

ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

MARCH 2024



LENT

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Lent 3	3 rd March	10.30am	Eucharist
Mothering Sunday	10 th March	10.30am	Eucharist
Passion Sunday	17 th March	10.30am	Eucharist
Palm Sunday	24 th March	10.30am	Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	28 th March	6pm	Eucharist
Good Friday	29 th March	2pm	Reflection
Easter Day	31 st March	10.30am	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
	Mr Marcus Maxwell	Tel: 420328

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

Dawn Matthew Tel: 07543247180 or email: 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

Embrace the Season of Lent: A Time for Reflection and Renewal

As we enter into the sacred season of Lent, we are called to journey alongside Jesus Christ, reflecting on His sacrifice and preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter. Lent invites us to pause, to introspect, and to draw closer to God as we walk through the wilderness of our own lives.

Lenten Practices for Spiritual Growth

During this season, let us commit ourselves to prayer and acts of service. Through prayer, we deepen our connection with the divine, and we learn to rely on God's strength alone. Through acts of service, we embody the love and compassion of Christ in the world.

Easter: A Celebration of New Life

As Lent culminates in the celebration of Easter, we are reminded of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, so too can we experience new life and new beginnings in Him. Let us rejoice in the hope and promise of Easter, knowing that through Christ, all things are made new.

Join Us for Easter Services

We invite you to join us for our Easter services as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Together, let us proclaim the good news of Christ's victory over sin and death, and let us embrace the promise of new life found in Him.

Save the Dates:

Palm Sunday Service: 24th March at 10.30am

Maundy Thursday Service: 28th March at 6.00pm

Good Friday Service of Reflection: 29th March at 2.00pm

Easter Sunday Service: 29th March at 10:30am

We Welcome You

Whether you are a longtime member of our church family or a newcomer seeking community and connection, we welcome you to join us during this holy season. May the journey of Lent draw us closer to God and to one another, as we embrace the promise of new life in Christ.

**Blessings,
Revd Dawn Matthew**

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Some news from the Galloway Regional Council's meeting via zoom in early February, chaired by Janice Aiton, the new Convenor.

The Diocese are looking for people to attend General Synod in Edinburgh (13-15th June) - if anyone would be interested in finding out more, please contact me.

Following a wonderful talk from John Macleod last year about his pilgrimage on the longest Camino de Santiago route, we have discussed the idea of pilgrimage here in Dumfries and Galloway. There are already many routes, including the newly resurrected Glenkens Pilgrims way, and we are hoping to put together a map showing them all. If anyone would like to help pull together information about any suitable walks here in the Glenkens, please do get in touch.

Many of you will remember John McHale who regularly took services for us during our interregnum, following which he has been helping out at Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie. He has recently moved from D&G to near Durham - we are sorry to see him go and everyone on the Regional Council wishes him well in his new endeavours.

Dawn and I will be attending the Diocesan Synod in Kilmarnock on 2nd June - report to come in the April Newsletter.

**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 follows.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://Thursday Evening Prayers>

Meeting ID: 865 7597 6261

Passcode: 116824

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St. Margaret's is hosting this year's World Day of Prayer which has been compiled by the Women of Palestine. The theme is 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. The service will take place at **2pm on Friday 1st March**, followed by refreshments All are welcome. Please support this Ecumenical service if you can.

THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GROUP

This takes place on Tuesday Evenings 7.15-9.00pm. This is an open, friendly, opportunity for Christians or those seeking to know more, to meet casually together to look at and discuss the Bible in relation to our lives today. Refreshments are always served!

LENT LUNCHESES

The following Lent Lunches will take place between 12pm – 2pm. Please support them if you can.

Friday 8th March Whinnymuir Scottish Charity Air Ambulance

Friday 15th March In the Church Friends of Castle Douglas Hospital

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

ST. MARGARET'S GUILD

The next Guild meeting will be held on Monday 8th April at 10.30am in Dalgowan. All welcome.

The Cake and Plant Sale which will run from 10 am – 12pm and will take place on Saturday 4th May in aid of Blood Bikes. Donations of plants, baking and preserves will be much appreciated.

Christine Rankin
Guild President

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.

RECIPE

What is a Simnel Cake?

A Simnel cake is a type of fruit cake that contains plenty of marzipan, and is decorated with eleven marzipan balls, each symbolising Jesus's disciples (minus Judas Iscariot of course). It is eaten at Easter, although it used to be specifically associated with Mothering Sunday. When folk were fasting during Lent, Mothering Sunday, appearing in the middle of the fast, offered a respite from 40 days of austerity.

The cake's origins go right back to mediaeval times where it began life as a yeast-leavened bread. What made it special is that it was made out of the highest quality flour possible; simnel derives from the Latin *simila* – the whitest and finest of flours.

Fast forward to the 17th and 18th centuries, and the bread mixture had been swapped for a fruited and spiced pudding batter which was boiled, wrapped in pastry, glazed with egg and baked until a good hard crust formed. It would be like the Scottish black bun.

It is only when you get to the tail end of the 19th century that it starts to look like something we would recognise as a cake, though surprisingly it is not until the 20th century that the familiar marzipan layers and decorative disciples appear.

Recipe

Ingredients:

225 g softened butter
225 g caster sugar
4 eggs
225 g plain flour
2 tsp ground cinnamon
zest of 2 oranges
zest of 2 lemons
325 g mixed fruit
125 g glacé cherries, quartered or left whole
500 g marzipan
icing sugar for dusting
apricot jam
1 beaten egg

- Grease and line an 8-inch cake tin and preheat oven to 150°C.
- In a large bowl, beat together the softened butter, caster sugar, eggs, flour, cinnamon and zests. Using a hand mixer, beat together until smooth. Now fold in the mixed fruit and cherries with a spatula or wooden spoon.
- Spoon half of the mixture into your tin and level it off. Take a third of your marzipan and roll it out into a circle the same size as the tin, trimming away any untidy bits. Use a little icing sugar to roll the marzipan out.
- Lay the marzipan in the tin and then spoon and scrape the remainder of the cake batter on top of that. Level off with your spatula.
- Bake for 2 ¼ to 2 ½ hours. Use a skewer to check it is done. Cool on a rack for about 30 minutes before removing the tin and greaseproof paper.
- When cold, roll out half of the marzipan in a circle slightly larger than the cake.
- Brush the top of the cake with some apricot jam and lay the marzipan on top, brushing it with the beaten egg. Divide the remaining marzipan and trimmings into 11 equally-sized balls and arrange them in a circle. Brush those with egg too and glaze the top using a chef's flame torch (or a very hot grill).



OBITUARY

Christine McConnel

December 1933 – February 2024

Chris died peacefully at home on 4th February, in her 91st year. Her 90th birthday celebrations in December were given a boost by the arrival the day before of her first great-grandson, Bruce Campbell, and then in January her second great-grandson, Thomas Spense, was born. She was delighted with these latest additions to her large family, all of whom were so important to her – she was always interested and involved in the lives of her ten grandchildren and proud of their achievements.

Chris and William have been faithful members of St Margaret's for as long as I can remember. Until the frailties of age prevented driving, they attended Sunday worship every week, whatever the weather. And despite living some distance from New Galloway, Chris was also an active member of the St Margaret's Guild for many years, helping with fundraising and social occasions. She also regularly did the flowers for church, always managing to find something wonderful from her own garden, and her hens did sterling work laying eggs which she sold to bolster Guild funds.

As well as being a keen gardener (she had a most productive vegetable garden), Chris was also an excellent cook and produced delicious meals, regardless of the number of people she was feeding. And there were always scrummy homemade cakes and biscuits if you popped in for tea or coffee. When we moved back to Galloway from America in 2002, Chris was a great support to me – having had four children herself she knew just what sort of advice and help was needed. And, having lost both my parents, who had been great friends with Chris and William, I really appreciated her interest in my children as they grew up. I will miss her, as will many others.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all her family – Fiona and Ian, Archie and Sarah, Andy and Rebecca, Winkie and Sue, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nicolette Wise
Lay Representative

POETRY CORNER

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

MARCH READINGS

3rd March

Exodus 20: 1 – 17

Nicolette Wise

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25

Christine Rankin

John 2: 13 - 22

10th March

Numbers 21: 4 – 9

Cathy Agnew

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17 - 22

Ephesians 2: 1 – 10

Toby Wise

John 3: 14 - 21

17th March

Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34

Andy Jones

Psalm 51: 1 - 12

Hebrews 5: 5 – 10

Dominique Pope

John 12: 20 - 33

24th March

Mark 11: 1 - 11

Psalm 118: 1 - 2, 19 – 29

31st March

Acts 10:34-43

Cathy Agnew

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Helen Keron

Mark 16:1-8

CHURCH ASSISTANTS ROTA

	Intercessions	Chalice
10 th March	Nicolette	Linda
24 th March	Cathy	Christine
31 st March	Christine	Cathy

FLOWER ROTA

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

All are welcome to come and help decorate the Church for Easter on Saturday 30th March at 10.30am.

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

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.