bachelor of Divinity and was a licensed Lay Preacher. When the family moved to

Lettrick near Dunscore, they continued to worship at St Margaret's – a considerable distance for them but he and Chris were at church every Sunday, come rain or shine.

As a child, my Christmas memories always include William reading the opening verses of St John's Gospel – his strong deep voice filled the church and I don't think I have ever heard anyone reading it with more conviction and faith.

St Margaret's are lucky to have had such a faithful member of the congregation for such a long time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Christine and their children and grand-children.

Nicolette Wise
Lay Representative

Reflections on William McConnel by John Repath

During conversation William had a very rare ability which enabled him to take things seriously while simultaneously laughing at the absurdity of even discussing the matter in hand. This was usually summed up by him saying, "Oh well," followed by a hearty chuckle.

William's faith and conviction was deep and he and Christine would drive across from Lettrick to St Margaret's in foul weather conditions when fainter souls would stay at home, such was his determination. He and Christine were also more than willing to play their part in the various social and fund-raising gatherings, as indeed so many of you are.

Over the years we knew William and Christine and members of the family this never changed and they were both very hospitable hosts. After we left New Galloway William used to write letters to us periodically on what must have been a rather old type writer. The contents inevitably made both of us smile and we would either ring or write back to exchange the latest news.

When I sent an email to Ian and Mark to let them know of the news, Mark replied saying that William would have laughed at them hearing about his death via *Elect-Ronic-Mail*.

POETRY CORNER

Life's Daily Doses

Life is measured in daily doses
Of trials and pleasures each.
Day by day grace is dispensed
To meet our immediate needs.
Comfort comes to the weary
We find that which we seek.
A bridge is built at the river
And power is given to the weak.
One day's load we have to bear
As we travel on life's way.
Wisdom is given for the occasion
And strength to equal each day.
We are never required to stagger
Under tomorrow's heavy load.
We journey one day at a time
As we travel life's rugged road.
God's mercy is new every morning
And His faithfulness is sure.
God perfects all that concerns us
And by our faith, we will endure.

by Lenora McWhorter

AUGUST READINGS

6th August

Daniel 7. 9-10, 13-14
Psalm 97
2 Peter 1. 16-19
Matthew 16. 13-20
Luke 9. 28-36

Barry Gilbert

Toby Wise

13th August

1 Kings 19. 9-18
Psalm 85. 8-13
Romans 10. 5-15
Matthew 14. 22-33

Cathy Agnew

Christine Rankin

20th August

Isaiah 56. 1-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15. (10-20), 21-28

Helen Keron

Rosalind Hall

27th August

Isaiah 51. 1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12. 1-8
Matthew 16. 13-20

Nicolette Wise

Nicholas Wise

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.