

# ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

## DECEMBER 2023



NUMBER 463

Charity No: SCO12084

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

|                 |                           |                |           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Advent 1        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | <b>10.30am</b> | Eucharist |
| Advent 2        | 10 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>10.30am</b> | Eucharist |
| Advent 3        | 17 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>10.30am</b> | Eucharist |
| Carol Service   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> December | <b>4pm</b>     |           |
| Christmas Eve   | 24 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>10.30am</b> | Eucharist |
| Family Nativity | 24 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>3pm</b>     |           |
| Christmas Day   | 25 <sup>th</sup> December | <b>10.30am</b> | Eucharist |
| Christmas 1     | 31 <sup>st</sup> December | <b>10.30am</b> | 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](mailto:revdawnmatthew@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>

# PRIEST IN CHARGE

## Celebrate the Joy of Christmas with us this Year!

Dear St Margaret's Family,

As we approach the time of festivities and joy, it's exciting to look forward to all that we have planned for the Christmas season. It's a special time of year when we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and share together God's message of hope, love and joy throughout our community. Here are some of the highlights, and some grateful thanks too.

1. **Annual Meeting:** It was wonderful to welcome many of you to our Annual Meeting at the end of November. I wanted to take this moment to reiterate my thanks to you all – for making me and my family welcome, and for all that you have contributed to the life of our church and communities, not only in the past year, but also throughout the vacancy.
2. **Community Outreach:** Considering that our community is but small, there's a lot going on throughout the month of December. It'd be great to see you at any of the events, supporting our community endeavours, and showing God's love as we do so – and of course, enjoying ourselves in the process! The Christmas season is also a particular time to remember those in need, through the work of Foodbanks and other charities.
3. **Christmas Services and Gatherings:**
  - **Advent Carols with the Eucharist: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am.** This service gives us an opportunity to rest in the season of Advent, a time of active waiting, reflection and preparation, before rushing headlong into Christmas.
  - **Kells Primary School:** This year, we are very pleased to welcome the children and staff of Kells for their Christmas service! We hope that they enjoy their time in the church, and feel very welcome.
  - **Glenkens Choir Service: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 4.00pm.** The talented Glenkens Choir will be leading us in our Christmas Carol Service, with carols older...newer (and there will even be a well-known song from a famous family

film!). We will also get the chance to join in with some of our well-known favourites, and to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or two!

- **Family Nativity: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 3-3.30pm.** New for this year, we will be holding a family nativity, **Angels & Sheep**. We will hear the Christmas story told in rhyme, and sing some of our well-loved carols together. Everyone (but especially the children) is welcome to come dressed as their favourite nativity character, and join in the fun. You're all welcome, whether you're young, in between, or simply young at heart.

We also invite everyone to spend some crafty time in December creating your own angels and sheep to bring along to hang on one of our Christmas trees. They can be made of anything you like – knitted, felted, sewed; pom-poms, card and tinsel – the choice is yours! Remember to add a hook on if possible, so that we can easily hang them on the tree.

**Christmas Day Service: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am.** All are welcome to join in celebrating the birth of Christ, as we join in singing carols and celebrating Holy Communion together. Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

The church family of St Margaret's hope to welcome you this Christmas Season, as together we reflect on the significance of the season and are encouraged to embrace the love and compassion that Christmas represents, shown to us in the gift of Jesus, God's own Son, come to earth as a child, born out of God's love for his hurting world. May we rediscover, or find for the first time, the hope and Light that the birth of Jesus brought into a dark and weary world. Christmas is an especial time of celebration, but you are welcome to St Margaret's any time, at our regular 10.30am Sunday Communion, our informal 11.00am service on Tuesdays, or anytime in the week when the church is open. Just look out for our **The Church is Open** sign, and pop in for quiet reflection, or coffee and a chat.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Christmas season!

In Christ's love,

**Revd Dawn Matthew**

## **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.

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**

### **REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The AGM of the Galloway Regional Council was held via zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The new Convenor is the Revd Janice Aiton and Margaret Morton continues as Secretary/Treasurer. The Revd Elizabeth Breakey (Stranraer and Portpatrick) agreed to be interim Vice Convenor for a year.

**Nicolette Wise Lay Representative**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **SUNDAY SERVICES TIMES 10.30am**

Everyone is welcome to attend our services at 10.30am every Sunday.

### **TUESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES**

**Every Tuesday, 11.00-11.45am**, we will be holding a short service with refreshments available. 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.

### **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 Thursday evening, which 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://Thursday Evening Prayers>

**Meeting ID:** 865 7597 6261

**Passcode:** 116824

### **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

In New Galloway Town Hall, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30 am. Please see Guild report for full details and donations requested.

## **CAROL SERVICE**

We will be joined by Geoff Davidson and the Glenkens Choir for this year's Carol Service which will take place at 4pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The Church will be decorated in the morning and we look forward to Carols by Candlelight. The St. Margaret's Guild will be serving Mulled Wine and Mince Pies after the service.

## **ST. MARGARET'S GUILD**

The Christmas Coffee Morning held jointly with the Kirk Guild will be taking place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December in New Galloway's newly refurbished Town Hall from 10.30am – 12 noon. Donations of Baking and Christmas type gifts and crafts will be much appreciated. There will also be a Lucky Dip so small wrapped gifts up to the value of £2 for adults and children will be very welcome. There will be Raffle, but Prizes for this have already been sourced. Entry this year will be £3 to include coffee or tea, mince pies and shortbread. Donations can be brought to Church, left in Christine's Porch at Dalgowan or to the Hall on the day from 9.30am.

The next Guild meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am in Dalgowan. All are welcome to attend.

**Christine Rankin Guild President**

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The joint Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, starting with the Act of Remembrance led by the Revd Pam Bellis at the New Galloway War Memorial. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Richard Agnew laid a wreath on behalf of HM The King. Following the Last Post, two minute silence and Reveille, the Service continued over the road at St Margaret's with Dawn Matthew and Pam Bellis officiating. As always, the Glenkens Cub group were in attendance and this year two of their number were flag-bearers. The collection for Poppy Scotland raised £251.10.

## **REFRESHMENTS IN CHURCH**

St Margaret's Guild will continue to offer refreshments as part of the church Fellowship after the Sunday service and on special occasions. The Guild is always grateful for any donations in the 'pig' at the back of the church or of tea, coffee or biscuits.

## **OBITUARY**

### **Jane Brayshaw**

Jane died peacefully on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, just over 50 weeks after her husband Clive. Her funeral took place at Balmaclellan Parish Church with interment in Balmaclellan Cemetery, next to Clive and her brother James Douglas.

Although Jane was brought up in the Church of Scotland and continued to worship there, on her marriage to Clive she frequently accompanied him to St Margaret's and they were very much valued members of the congregation. They were generous hosts and many of us will have memories of jolly parties they gave at the Hill.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her siblings Liz and William and their families, and her step-daughter Honor and her son Reuben.

## **FLOWER ROTA**

### **NO FLOWERS DURING ADVENT**

All of the congregation are invited to help decorate the Church for the Christmas Services at 10.30am on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

If you read our Newsletter and would like to join our flower Rota, please phone or email Nicolette Wise - 01644430218/nicolette.wise2@gmail.com



## **CHURCH ASSISTANTS ROTA**

|                           | Intercessions | Chalice |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December | Nicolette     | Linda   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | Cathy         | Barry   |

## **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

## **CHRISTMAS TREE**

If anyone is able to donate a real Christmas Tree maximum 6 feet, for use in the Church during the Christmas Services please let Dawn or a member of the Vestry know. The Church will be decorated on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## **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.

## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2024

## **Christmas Quiz**

1. A prophet foretold the birth of Jesus, but what was his name?
2. In which gospel do we learn about the birth of Jesus?
3. Before the birth of Jesus, Mary was visited by an Angel who spoke of her miraculous pregnancy. What was his name?
4. Mary and Joseph were forced to travel before Jesus' birth to take part in the Roman Census. Where did they travel to?
5. Where was Jesus born?
6. According to Luke, on the night of Jesus' birth, by whom was he visited?
7. The Magi brought three gifts for the baby Jesus. These were Gold, Frankincense and what other?
8. How many days after his birth did The Magi visit Jesus, at the very earliest?
9. Shortly following his presentation at the temple, Jesus' life was threatened – but by whom?
10. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were forced to flee. Where did they find sanctuary?
11. Following the King's death, which city in Israel did they return to?
12. As time passed, Mary and Joseph had more children. How many siblings did Jesus have in total?

**Answers in the January Newsletter**

# CHRISTMAS RECIPE

## Mulled Wine (Delia Smith Recipe)

### Ingredients

2 x 75-cl bottles of medium red wine (Cabernet Sauvignon is ideal)  
1 orange studded with cloves  
2 cinnamon sticks  
4 oranges, sliced  
8 tablespoons granulated sugar  
Freshly grated nutmeg  
2 tablespoons Brandy  
2 pints of water

### Method

Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan, heat to simmering point, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Keep it barely simmering for 20 minutes (don't let it boil or the alcohol will evaporate).

Serve in warmed mugs or sturdy wine glasses. Can be re-heated.

# POETRY CORNER

## The Advent Wreath

First flame alight to bring us hope.  
Flickering on this advent wreath.  
Lighting the dark in which we grope,  
Leading us on to new belief.

Faith is the theme of candle two,  
Urging us on to Bethlehem!  
A child is born; the dawn breaks through,  
While angels sing. Let's join with them

In ringing out the sound of joy.  
This is the theme of advent three,  
As shepherd's wonder at this boy;  
One born to set the nations free.

We then light candle number four,  
This flame our prayer for lasting peace,  
That by the love which this child brings,  
All war and conflict might yet cease.

by The Revd Steve Sheridan

## DECEMBER READINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> December

Isaiah 64: 1 - 9

Nicolette Wise

Psalm 80 1 - 8

1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

Nicholas Wise

Mark 13: 24 – 37

10<sup>th</sup> December

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11

Andy Jones

Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

Kate Maxwell

Mark 1: 1 - 8

17<sup>th</sup> December

Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11

Rosalind Hall

Magnificant

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24

Helen Keron

John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28

24<sup>th</sup> December

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16

Cathy Agnew

Psalm 89:1- 8

Romans 16: 25 – 27

Nicolette Wise

Luke 1: 26 – 38

25<sup>th</sup> December

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Toby Wise

Psalm 96

Titus 2: 11 – 14

Christine Rankin

Luke 2: 1 – 14

31<sup>st</sup> December

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62. 3

Nicholas Wise

Psalm 148: 7 – 14

Galatians: 4: 4 – 7

Simon Davidson

Luke 2: 15 - 21

## **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.