



ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

OCTOBER 2025



AUTUMN

NUMBER 484

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Our regular weekly service

10.30am Eucharist on Sundays each week

Monthly Sunday @ 4

Pet Blessing Service - 4pm Sunday 5th October

EVENSONG

Sunday 19th October at 4pm in Challoch

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Revd. Dawn Matthew	Tel: 07543247180
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
Property Convenor	Mr Marcus Maxwell	Tel: 420328
	Mr N. Wise	Tel: 430218
	Mrs P. Gilbert	Tel: 420665

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>

SAINT FRANCIS: THE HOLY FOOL

A concept that has always piqued my interest is so-called ‘Fools’ for Christ, a term which has its origins in 1 Corinthians. A holy fool is one who flouts societal norms for religious purposes, consistently rejecting worldly cares, social rules of hypocrisy, brutality and power-seeking. Fools are often mocked and humiliated as they subvert the illusions by which we all live.

One such fool is Saint Francis of Assisi, whose feast day marks the end of our season of creation. An enduringly popular patron saint, Francis is well-known for his veneration of nature as a place of divine encounter, but he is more than an animal-loving eccentric who preached to the birds. Pope Francis, his namesake, wrote of him as someone who shows us how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and inner peace.

As a young man, Saint Francis rejected his inherited wealth and status and went on to live joyfully in simplicity – a true ascetic who cared for outcasts and translated the poverty of the beatitudes into a way of life. In this sense he took on a prophetic role, not by noisy denunciation, but by being the change he wished to see.

What appeals most about holy fools is the humour. The capacity for irony and paradoxical wisdom. Although Francis took his calling seriously, he did not take *himself* too seriously. His sacred function was to tear down the illusions we hold so dear – relating to materialism and power – and to challenge social norms through playfulness, humour, and unconventional behaviour.

We live in a world which extols wealth and power, in which manners and respectability supersede honesty, and in which the church has neglected and failed those who society has marginalised. Against this context – whether in the twelfth century or the twenty-first – making a deliberate choice of downward social mobility is radical. But God is the God of those who know that they have nothing but him. And these are the people who have everything to look forward to.

The delight of Francis, the *Jongleur de Dieu*, might look like naivete or romantic idealism. But it is impossible to carry the wisdom of this archetype without having undergone some serious disillusionment. Holy fools dwell in the tragic gap between the ideal and the real, between what we wish we and others could be and what we and they are. And finding our own inner fool means we can live unselfconsciously as who we are rather than trying to conceal it under an orchestrated persona designed to impress – without losing sight of the more we can be.

Humility was Francis' cornerstone and he was able to avoid the extremes of both self-inflation and self-doubt. His was a life of simplicity, single-mindedness and wholeheartedness. God was his go-to, his starting place, and his ending place. Francis recognised the radical counter-intuitiveness of God's priorities, that the state of life which Jesus himself blessed throughout his ministry is one that the world cordially dislikes.

Like Francis and the long line of holy fools, we could do worse than acknowledging our complete dependence on God, being willing to sacrifice – materially or otherwise – and create belonging with people who don't belong. To live like Jesus means unreasonably extending our welcome, our compassion, and our joyful understanding with others – regardless of the messy consequences.

Dominique Pope
Lay Worshipper

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

The new Diocesan monthly e-news – 'Together' is now available. You can sign up to receive it at: <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/> (just scroll to the end of the home page)

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY SERVICES TIMES 10.30am

Everyone is welcome to attend our services at 10.30am every Sunday.

MIDWEEK PROVISION

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.

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

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

PET BLESSING SERVICE

We will be holding an outdoor service to celebrate our pets (weather permitting!) on Sunday 5th October at 4pm. This will be our Sunday @4 service for the month, and will be a service for the whole community to bring their pets along and thank God for how wonderful they are – people might want to bring a photo if they can't bring the pet! Please do let people know it's happening – word of mouth works wonderfully here in the Glenkens.

EVENSONG – Sunday 19th October at 4pm in Challoch

This will be a joint service with Challoch please come along and share in this our Sister Church if you can.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD - Wednesday 8th October

Everyone is welcome to attend the first meeting of the Guild's new season of talks to take place in Dalry Church Session House at 2pm. Speaker: Rev. Judith Huggett "A Hospital Chaplain"

DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held after the service on 30th November. The annual reports will be available at the back of the church and emailed out at the end of this month.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

This annual event held jointly with the Kirk Guild will take place in New Galloway Town Hall on Wednesday 3rd December. Further details will be in the November Newsletter.

ST. MARGARET'S GUILD

A total of 28 people enjoyed the Harvest Lunch to which members of the Kirk were invited and saw ten of them join us for the occasion. A delicious lunch of the usual Cottage Pie, Apple Desert and Wine was served with Tea or Coffee and mints to finish. We are very grateful to Derick Forbes for donating the wine, all who provided the food, donated goods for Food Bank and helped on the day. This year it was agreed not to sell tickets but to ask for donations and this raised £225



Harvest Loaf made and donated by Carrie Winger

We will also be joining with the Kirk Guild to run the annual Christmas Coffee Morning, which this year will be held in New Galloway Town Hall on Wednesday 3rd December. Donations of Christmas Gift items, baking, produce and raffle prizes would be much appreciated.

Christine Rankin
Guild President

POETRY CORNER

LIFE'S CALLING

sipping cider, and pumpkin spice
nurturing joy, autumn's sweet price
blessing my heart, leaves keep falling
raining grace on my life's calling

warm thoughts caress my soul's intent
these blessings are why I was sent
autumn's rhythms are gently stalling
raining grace on my life's calling

jumping in the leaves, such wonder
my heart is beating like thunder
autumn's gasping winds keep squalling
raining grace on my life's calling

roaring fires and the crunch of leaves
reminds me that my heart believes
autumn's ink, soundlessly scrawling
raining grace on my life's calling

aching verses shed silent fears
singing God's peace through gentling tears
merry skies steal hearts, recalling
raining grace on my life's calling

by Regina McIntosh

CHURCH ASSISTANTS' ROTA

	Intercessions	Chalice
5 th October	Christine	Dominique
12 th October	Nicolette	Christine
19 th October	Cathy	Nicolette
26 th October	Dominique	Cathy

WELCOMERS ROTA

5 th October	Christine
12 th October	Nicolette
19 th October	Julian
26 th October	Cathy

FLOWERS

5 th October	Kate Maxwell
12 th October	Kate Maxwell
19 th October	Cathy Agnew
26 th October	Cathy Agnew

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

COFFEE ROTA

5 th October	Nicolette Wise
12 th October	Christine Rankin
19 th October	Sarah Watson
26 th October	Nicolette Wise

OCTOBER READINGS

5th October

2 Timothy 1: 1 - 14	Nicolette Wise
Psalm 37: 1 - 9	
Luke 17: 5 - 10	

12th October

2 Timothy 2: 8 - 15	Rosalind Hall
Psalm 111	
Luke 17: 11 - 19	

19th October

2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5	Cathy Agnew
Psalm: 121	
Luke 18: 1 – 8	

26th October

2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8, 16 - 18	Nick Wise
Psalm 84: 1 - 7	
Luke 18: 9 - 14	

PRAYER FOCUS

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| Sunday | Pray for Bishop Reverend Canon Dr Nicholas John Bundock, the Clergy of the Diocese, Lay Readers and Vestry Committee. |
| 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. |