



**Chrystal Chronicle  
Newsletter  
February/March 2020**



**St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church  
Locum Minister: Rev Douglas Irving**

**Tel 01556 610156**

**[www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)**

**Scottish charity no. SC009432**

## **From the Interim Moderator**

Hello Everyone,

It is in sad circumstances that I am back with you acting as your Interim Moderator but one thing I know of Rev Dave Logan, he would not wish you to be sad or grieve for too long and he would ask that you come together in fellowship and carry your church into a new vacancy.

Presbytery has given permission to call a minister and I know the procedure is a very daunting thought for all. But we must meet this challenge and work together to make it a journey that we will travel. The Nominating Committee will soon be elected, and the Committee will revise the Parish Profile and very soon will advertise for a new minister.

I will be with you all throughout this journey and this difficult time and I know that Dave has left you all so much stronger and in his short ministry has taken you forward. Let us not forget what he has given us and journey through this in unity and prayer.

Your next minister is there, waiting on the call, not just from you, but from God also.

And so I walk with you on this journey and hold the congregations of both parishes in my prayers.

God Bless you all  
Fiona Wilson

## **Church Register**

### **Death – “I am the resurrection and the life”**

December 30: Mrs Janet King

January 19: Mrs Bunty Sloan

Please let me know of any changes of address: **Marion Bennett**, 2  
Wolfgill Drive Dumfries DG1 4XY. Tel: 263106

## What's on

### February

Monday 3: Buzz - Police officer advising on scams

Saturday 8: Guild - NGT retreat day at Troqueer Church Centre 10am-2.30pm

Tuesday 11: Arts and Crafts in the church hall 2-4pm

Wednesday 12: Gardening Club, Pam Pumphrey – Wildlife in the garden

Monday 17: Buzz - Sugarcraft with Margaret Thomson

Tuesday 18: Guild – MOOL (Massive Outpouring of Love), David Formstone 1.30pm

Sunday 23: Fairtrade Breakfast in church hall 9.30-11am

Tuesday 25: Arts and Crafts in the church hall 2-4pm

Wednesday 26: Gardening Club, Julian Stanning – Future gardening

### March

Monday 2: Buzz - Orkney Islands with Bill Holland

Thursday 5: Guild - NGT Spring meeting AGM and Seema's Project 7pm in St Mary's-Greyfriars' hall

Friday 6: World Day of Prayer

Saturday 7: Guild Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Tuesday 10: Arts and Crafts in the church hall 2-4pm

Wednesday 11: Gardening Club, Ian Wilson - Coastal Norway

Monday 16: Buzz - Miniature collections with Grace Kirby

Tuesday 17: Guild - Zambian Twinning, Alison Boyes and Ali Robertson

Tuesday 24: Arts and Crafts in the church hall 2-4pm

Wednesday 25: Gardening Club, Helen Knowles - Talk on Winter gardening

**Please note** - there will be no Monday service and soup on 24<sup>th</sup> February or 30<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a Communion service, followed by a soup lunch, in the hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## Flower rota

February	2: L Bell	March	1: E Sutherland
	9: J Swan		8: M Dalrymple
	16: A Roger		15: M Woods
	23: C Proudfoot		22: D McCaig
April	5: Vacant		29: E Haining

## From the flower team

The flower list for 2020 is now on display in the vestibule. There are a few dates vacant, if anyone would like to donate.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, arranged or delivered flowers over the past year. Members of our congregation who have been bereaved or are housebound, and sometimes on special occasions, really appreciate the gift of flowers.

A big thanks to all the helpers who decorated the church for Christmas and set up the tree and the lights – and then dismantled it all again at the end of the month.

Flower team contacts: Norna Francis (250199), Moira Cannon (720394), Betty Jardine (257691), Margaret Thomson (253484) or Maureen Wilson (255008).

**Thanks for flowers** have been received from Irene McKeand, Elizabeth Armstrong and Ina Thom, all of whom celebrated special birthdays recently. Also from Janet Thomson on her return from hospital, from Grace Kirby, Eunice Sutherland and Goldie Bell. And thanks for Christmas gifts received from the church from Tom and Eileen Hannah, Isabel Wright, Louise Gourlie, Lillian Lossius and Bunty Hogg.

## Congratulations!

To Ina Thom, who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Boxing Day.

## **Fairtrade**

Come and join us for breakfast in the church hall specialising in Fairtrade products on Sunday February 23 between 9.30 and 11am.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 runs from 24 February to 8 March. Look out for special events advertised during this period. The theme is the same as last year 'She deserves' – focussing on Women Cocoa Farmers.

## **Christian Aid**

Lent Lunches for 2020 run each Friday in Lent from 28 February to 3 April, 1200 - 1330 in St John's Church hall (more space for sitting), where homemade soup and cheese rolls, T/C are offered for a minimum donation of £3.50 and £2 for children – with a sales table each week. St Mary's-Greyfriars' is catering on 28 February. It would be welcomed if you would like to be involved in preparation or with serving etc. Please speak to someone in church if you would like to help.

**Christian Aid Week** is from 10 to 16 May and the **Christian Aid Coffee Morning** is on Saturday 19 September in The Usual Place.

## **Arts and Crafts Group**

Visitors are made very welcome. Do feel free to drop by for a cuppie and a blether, see what we are up to. Why not come and try your hand at it? We meet in the small church hall on the **second & fourth Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm**. Tea and coffee provided.

## **From the Gardening Club**

In November we were given a “Dumfries in Bloom Civic Pride Award 2019” for the planters outside the Hall for “the great joy they brought to many locals and visitors this year”.

On 20 November Bill Holland made a presentation on a holiday visit to Orkney. The views included Scapa Flow and the Churchill Barriers, the Italian Chapel and scenes on South Ronaldsay – including an unexpected garden with figures of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. There were also scenes of ancient archaeological significance at Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness and Ness of Brodgar.

On 4 December we had Rolf Buwert who spoke of his hobbies using Wood since his retirement – becoming a Wood Turner, Toy Maker and Storyteller. We were enthralled by his use of slides as well as showing finished articles – all put over admirably using his story-telling skills.

On 7 December we had a stall at the Christmas Bazaar and members helped in many other capacities as well. It was a very successful venture.

On 11 December we had our Christmas lunch at the Crichton Golf Club, where we were served a lovely lunch. 32 members and guests attended. We enjoyed good fellowship and meal. Our entertainment afterwards was provided by Robert Lind, who sang, and Tommy and Betty Jardine, Dorothy Edwards, Eunice Sutherland and Bill Holland with readings.

## **Guild News**

Guild members proved that you are never too old for party games at their December meeting. The evening started with a delivery of pre-ordered fish and chicken suppers (thanks Mr Brown) and members sharpened their wits solving a Christmas quiz. Pass the parcel with forfeits followed and, in time honoured tradition, with an affectionate nod to the two Marys, musical islands had almost everyone on their feet. Who would have thought that the Guild could be so competitive! The highlight of the games was one blowing up balloons, letting them go and watching them whizz all over the hall to see which team's travelled the furthest! Who squealed the loudest, the balloons or the teams was debatable. All in all the evening was voted a huge success.

4 members went to the national Christmas Big Sing in Glasgow and have been spotted on the internet singing their hearts out.

Unfortunately the speaker at our January meeting did not appear but a lot of business was dealt with and everyone enjoyed a good blether over tea.

We meet on 18th February to hear a talk on the local charity Massive Outpouring Of Love (MOOL). March will be a busy month with St Mary's-Greyfriars' hosting on 5th the Nithsdale Guilds Together AGM and Spring meeting. Two days later is the Guild Coffee Morning and on 17th we are to hear about Dunscore Church 's Zambian twinning project.

### **From the Buzz**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December we had our Christmas party. We had games, quizzes and singing, followed by a lovely Christmas afternoon tea. Then it was time for gifts.

## For reflection

Snowdrops in the garden, surviving the coldest days. Help us Lord to be strong like them.

Praise to the Lord for lengthening days.

Reach out Lord we pray to all those who have yet to know and love you.

In our prayers let us remember all those who are suffering for whatever reason.

Nature is a wonderful thing. Help us heavenly Father we pray to protect it against the consequences of climate change.

Great and wonderful God we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us. Help us to see and practise your ways in our daily lives.

## Next magazine

The deadline for our April/May issue is **Sunday April 19** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always.

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**Call:** 263106  
**Email:** [magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk)

## Useful contacts

### Minister

Rev Douglas Irving: 01556 610156

### Session Clerk

Anne Mackie: 266186

### Treasurer, Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Rod Williamson: 251876