

# **ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY**

**JANUARY 2024**



## **EPIPHANY**

**NUMBER 464**

**Charity No: SCO12084**

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Epiphany	7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Baptism of Christ	14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Epiphany 3	21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Presentation of Christ	28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Revd. 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
	Mr Marcus Maxwell	Tel: 420328

## 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**

### **New Year, New Start...**

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the dawn of a new year, we are filled with hope, gratitude, and anticipation for the possibilities that lie ahead. January is a month of new beginnings, a time to reflect on the past year and set our sights on the journey ahead.

There are some things that will remain the same, yet will, I pray, offer us new opportunities to worship and to serve. We continue to gather every Sunday at 10.30am for Holy Communion, and take those moments together to be refilled and refuelled, ready to go out and serve God in the world – whatever that might look like for each of us. Through the longer winter months, when life can feel lonely and dark, it's important that we come as family to be renewed by his Spirit and inspired by his love, to reveal his glory to the world.

Join us every Sunday in January as we come together to worship, pray, and seek inspiration for the year ahead. The themes of our services will help us think about renewal, encouraging each other to start the year with a fresh perspective and a renewed spirit. Let us come together as a community, drawing strength from our shared faith.

### **New Year, New Goals: Spiritual Resolutions**

As we embark on this new year, instead of setting the usual New Year's resolutions, why not think about setting spiritual resolutions that will deepen your connection with God and enhance your spiritual growth? Whether it's dedicating more time to prayer, engaging in Bible study, or being a part of community outreach, let's commit to strengthening our faith together.

## **New Year, New Events: Building Community**

This year we hope that our lovely church will grow to be an even more important part of our community! This brings great opportunities for connection. This year, we're planning events and opportunities that will help us connect even more, and for people to feel that the church is a place they can come to and find a warm welcome. We hope that keeping the doors open as much as possible will help us reach the people around us, and also give us the chance to bring our faith into practice. Look out for more news about this in our weekly notices – and of course cake and coffee will be involved somewhere!

## **New Year, New Volunteer**

This year, why not help make a difference, and start the year by looking at doing something different? There are many areas in church life that need people to get involved, and you might have the gifts that we need! There are up front roles such as reading or prayers, or more behind the scenes roles like odd jobs, refreshments or flowers. Please do get in touch with me for a chat.

May this new year bring you blessings and joy, and may we grow together in our faith and community.

Blessings,

**Revd Dawn**

## **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**

## FROM THE DIOCESE

### Christmas message from Bishop Kevin...

Dear Friends

The best is yet to come. That is the promise of 'Winterfest', which has taken over the whole of George Square and, indeed, central Glasgow, since the middle of November. The wonderfully bright lights are attractive and promise good times for everyone. There are food stalls and fair ground rides with the promise of excitement and thrills for all ages, at all times. Many of the shops around the centre of town are extending their opening hours because 'Winterfest' is about 'shop-until-you-drop' and the best is yet to come, with Santa Claus, the messiah of secular society.



The bright lights of George Square are attractive, I love them. Wander around the Square and in the shadows, towards the edge of the fairground, is an almost life-size crib, in which we can identify Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. I love the crib because it is witness to the fact that the true spirit of Christmas is very different to the bright lights of 'Winterfest' and Santa Claus. In the first place Christmas *begins* on Christmas Day, it does

not end with Santa Claus. Christmas Day is the beginning of what the traditional prayer books described as forty days of unremitting joy. Joy summarised in the simple strap line – the best is yet to come.

The crib scene is built toward the edge of Winterfest' square, in the shadows of fair ground rides and food stalls. That reminds those of us who profess Christian faith that preparation for celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ involves reflection and coming to terms with the shadows. The shadow side of our own personalities, the bits of ourselves we would rather be without. The shadow side of church life: why do money and numbers and age cast a shadow on our making the good news of the gospel *real*? And the shadow side of our society: why are so many homeless, living in poverty, hungry, living with abuse, violence? The shadows of war in Ukraine, Israel Palestine, shadows cast over world peace. And yet the crib reminds us that the best is yet to come in true Hope.



At the heart of the Christian faith is the story of the birth of a baby, whose parents lived in poverty, in a country under foreign rule. They journeyed to escape political oppression and physical violence, but they journeyed in faith. The faith that God, who is love, is with us, that God in love is faithful to all whose humanity bears the God-given likeness seen in the baby Jesus. And the best is yet to come.



The story of our Lord Jesus Christ is the story of how all that is best in human nature and experience is a reflection of love that is of God. Is a reflection of God who *is* love, felt, experienced, longed for.

The story of the birth of Jesus is the story of fulfilment of all that God had promised in Hebrew scripture. *That* is the importance of

Joseph, who embodied all the virtues of God's faithfulness. Mary, who felt called to make God's promises real, did she respond to the angel or was the call within her heart? The shadows of ambiguity bring Hope in faith, and the best is yet to come.

Joy is often interpreted as absence. The absence of pain, regret, guilt, deprivation. The story of Our Lord Jesus Christ proves that God is with us even, especially, in these shadows which teach us so much about love that makes sense of, gives meaning and purpose to, our experience: there is Hope because God is with us. Joy is known not through absence but in recognising there is meaning and purpose in who and what we are, and the shadows are the result of light in our darkness. Joy in our soul is the reality that God is with us – and the best is yet to come...



May all God's blessings be yours this Christmastide.

Happy Christmas

+ Kevin

## **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

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

The Joint Guild's Christmas Coffee Morning which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December was a lovely occasion and well attended. Thank you to everyone who attended, helped or donated to help us raise £230.50 for each Guild.

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**

## **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.



## **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

## **FLOWER ROTA**

7 <sup>th</sup> January	Nicolette Wise
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Nicolette Wise
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Cathy Agnew
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Cathy Agnew

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**

	<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Chalice</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> January	Nicolette	Christine
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Cathy	Linda

## **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 Quiz – Answers in Bold

1. A prophet foretold the birth of Jesus, but what was his name?

**Isaiah**

2. In which gospel do we learn about the birth of Jesus?

**Luke**

3. Before the birth of Jesus, Mary was visited by an Angel who spoke of her miraculous pregnancy. What was his name?

**Gabriel**

4. Mary and Joseph were forced to travel before Jesus' birth to take part in the Roman Census. Where did they travel to?

**Bethlehem**

5. Where was Jesus born?

**Bethlehem**

6. According to Luke, on the night of Jesus' birth, by whom was he visited?

**Shepherds**

7. The Magi brought three gifts for the baby Jesus. These were Gold, Frankincense and what other?

**Myrrh**

8. How many days after his birth did The Magi visit Jesus, at the very earliest?

**12 Days**

9. Shortly following his presentation at the temple, Jesus' life was threatened – but by whom?

**Herod**

10. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were forced to flee. Where did they find sanctuary?

**Egypt**

11. Following the King's death, which city in Israel did they return to?  
**Nazareth**

12. As time passed, Mary and Joseph had more children. How many siblings did Jesus have in total?

**Six**

## **SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE**

Happily, artificial intelligence is unlikely to be coming to a vestry near you  
(from an article in the The Times)

“Welcome to your automated, voice activated AI vicar replacement. To whom am I speaking?”

“Er, hello? This is Carole.”

“And which carol would you like? Obviously I know all of them.”

“No dear, Carole is my name. Is the vicar around? I’m just here to drop off these clothes for the jumble sale.”

“Carol has been cancelled”

“But how sinister”

“Please state your church requirements.”

“Well. Like I said. I’m Carole. And I’m here to drop off these clothes. Hence all this luggage.

“You have selected marriage.”

“No I haven’t. I’ve been married for thirty years. I think something has gone wrong.”

“Congratulations on your happy day. I have detected a second person. Is this the groom?”

“This. This is my dog.”

“And congratulations, also to Mr. Dog”

“Dog! He’s a dog!”

“Please do not take the Lord’s name in vain. This is a house of worship.”

“I’m not sure about this. I really would prefer to speak to the vicar. Or the deacon?”

“And do you Mr.Dog, take Carole to be your lawful wedded wife?”

“Woof”

“And do you Carole, take Mr Dog?”

“Absolutely not.”

“You may now kiss the bride.”

“Cancel! Cancel! No marriage!”

“That would be a civil matter. Relationships aren’t easy. Perhaps you would like to try some counselling first?”

“Oh dear. Is there someone else I can talk to?”

“Speak my child God is always listening. Unless you press the red button next to the volume control, and opt for privacy”

## **NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous 2024

### **POETRY CORNER**

#### **Epiphany – The Three Kings Poem**

Although they did not know his name, they sought  
Him in the bleak darkness of wintry night.  
It defied all the wisdom they'd been taught,  
Yet they were drawn to a mystical light.  
With pilgrims' keen eyes that see beyond stars,  
They followed the light until they found Him.  
They offered gold, frankincense and myrrh  
To the new born King of Kings without sin;  
In a humble stable of hallowed ground.  
They wondered how such bright glory dwelt there.  
Yet through it all, He slept without a sound.  
They realised their riches weren't so rare,  
Not compared to divine innocence's worth.  
That blessed night they perceived heaven on earth.

by Dominic Windram

# JANUARY READINGS

7<sup>th</sup> January

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6

Nicolette Wise

Psalm 72: 1 - 9

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

Nicholas Wise

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

14<sup>th</sup> January

Isaiah 43: 1 - 7

Andy Jones

Psalm 29

Acts 8: 14 – 17

Kate Maxwell

Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 - 22

21<sup>st</sup> January

Genesis 14: 17 – 29

Rosalind Hall

Psalm 128

Revelation 19: 6 – 10

Helen Keron

John 2: 1 - 11

28<sup>th</sup> January

Malachi 3: 1 - 5

Cathy Agnew

Psalm 24: 1- 6

Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Dominique Matthew

Luke 2: 22 – 40

# **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.