

Christ Church, Dalbeattie & St. Ninian's Castle, Douglas

SC010918 & SC011079

Advent 4. 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021



PAX

Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is nearly upon us. Our Vestries have met and asked us to implement the following:

- Booking in for services Starting this Sunday
- 2 metre distancing in church
- The buildings are left for 72 hours after each service
- The serving of refreshments be suspended
- We Review these arrangements early in the New Year
- Christ Church bookings: Sue Thomas [suethomas21@btinternet.com](mailto:suethomas21@btinternet.com) t.612863
- St. Ninian's bookings: Sue Beddows for Sunday 19th [subeddows@gmail.com](mailto:subeddows@gmail.com) t. 670286. For Christmas and beyond Christine Collier [cacollier.h@gmail.com](mailto:cacollier.h@gmail.com) t 670275.
- The Province Advisory Group have advised that you take a Lateral Flow test before attending a service.

The agreed service pattern is:

December

19th 11am	Family Eucharist at St. Ninian's
22nd 5pm	Carol Service at Christ Church
24th 11.30pm	Midnight Mass at St. Ninian's in the Gordon Memorial Hall. (No access to church allowed)
Christmas Day	9.30 Family Eucharist at Christ Church
	11am Family Eucharist St. Ninian's in the church (No access to the Hall allowed)

26th No Services  
29th 5pm Carol Service at St. Ninian's

January

1st 11am Eucharist at Christ Church  
2nd 11am Eucharist St. Ninian's (Scottish Prayer Book)  
6<sup>th</sup> 10am Epiphany of the Lord , Christ Church (1970 Rite)

I would strongly recommend that you book you place for our Christmas Services and Carol Service as soon as possible. Please note that we have included a Scottish Prayer Book Service and the 1970 Rite for those who have been missing them.

Our aim is to keep everyone as safe as possible whilst worshipping God with us.

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A thought by Edith Stein Sr. Benedicta of the Cross:

*For the Christian [Christmas] it is as yet something else. Him the star leads to the manger with the little Child who brings peace to earth. In countless endearing pictures, artists have created the scene for our eyes; ancient legends, replete with all the magic of childhood, sing to us about it. Whoever lives along with the Church hears the ancient chants and feels the longing spirit in the Advent hymns; and whoever is familiar with the inexhaustible fount of sacred liturgy is daily confronted by the great prophet of the Incarnation with His powerful words of warning and promise:*

*Drop down dew from above and let the clouds rain the Just One! The Lord is near! Let us adore Him! Come, Lord, and do not delay! Jerusalem, rejoice with great joy, for your Saviour comes to you.*

Yours in Christ,

*Christopher*

Rector

To contact the Rector: Christopher Tel: 01556 505894  
Email: [cg.ketley@zen.co.uk](mailto:cg.ketley@zen.co.uk) Web: <https://dcdchurches.org.uk>

## **Support at St.Ninian's, Castle Douglas & Christ Church, Dalbeattie**



If anyone is in need of help, conversation or prayer please do not hesitate to contact Christopher 01556 505894, Helen Evans 01556 504007 or Christine Collier 01556 670275. We are all available to talk or help in any way. It is important that we keep in touch as much as possible.

Please continue to pray for: Judi Rumble, Francis Turnbull and Barbara, Audrey Pointon, Brenda Morland, Katherine Hatfield and Jenny Wright.

RIP: Erle and Anne Gardner. Please pray keep Marion in your prayers at this time.

### **Church Service Times**

St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas:

Family Eucharist 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am.

Christ Church, Dalbeattie:

Family Eucharist 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11am.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Family Eucharist alternates between churches

### **Gospel Readings for Advent 4. 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Sunday	Advent 4	Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)
Monday	feria	Luke 1: 26-38
Tuesday	feria	Luke 1: 39-45
Wednesday	feria	Luke 1: 46-56
Thursday	feria	Luke 1: 57-66
Friday	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Matt 1: 1-25
Saturday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	John 1: 1-18

### **Prayer Themes for Advent 4 Sunday**

Sunday: For victims of violence and abuse. For Refugees and Asylum Seekers as they make their journeys to safety. We pray they may be welcomed and cared for. For the mission of our church and our church family.

- Monday: For continued Peace in the world. For tolerance, understanding and agreement among the nations. An end to Racism.
- Tuesday: For young adults, young people and children as they deal with the changes in the world. For all in education and who work with children and young people.
- Wednesday: We pray for our care homes and especially their residents at Bothwell House, Hanover House, Carlingwark Care Home, Barlochan House Care Home, Munchies Park House, and Alma McFadyen Care Centre. For those at home who are dependent on carers and those who look after them.
- Thursday: For our politicians, Governments, Councils and all in authority. For those in financial difficulties. For those suffering domestic abuse.
- Friday: For those persecuted for their Faith. For those awaiting execution on death row.
- Saturday: For all nations struggling with the Covid pandemic. For a fair distribution of vaccines across the world.  
For the NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI as we move towards the winter and its increased risks of illnesses. For all who are struggling with continued restrictions. For our own communities.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **December**

- 19<sup>th</sup> 11am, Sunday Family Eucharist St. Ninian's  
22<sup>nd</sup> 5pm, Carol Service at Christ Church

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 24<sup>th</sup> 11.30pm Midnight Mass, St. Ninian's in the Gordon Hall

#### **Christmas Day**

- 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Family Eucharist, Christ Church, Dalbeattie  
11am Family Eucharist, St. Ninian's Castle Douglas  
26<sup>th</sup> No Service  
29<sup>th</sup> 5pm Christmas Carols at St. Ninian's,

### **2022**

#### **January**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 11am Mary Mother of God, New Year's Day,  
Said Eucharist, Christ Church, Dalbeattie  
2<sup>nd</sup> 11am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Family Eucharist St. Ninian's  
(Scottish Prayer Book)  
6<sup>th</sup> 10am The Epiphany of the Lord, Christ Church, Dalbeattie (1970 Rite)

## **SECMA - Scottish Episcopal Church Missionary Association**



A very long time ago (perhaps in the 19th century) the SEC were given the missionary responsibility to raise money and awareness for two parts of the Anglican Communion - Kafraria, Eastern Cape, South Africa, and Chandra, West Bengal, India.

I grew up with this knowledge and in my teens Dr Guy Danes, came to speak of the work in Kafraria. In the 1950s/60s, the SEC employed the Rev'd Leslie Drage to go and see, and come back and tell us of the wider

church. One year in the early 1960s the Diocesan Youth Conference invited him as their speaker. It was a pivotal experience for me, in my involvement and interest in the work of the Anglican Communion.

In 1995 when I returned to Scotland, I became interested in SECMA, the present day SEC missionary charity. It is a very small charity working with small projects that aren't covered by the big charities. This year they are supporting work in South Africa, eSwatini, Kenya, South Sudan, Palestine, Myanmar, Botswana, Latvia, Ethiopia, Lebanon. This year contributions from the Dioceses raised £5632, of which our Diocese raised £290, the Diocese of Brechin raised £1465!

I commend this charity to your notice.  
Edith E Thorp

### **Prayer in our churches**

Prayer, and praying for others, is an important part of our church life and life as Christians. Each week in this newsletter there is a list of people for whom we are asked to pray at home. These names are also often included in the service intercessions. If you or someone you know would like to be added to this public list please contact Christopher or Helen Evans (contact numbers can be found just after the Rector's letter at the start of this newsletter).

There is also a small group of intercessors who are committed to praying for urgent needs and for those who prefer to keep their need less public. We are given the first name and surname initial (in case there is more than one person with the same name), and a brief indication of the prayer need. Edith Thorp co-ordinates the Prayer Chain and should be contacted if you want a name included - [edith.thorp@icloud.com](mailto:edith.thorp@icloud.com) or 01556 610816.



If you would like to be one of our intercessors please contact Edith and she will add you to the people to whom she sends the prayer needs.

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### **St Ninian's Rotas**

There are rotas on the notice board at St Ninian's for the Sanctuary Guild and for volunteers to make and serve refreshments after the Sunday morning service. Please sign up.

### **An Advent Thought:**

#### *An English Carol*



A new work is come on hand  
Through might and grace of God's son,  
To save the lost of every land;  
For now is free that erst was bound,  
We may well sing: alleluia!

For Gabriel began it was  
Bright as the sunshine through the glass,  
Thus was Christ conceived for us;  
O Mary, mother, full of grace  
Well now sings she: alleluia!

Now is fulfilled the prophecy  
Of David and of Jeremy  
And also of Isaiah;  
Sing thee, therefore, both loud and high,

Alleuja, this sweetest song  
Out of a green branch is sprung,

God send us life that lasteth long;  
Now joy and bliss be us among  
That thus do sing: alleluia!

## Courses:



**Wednesday, 7pm, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Zoom Group**

**Luke's Gospel and the**

**Christmas Story continued...**

For your Zoom invitation please contact the Rector