



ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

FEBRUARY 2026



CANDLEMAS

NUMBER 488

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Our regular weekly service

10.30am Eucharist on Sundays each week

Special Service this month

6pm - 18th February – Ash Wednesday

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

During a Vacancy, an Interim Priest is appointed to support the church, mainly to provide pastoral offices such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. The provision of Interim Priest-in-Charge for St Margaret's will be provided by a team of local clergy in the following order:

Revd Alison Hudson - 07725 467246, alison.hudson4@gmail.com

Canon Stuart Bain - 07852 308175, stuart.bain@mac.com

Canon Elizabeth Breakey - 07506344747, ebreaky@glasgow.anglican.org

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

Please see Church Officers above, or call Christine Rankin, Vestry Secretary, on 07749212201, for advice.

VESTRY

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Secretary | Mrs C. Rankin | Tel: 07749212201 |
| Treasurer | Mrs C. Agnew | Tel: 430212 |
| Lay Representative | Mrs N. Wise | Tel: 07748 631820 |
| Alternate Lay Rep | Ms D. Pope | Tel: 07817582879 |
| Guild President | Mrs C. Rankin | Tel: 07749212201 |
| Property Convenor | Mr Marcus Maxwell | Tel: 01644420328 |
| | Mr N. Wise | Tel: 01644430218 |
| | Mrs P. Gilbert | Tel: 01644420665 |

A LETTER FROM THE VESTRY

Dear All

As you know, Revd. Dawn will be starting her new job as Canon Missioner for the Diocese on 15th February, so the Vestry would like to update you on what will happen here going forward. But firstly, we must express our immense gratitude for all that Dawn has done for St. Margaret's since moving here from Leicestershire three years ago.

'The Church is Open' sign fronting the road, which Dawn instigated, best encapsulates the positive impact she has made. From the very beginning, she has poured her energy and enthusiasm into every aspect of church and community life. As well as ensuring the Eucharist was celebrated every Sunday, with thoughtful preaching and sensitive prayers, she has tried various other offerings such as a monthly 'Sundays @ 4' slot, including Forest Church and a pet blessing service to coincide with the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. Additional services at Christmas included an Interactive Family Nativity on Christmas Eve and a Blue Christmas service – a gentle and quiet reflection amid the frantic activity of the season.

Within the church itself, installing Wi-Fi enabled us to become one of the first churches in Galloway to have a card payment machine – useful not just for Sunday donations but for all events such as the annual Plant and Bake Sale. Commissioning a logo has pulled together our identity as a church and given us cohesion across notices, service booklets, pew sheets, posters etc. More recently our new noticeboard outside the lychgate gives easy to read information on forthcoming services and events.

Dawn quickly became a 'well-kent' face in New Galloway, becoming involved with LING, the CatStrand, local singing groups and the school, and has been determined that St Margaret's should be for everyone, not just churchgoers. For instance, for the last two years St Margaret's was the destination point for the 'Christmas Lights Switch On' in New Galloway

with over 80 folk enjoying entertainment from the Glenkens Singers along with mulled wine and shortbread.

Dawn's kindness and sensitivity towards the bereaved, anyone unwell or struggling has been everything you could wish for in a priest, and this despite a major health challenge of her own in her first year here. You will be much missed Dawn, and we wish you and your family all the best as you embark on your next chapter!

Our own next chapter: we are now officially in vacancy and Bishop Nick and our Rural Dean Elizabeth Breakey are being very supportive. They are working closely with the Vestry to ensure that 'normal service' will continue as much as possible. We are most fortunate to have the help and support of Canons Barry Gilbert and Stuart Bain who between them will be taking more services for us over the next few months, *deo gratias*.

We, and our friends at Challoch, have sadly realised that sharing a Priest-in-Charge is not sustainable due to the distances involved but we are grateful for the close ties we have made with everyone at All Saints'. With regard to the new vacancy, and following discussion with Bishop Nick, we are planning to advertise for a Priest on a half-stipend plus a house basis. Financially, the costs will be similar to those of the last three years, subject to the continuation of a Diocesan grant. Over the next few weeks, there will be a lot of 'vacancy procedure' to work through, before we get to advertising the position, including updating our Church Profile which will be circulated to everyone for their comments. Further updates next month.

If you would be interested in finding out how to get involved in the vacancy procedure, or have skills or ideas you would like to share, please get in touch with me or speak to anyone on the Vestry.

With all good wishes

Nicolette Wise
Lay Representative

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Autumn Retreat on the Island of Iona Bishop's House, Iona 03 to 10 October 2026

This October take the chance to recharge on the Hebridean island of Iona, one of the 'Thin Places' of the world

Stay at Bishop's House, hosted by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Reconnect with God in your own time and at your own pace. Discover the natural beauty of the island with walks, birdwatching, windswept golf, wild swimming, or simply sit in the gardens and rest. Take advantage of the cosy common rooms to sit with pencil, brush, mug or knitting needle in hand, and simply day dream into the view.

Choose to reset through morning eucharist and evening compline services at Bishop's House, and enjoy the Iona Community evening services at the Abbey.

7 days full board with delicious home cooking

Cost: £1050 /person (single room) or
£700/person (twin room)

50% payable on confirmation of the booking.

The size of the group will be from 16 to 23 max.

Arrive by afternoon of Sat 03 October,

Depart on the morning of Sat 10 October

For more information or to book a place: Please contact

Rev Dr Elizabeth Breakey

Call : 07506344747, ebreaky@glasgow.anglican.org



CHURCH HELPERS

We could do with more people assisting with Sunday services. If you would be willing to help with Welcoming, Reading, Intercessions, Communion or making Coffee after the service, either regularly or occasionally please contact Christine on Tel: 07749212201 or dalgowantraining@aol.com

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 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>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY SERVICES TIMES 10.30am

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

MIDWEEK PROVISION

On Tuesday mornings, if the 'Church is Open' sign is displayed outside, you are welcome to come in for private prayer and reflection.

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

DAWN'S FARWELL – Sunday 1st February

Dawn's last service will be followed by special refreshments. Please come along to wish her well in her future role.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 6pm on Wednesday 18th February

There will be a Communion Service with the Imposition of Ashes, to mark the start of Lent on 18th February at 6pm.

LENT LUNCH – Friday 27th February at Dalgowan

In aid of Cancer Research. Please drop in between 12 – 2pm.

DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This annual event is held jointly with the Kirk Guild. This year the service which is entitled 'I will give you rest; - Come' has been compiled by the women of Nigeria and will take place on Friday 6th March at 2pm in Kells Church, New Galloway. All Welcome.

LENT LUNCHESES

Friday 27th February at Dalgowan

Friday 13th March at Whinnymuir, Dalry

Friday 20th March in the Church

BISHOP NICK – Sunday 1st March 10.30am

Save the Date!

We are delighted that Bishop Nick will be taking our Sunday Eucharist, at the usual time of 10.30am on 1st March. Everyone is welcome and Bishop Nick says he is looking forward to seeing all ‘the good folks of New Galloway’. There will also be an opportunity to ask him any questions you may have about our vacancy after the service.

ST. MARGARET’S GUILD

The Guild will be holding three Lent Lunches this year as detailed and taking part in the World Day of Prayer with the Kirk Guild. The annual Plant & Bake Sale will take place on 2nd May. We will continue to provide refreshments after the service and on special occasions.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th April.

Christine Rankin
Guild President

POETRY CORNER

Candlemas

Beewise we gather our wax all year
From bramble sorrow and thistle tear,
Briar sadness and spine of pain:
Bitter flowers that bloom again!
But deadest winter brings a day
When thorns have lovelier bloom than May;
When candles are fashioned and lit by One
Who fashioned her wax to be lit by the Sun,
Then watched her Candle burn: the price
Of sin-consuming sacrifice.
Today she shares the Flame anew
To make us priest-and-victim too.
And Mary-mothered flames and Flame
Live their sacrificial Name.

by John D. Boyd

CHURCH ASSISTANTS' ROTA

WELCOMERS ROTA

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1 st February | Cathy |
| 8 th February | Nicolette |
| 15 th February | Christine |
| 18 th February | Christine |
| 22 nd February | Nick |

FLOWERS

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 st February | Sarah Watson |
| 8 th February | Sarah Watson |
| 15 th February | Cathy Agnew |

No flowers during Lent

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

REFRESHMENT ROTA

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 st February | Christine Rankin |
| 8 th February | Nicolette Wise |
| 15 th February | Sarah Watson |
| 22 nd February | Cathy Agnew |

FEBRUARY READINGS

1st February

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Psalm 84

Luke 2: 22- 40

Cathy Agnew

8th February

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

Psalm 112: 1-9

Matthew 5: 13-20

Nicolette Wise

15th February

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Psalm 2

Matthew 17: 1-9

Rosalind Hall

18th February

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Christine Rankin

22nd February

Romans 5: 12-19

Psalm: 32

Matthew 4: 1-11

Nicholas Wise

PRAYER FOCUS

- 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.