

St Mary's Church, Gatehouse of Fleet and Greyfriars Church, Kirkcudbright
Joint Service for 30th November 2025, the First Sunday of Advent
10.30am at St Mary's Church
Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson

Please pray from *St Mary's* for: Joyce and Rob Thacker, Laura Durling, Sally-Anne and Peter Madeley, Carol Ducker, Rowan Huggitt, Barbara Graham, Sonia Perry and Dee DuRose
From *Greyfriars* for: Hazel Dempster, Elizabeth Campbell, Molly Wishart, Allen Stanton, Peter Inge, Anne Redon, Dr Mike Moore, Andy Courtneidge, Louise Boyd, John Curtis, Elizabeth Hazlett, Dierdre McGill, Judy Parker, Colin Shields and Richard Cliff.
In remembrance we pray for the soul of Bishop Gregor Duncan.

Our Advent candle prayer

God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen

Advent Sunday We welcome friends from Greyfriars to our service. We are invited to hang coloured ribbons on the tree, each representing a prayer – red for a particular situation, gold for thanksgiving, purple for sorry and green for hope.

Remembering Service this afternoon at 4pm in Greyfriars Church. This special Churches Together service celebrates and remembers those whom we have loved but lost.

Midweek Communion Thursday 4th December, 10am at Greyfriars, followed by Churches Together in Prayer from 11-11.15am. All are welcome to join us as we pray for the peace of the world, as well as any other concerns that are on our hearts.

An Advent Course on the theme of 'Hope' will take place on Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December from 9.30-10.30am in St Mary's Church. We will incorporate our 'Pause for Prayer' into this and conclude with refreshments.

Advent Carols On Sunday 7th December at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm there will be a service of Advent Carols and Readings with choral music provided by our organist, Susan and Quor8. Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival.

Gift Services Sunday 7th December for Greyfriars and Sunday 14th December for St Mary's.

Please bring unwrapped gifts for children which will be donated to the Salvation Army in Dumfries for distribution to families in need.

Vestry Meetings St Mary's will meet at 2pm on Wednesday 3rd December in church.

Greyfriars will meet informally at 6pm on Thursday 4th December at Gwen's house.

Stewartry Food Bank The next collection is 9th December. Christmas boxes, are to be made up and include items such as tins of ham, fancy and savoury biscuits, shortbread, mince pies, cake, chocolates, crackers and selection boxes. Please note, we no longer include presents and have sufficient Christmas puddings and tins of salmon. Donations may be left at Gatehouse P.O.

Greyfriars Winter Wonderland A very big thank you to all who helped in anyway. We raised a very impressive £2,366.09.

Kirkcudbright Christmas Lunch If you would like to join this special Churches Together lunch on Christmas Day, please sign up on the noticeboard in Greyfriars by 14th December.

Epiphany Party Sue Davies has kindly invited members of St Mary's and Greyfriars congregations to a bring and share supper at Belmont, Burnside Loaning on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 6pm. Please let Sue know if you are coming and what you will be contributing, by 5th January: Tel: 01557 339171 or 07841 377436.

Rev'd Alison's contact details:
18 Castledykes Road, Kirkcudbright DG6 4AN
Tel: 07725 467246
email: kirkgatepriest@gmail.com
Website: www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk
Rest days: Monday and Saturday

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness
and to put on the armour of
light,
now in the time of this mortal
life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and
reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

PSALM Psalm 122

R *I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to God's house".*

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing
within your gates,
O Jerusalem. **R**

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself.
To which the tribes go up, the
tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise
the name of the Lord.
For there are the thrones of
judgement,
the thrones of the house
of David. **R**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and quietness within
your towers." **R**

For my family and companions'
sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the Lord
our God,
I will seek to do you good. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus

Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke to his disciples:
"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep
us faithful
as we await the coming of your
Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.