

# ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

**APRIL 2024**



**EASTER**



## SERVICES FOR APRIL

Easter 2	7 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Easter 3	14 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Easter 4	21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>10.30am</b>	Eucharist
Easter 5	28 <sup>th</sup> April	<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**

### **Exploring Doubt and Faith: The Story of Thomas the Disciple**

Dear Friends,

As we journey through the Easter season, we reflect on the profound moments of doubt and faith that shape our understanding of God's presence in our lives. This April, we begin the month by delving into the story of Thomas, one of Jesus' close circle of friends, a narrative that speaks to the human struggle with belief and doubt.

In the Gospel of John, we encounter Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, who famously doubted (or rather, asked for proof of) the resurrection of Jesus, until he saw and touched the wounds of the risen Christ. Thomas's questions earned him the epithet "Doubting Thomas," but I've always felt this nickname to be rather unfair - his journey from uncertainty to profound faith actually serves as a testament to the transformative power of encounter and experience.

Like Thomas, many of us grapple with questions in our spiritual journeys – and that's ok. We question, we search, and we seek reassurance. Yet, just as with Thomas, this does not signify a lack of faith; rather, it is an integral part of our faith journey. It challenges us to confront our beliefs, to wrestle with uncertainty, and to emerge with a deeper, more authentic understanding of God's presence in our lives.

In his resurrection encounter with Jesus, Thomas declares, "My Lord and my God!" This profound confession encapsulates the essence of faith – a recognition of the divine presence in the midst of doubt and uncertainty. It is a declaration of surrender, trust, and acknowledgment of God's sovereignty over all things.

This April, let us embrace the story of Thomas as an invitation to willingly move towards God, and to deepen our faith in the resurrected Christ. May we, like Thomas, encounter the living Christ in our doubts and declare with conviction, "My Lord and my God!"

**With every blessing**  
**Rev Dawn Matthew**

# FROM THE DIOCESE

## Bishop's Easter Message

Dear Friends,

How does the Cross of pain become the Cross of joy?

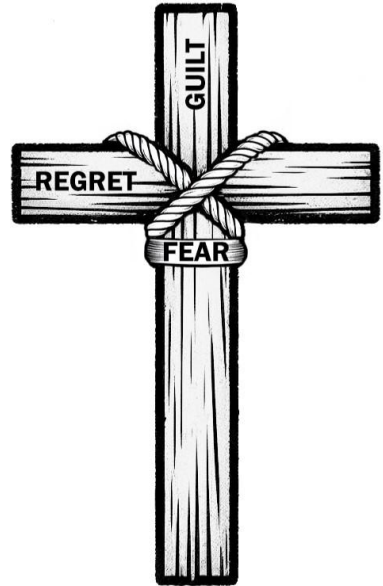
The cross consists of three pieces, by tradition. The standard piece, looking at the cross as an individual, I identify as Guilt. The crossbar which allowed Jesus to carry the cross and is the weight of the cross, that piece I identify as Regret. The two pieces are held together by the nails or tied together with the secure rope or Fear.

**Guilt**, the overwhelming sense of having done wrong. This is so often encapsulated in simple statements: “If only I hadn't done... been... seen... said...”.

**Regret**, the “what might have been if only”. If only I had been taller, thinner, more confident, more adventurous, more astute.

**Fear**, the fear of being found out, the fear of loneliness, the fear of not being worth very much, and the greatest fear – “Who cares anyway?”.

There is, indeed, the cross of pain which Jesus carried to show that God understands such feelings. When on Palm Sunday we hear in the epistle the exhortation “let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus”, there we see the depth of understanding of what it is to be human, what it is to be made in the image of God. Jesus in Gethsemane with friends who were a disappointment, wrestling with his own questions and doubts. There is the depth of understanding that allows us to enter into the very soul of God.



The soul, that place where that what I think meets what I feel meets what I most yearn for. Even, especially, carrying the cross of pain.

In all the stories of the resurrection Jesus is depicted and described as having all the marks of pain, crucifixion and death on his body. There is no attempt to disguise the physical suffering or mental anguish of the Passion narrative. In fact they are highlighted, literally: Jesus appears having left the tomb and bathed in light and full of new life, new love – resurrection.

Thus, the cross of pain in resurrection light has meaning and purpose, it becomes life-giving.

Guilt, that standard of pain becomes trust. **Trust** in God who forgives. Trust in God who is love. Love that is of such depth that we cannot quite comprehend that God has always our best interests at heart. What we think of love goes beyond doubt and questions but makes sense of both. What we feel of love – affection, warmth, understanding, acceptance – these feelings show us something of God, make sense to the soul. The soul, where what I most yearn for – to be loved and to love – there the Holy Spirit leads to discern love that is most fulfilling, so that I may grow into being more like the person God shows in Jesus I can be.

Regret then ceases to weigh down the soul and the spirit. Confidence that these things and regrets cannot hold us forever, confidence that God is with us, confidence in love that helps us make sense of who and what we are. Confidence given by Jesus carrying the cross, confidence that God gives us as many second chances as we need. Confidence that the Holy Spirit is present in our desire to be better people who can show God's love and understanding, acceptance and affection.

**Trust** in God's confidence through Jesus bring real Hope and Joy, the hallmarks of the Holy Spirit.

**Hope** is not simply optimism that all will be well. Hope in the resurrection of Jesus brings real Joy. When as Christians we speak of Joy, we speak of the cross, of the pain, of guilt, regret and fear. We cannot deny these facets of being human, but Jesus' resurrection proves that we may look at those facets of our lives we would rather be without and see guilt from the different angle of Trust in God. Regret is seen as painless when we recognise all that we become in our Lord Jesus Christ and so confidence emerges from being made in the image of God. Trust and confidence bring hope that out of the mess of human experience we can encounter God in many ways, through people whom we may see in a new light, resurrection light revealing, showing, the Holy Spirit of discernment in our souls and in our world. Our world which knows the cross of pain, but in which we may play our part to show God trusts all his people made in God's image. Confidence that our Lord Jesus Christ shows all we might be and hope that we may discern in all our lives and situations the Holy Spirit of God's love and discernment in seeking new ways, new light of understanding and acceptance.



The Lord is risen from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the joy and hope of Easter be yours this day and always.

+ **Kevin**

**Glasgow and Galloway**

## **.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

### **THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

This takes place on Tuesday Evenings 7.15-9.00pm, in the Session House, Dalry Kirk. 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**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Lent Lunches this year. We were delighted to welcome so many people who gave so generously to the host's chosen charity. The following monies have been raised.

Cancer Research	£370
Turning Point Scotland	£155
Scottish Charity Air Ambulance	£230

## **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'

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

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

The next funding raising event will be The Cake and Plant Sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May in aid of Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes. There will be a Plant stall, a Baking stall and tea and cake will be served in the Church. Donations of plants, baking and preserves can be brought to the Church on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning before the event.

**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

### Simple Cheese Cake

#### Ingredients:

Base

6-7oz digestives biscuits

1 oz brown sugar

3 oz marg/butter

Method: crush biscuits. Melt sugar & marg, add biscuits and mix together then press into a loose bottom pie tin.

#### Filling

10z carton of double cream

10oz tub of plain yogurt

3oz cream cheese

2oz castor sugar

Method: cream cheese and sugar together. Whip cream and fold in yogurt. Combine both together and spread over biscuit base. Set in the fridge.

Serve with a topping of fruit. e.g. Raspberries, strawberries

## POETRY CORNER

### Come Gather All

Come gather all, from great to least,  
Come celebrate this special feast.  
This is the day, by God's own choice,  
Our church was born. Let us rejoice!

May God be praised! May God be blest!  
May He find here His place of rest.  
We honor those who built with care,  
His throne on earth, this house of prayer.

May all who come, find truth and light,  
Receive new hope of future bright.  
God fill us with abundant grace.  
May angels guard this holy place.

We thank you, Lord, for what you've done  
Here in this place through your dear Son.  
Abide with us, your Spirit show,  
As rivers may your blessings flow.

*by Paul Berchtold, September, 2011*

## APRIL READINGS

7<sup>th</sup> April

Acts 4: 32 – 35

Christine Rankin

Psalm 133

1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2

Nicolette Wise

John 20: 19 - 31

14<sup>th</sup> April

Acts 3: 12 – 19

Nicholas Wise

Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1 – 7

Cathy Agnew

Luke 24: 36b - 48

21<sup>st</sup> April

Acts 4: 5 – 12

Helen Keron

Psalm 23

1 John 3: 16 - 24

Andy Jones

John 10: 11 - 18

28<sup>th</sup> April

Acts 8: 26 - 40

Dominique Pope

Psalm 22 25 - 31

1 John 4: 7 - 21

Rosalind Hall

John 15: 1 - 8

## CHURCH ASSISTANTS ROTA

7<sup>th</sup> April

**Intercessions**

**Chalice**

Nicolette

Linda

14<sup>th</sup> April

Cathy

Christine

21<sup>st</sup> April

Nicolette

Cathy

28<sup>th</sup> April

Dominique

Dominique

## **FLOWER ROTA**

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Kate Maxwell
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Kate Maxwell
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Nicolette Wise
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Nicolette Wise

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