



ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

FEBRUARY 2025



CANDLEMAS

NUMBER 477

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Our regular weekly service

10.30am Eucharist each week

Special Services this month

9th February – 4.00pm – Afternoon 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
Alternate Lay Rep	Ms D. Pope	Tel: 07817582879
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

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

Dear New Galloway family,

Welcome to our February newsletter! I had intended by reflecting on how February feels, but two things have happened that are of more immediate importance. Sadly, this morning (Saturday 25th January), one of our mature birch trees has come down during storm Éowyn, and fallen across the church roof. It has caused some damage, but it's definitely not as bad as it could have been. Last weekend was a more positive one, as the Electoral Synod of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway voted and chose our next bishop, who will be the 16th of this Diocese. The Revd Canon Dr Nicholas Bundock was elected by both houses (clergy and laity), as required by the Canons of the Scottish Episcopal Church. In summary, all of those very long and church-y words mean that, at the time of my writing, we have a new bishop-elect! Please see below for more details about this. We look forward to a service of welcome, and also to welcoming him here to the wilds of Dumfries and Galloway. Please do continue to pray for Nick and his family, as they work through leaving a place where he has been in post for a long time, and moving up across the border to Scotland. Please also pray for our Diocese, as they prepare to receive a new bishop, with all the work that entails.

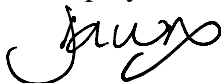
Of course, by the time the new bishop arrives, we hope it'll be a lot warmer, but for now, as we step into February, we're still experiencing the chill of winter (sadly!), but there is hope, as the promise of spring begins to show itself, as the days get longer, and snowdrops are blooming in the churchyard. In February, we will begin holding a 4.00pm service once a month (on the 2nd Sunday). We hope this relaxed service will help more people to come into our church and to find a spiritual home. The service will be based around music, Bible readings and prayer, and all are welcome.

February is often a month of contrasts, of cold mornings paired with the hope of spring, but held in tension with the approaching season of Lent, which invites us to reflect on the struggles of life while holding fast to the joy and hope of the resurrection. As the light begins to lengthen and brighten, I've found this verse from Psalm 27 helpful:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? God is with us in all things and through all things.

All are welcome to join us each Sunday for worship, fellowship, and service as we grow in faith and support one another in our small but vibrant community, held within our wider communities where we live. As Ash Wednesday falls very near the beginning of March, I thought it'd be helpful to confirm that our service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes will be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 5th March. Details of our Lent and Easter provisions will be in March's edition of the newsletter.

With prayers and blessings



Revd Dawn Matthew

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.

New Bishop elected for Glasgow and Galloway

The Reverend Canon Dr Nicholas John Bundock was elected on 18 January 2025, as the new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. He will be consecrated on Saturday 3rd May at St. Mary's Cathedral Glasgow and take up his new post after that. Nick becomes Bishop-elect, following the retirement of the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson who served the Diocese as Bishop for five years. The Bishop-elect accepted the post following a vote of the Electoral Synod in Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley, where he received over half of the votes in each house, with clergy and lay representatives from congregations across the Diocese voting.

Nick is currently the Team Rector of St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury, in the Diocese of Manchester in the Church of England. During his time there, he has developed and led an inclusive ministry known as 'Church for Everyone,' which has been transformative in creating vibrant, welcoming, and growing communities for people of all backgrounds, including those who have often felt excluded from traditional church settings.

He studied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Universities of Sheffield and North Texas, before training for ordination at the University of Cambridge and Ridley Hall Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 2002 and priest in 2003, serving his curacy at St Saviour's, High Green in the Diocese of Sheffield. In 2005, he became Team Vicar, then in 2010, Team Rector at St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury, in the Diocese of Manchester. In 2024, he was made an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral.

Following the election, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Rev Mark Strange said, "*I am delighted to welcome Nick as Bishop-elect into this new season of ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church.*

I would also like to thank everyone who took part in the process—those who offered themselves and tested their discernment, as well as members of the Electoral Synod, Diocesan Council, Preparatory Committee, Diocesan staff and Bishop Andrew, Convener of the Electoral Process, for their prayerful work.

Please keep Nick and Rachel in your prayers as we plan his consecration and new beginnings in Scotland."

The Bishop-elect said, "*I am deeply humbled and honoured to have been called to serve as the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. This is a diocese with a rich history, vibrant communities, and a deep commitment to embodying the love of Christ in every corner of its life. Throughout the discernment process, I have been moved by the openness, warmth, and faithfulness of the people I have encountered. It is with great joy that I look forward to walking alongside clergy, laity and their wider communities as we seek to nurture and grow God's Kingdom together.*

As we face the challenges and opportunities of this time, I am inspired by the diocese's vision of inclusion, justice, and hope. I firmly believe that the Scottish Episcopal Church has a unique voice to share in today's world, and I am committed to supporting and encouraging all who contribute to its mission and ministry.

I ask for your prayers as I prepare to take on this role, and I offer mine in return for the flourishing of this diocese and its people. Together, may we step boldly into the future, confident in the transforming power of God's love to create a Church for Everyone."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY SERVICES TIMES 10.30am

Everyone is welcome to attend our services at 10.30am every Sunday.
2nd Sundays: 4.00pm Afternoon Service

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

Each week, together with our sister church, All Saints, Challoch, we hold joint online evening prayers on Wednesdays, which begin at 7.30pm and last 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://Wednesday 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! For more information, please contact Julian Watson on tel: 07966157848

DATES OF FUTURE CHURCH EVENTS

Ash Wednesday and Imposition of Ashes 5th March at 6pm, World Day of Prayer 7th March, compiled by The Cook Islands and this year hosted by the Kirk Guild in Balmaclellan further details to follow.

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.

ST. MARGARET'S GUILD

The next Guild meeting will be held on 10th February at 10.30am in Dalgowan. When we will be planning the Lent Lunches and Plant and Bake Sale further details to follow. 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

POETRY CORNER

Candlemas

The Angel-lights of Christmas morn,
Which shot across the sky,
Away they pass at Candlemas,
They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best,
Although it be divine;
Like funeral lights for Christmas gone,
Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more
We wait in twilight grey,
Till the high candle sheds a beam
On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide
Of solemn fast and prayer;
While song is hush'd, and lights grow dim
In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul
Is driven home, we hide
In our own hearts, and count the wounds
Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent
And Alleluias o'er,
Mary is music in our need,
And Jesus light in store.

by John Henry Newman

FEBRUARY READINGS

2nd February

Hebrews 2: 14 - 18

Psalm 84

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Christine Rankin

9th February

1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11

Psalm 138

Luke 5: 1 - 11

Rosalind Hall

16th February

1 Corinthians 15: 12 – 20

Psalm 1

Luke 6: 17 - 26

Cathy Agnew

23rd February

1 Corinthians 15: 35 – 38, 42 - 50

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Luke 6: 27 - 38

Nicholas Wise

CHURCH ASSISTANTS' ROTA

	Intercessions	Chalice
2 nd February	Nicolette	Dominique
9 th February	Dominique	Cathy
16 th February	Cathy	Dominique
23 rd February	Nicolette	Christine

FLOWERS

2 nd February	Sarah Watson
9 th February	Sarah Watson
16 th February	Cathy Agnew
23 rd February	Cathy Agnew

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

WELCOMERS ROTA

2 nd February	Christine
9 th February	Nick W
16 th February	Cathy
23 rd February	Nicolette

COFFEE ROTA

2 nd February	Carrie Winger
9 th February	Christine Rankin
16 th February	Sarah Watson
23 rd February	Nicolette Wise

PRAYER FOCUS

- Sunday** Pray for Bishop elect Reverend Canon Dr Nicholas John Bundock, 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.