



# **ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY**

## **DECEMBER 2024**



## **ADVENT**

**NUMBER 475**

**Charity No: SCO12084**

# SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

## Our regular weekly service

10.30am Eucharist each week

## Special Services this Month

22<sup>nd</sup> December – 10.30am – Eucharist

22<sup>nd</sup> December – 4pm Carol Service

24<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm Family Nativity Service

25<sup>th</sup> December - 10.30am Christmas Day Service

## 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
	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 out with 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 forwards 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.

**Annual Meeting:** It's wonderful to begin this season of Advent with our Annual Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Often, the AGM is a time for thanks, and I wanted to take this moment to reiterate my thanks to you all – for all that you have contributed to the life of our church and communities, in the past year.

**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.

**Christmas Services and Gatherings:**

- **Kells Primary School:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm. This year, we are very pleased to welcome the children and staff of Kells, along with their families, for their Christmas Show! We hope that they enjoy their time in the church, and feel very welcome.
- **The Eucharist with Advent Carols,** 10.30am: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. 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.
- **Christmas Carol Service:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 4.00pm. It really does feel like the season of Christmas is finally allowed to begin as we celebrate with our Christmas Carol Service, with well-known carols and readings. Of course, there's also the opportunity to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or two!

- Family Nativity: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 4-4.30pm. This year, we will be reprising our Rhyming Nativity. 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.
- Christmas Day Communion: Wednesday 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, 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**

## **News from the Diocese**

The closing date for applications for a new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway is now behind us and the Preparatory Committee will be interviewing candidates the week before Christmas. A shortlist will then be presented to the Electoral Synod in January – those on the shortlist will give a presentation to the Synod and the following week we will meet again to vote. Please pray for candidates and all those involved in this process.

**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.

### **MIDWEEK PROVISION**

During the winter months the Church will continue to be open most Tuesday mornings between 10am – 12noon. Revd Dawn is usually in the church during those times, so if you'd like to pop in for a chat and a coffee, you'd be most welcome. Please look out for the **CHURCH OPEN** sign.

### **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 also offer a weekly time of joint online evening prayers on Thursday evening, which starts at 7.30pm and lasts around 20 minutes. Our hope is that this is 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

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 11.30am - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December after the service**

The Vestry will present the Annual Reports and Financial Statements to those members of St. Margaret's on the Communicant list for approval. A decision on which International Charity we all wish to donate the Christmas Service collections to will be made at the meeting.

## **JOINT CHURCHES CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am – 12pm**

This annual Ecumenical event with the Church of Scotland Guilds will this year take place in Dalry Town Hall. There will be the usual baking and Christmas gifts stall, raffle and refreshments. Please support this fund raising event by attending and donating if you can.

## **CAROL SERVICE – 22<sup>nd</sup> December – 4pm**

This year's Carol Service will take place at 4pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The Church will be decorated for the occasion and we look forward to Carols by Candlelight. The St. Margaret's Guild will be serving Mulled Wine and Mince Pies after the service.

## **FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE – 24<sup>th</sup> December – 4pm**

This will take place between 4 – 4.30pm. Everyone (but especially children) are encouraged 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.

## **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! For more information, please contact Julian Watson on tel: 07966157848

## **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.

## **GLENKENS HUB**

The 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.

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

The Christmas Coffee Morning held jointly with the Kirk Guild will be taking place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December in Dalry Town Hall from 10.30am – 12 noon. Donations of Baking and Christmas type gifts and crafts will be much appreciated. There will be a Raffle, but Prizes for this have already been sourced. Entry 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 be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in Dalgowan. All welcome.

**Christine Rankin**  
**Guild President**

## **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 GREETINGS**

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2025

# POETRY CORNER

## HOPE

As our body requires oxygen to move, to breathe, to know the taste of life  
So too our soul needs HOPE to press on where there is no light, no touch-  
stone

HOPE for we mortals is the essences of being; when hope is crushed,  
removed

We are a skeleton, no flesh, no strength to move us on.

HOPE is like the sun is to the day, light for us to play; the well spring of  
Wisdom to be living NOW, the awaited dream of expectation, aspiring us  
to be real.

HOPE in the waiting is like the wings of the dove, lifting us high above the  
daily commotion (routine) on the current of faith and prayer, aspiring us to  
new elevations.

HOPE is the light we use to shine upon the path of life, as well as the light  
to reflect who we are; in spirit and truth as we embody the deeds of  
hospitality, kindness, peace.

HOPE can be the transfiguration of old to new; no longer bogged down by  
“what if” but rather the uplifting surge of anticipation that calms and wills  
our soul to hang in.

HOPE is not ours to own but we need to prepare, be ready to wait, for we  
do not know exactly when hope will push us out to the deep, to believe  
Jesus is capable, capable of working his personification through our words  
and deeds

For the purpose of His kingdom come; His will be done; as much as you  
have done to these little ones, you have done it as unto Me; the Shepherd of  
Souls\*, (be they new or old). As we open up our present moment for our  
soul to breathe, the remarkable power of HOPE!

by Stephen Douglas



# DECEMBER READINGS

## 1<sup>st</sup> December

Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16

Psalm 25: 1 - 9

Luke 21: 25 - 36

Christine Rankin

## 8<sup>th</sup> December

Malachi 3: 1 - 4

Canticle Benedictus

Luke 3: 1 - 6

Nicholas Wise

## 15<sup>th</sup> December

Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20

Canticle: Isaiah 12: 2 - 6

Luke 3: 7 - 18

Rosalind Hall

## 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Micah 5: 2 – 5a

Psalm 80: 1 - 7

Luke 1: 39 - 45

Andy Jones

## 25<sup>th</sup> December

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Luke 2: 1 – 14 (15 – 20)

Cathy Agnew

## 29<sup>th</sup> December

Colossians 3: 12 – 17

Psalm 148

Luke 2: 41 - 52

Nicolette Wise

## CHURCH ASSISTANTS' ROTA

	<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Chalice</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nicolette	Dominique
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Dominique	Cathy
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Andy	Dominique
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Nicolette	Christine
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Dominique	Dominique
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Christine	Barry

## FLOWERS

As always, there will be no flowers during Advent.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday 20th December, 10.30am. All help will be much appreciated and there will be coffee/tea, biscuits and music to sustain us!

Please contact Nicolette if you are able to help - phone or message on 07748 631820, or email [nicolette.wise2@gmail.com](mailto:nicolette.wise2@gmail.com)

## WELCOMERS ROTA

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christine
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Nick W
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nick B
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Nicolette
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Cathy
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Christine

## **COFFEE ROTA**

8 <sup>th</sup> December	Nicolette Wise
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christine Rankin
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Sarah Watson
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Pat and Barry

## **PRAAYER FOCUS**

Sunday	Pray for Bishop Andrew, our Interim Bishop, 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.