

*SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREYFRIARS, KIRKCUDBRIGHT*

Sunday 21st December 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please remember in your prayers: Hazel Dempster, Elizabeth Campbell, Molly Wishart, Allen Stanton, Anne Redon, Dr Mike Moore, Andy Courtnadge, John Curtis, Laura Durling, Elizabeth Hazlett, Deirdre McGill, Judy Parker, Richard Cliff, Dee DuRose and Jackie Scott.

**Sung Eucharist at 11am with
The Revd Alison Hudson
Followed by refreshments in
Greyfriars House
All are very welcome**

**Tuesday 23rd December
6pm Churches Together
Carols by Candlelight
Followed by refreshments**

**Wednesday 24th December
11.15pm Midnight Mass
The Revd Alison Hudson**

**Thursday 25th December,
11am Family Holy Communion
The Revd Alison Hudson
No refreshments after this service**

Please note that there will **not** be a midweek service on Thursday 1st January.

Our Advent candle prayer

God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love shine bright in us as we approach his coming, that we may be ready to welcome him on Christmas day and every day. Amen



Revd Alison and family would like to thank you for all your support and good wishes this year. We wish you all a very blessed and joy-filled Christmas. May you know the precious gift of God's in this season of goodwill. 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.'

We shall decorate the church from 10am onwards on Monday 22nd. If you can help on this occasion by bringing holly/ivy and or some flowers it would be much appreciated.

Epiphany Party Sue Davies has kindly invited members of St Mary's and our congregation to a bring and share supper at Belmont, Burnside Loaning at 6pm on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. In order to let Sue know if you are coming and what you will be contributing please sign up on the sheet in the porch by the **28th December**.

Churches Together in Prayer We gather and, for 15 minutes each week to pray together for the peace of the world. Do join us when you can.

Greyfriars House Revd Alison works from here on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Each **Tuesday** the kettle will be on for **Coffee and Chat** from 2-2.30pm, do pop in.

Neurodivergent and Disability Friendly Church This is something that we seek to be and to do better. There is a quiet area in the north transept for those who would value a quiet space during worship. If there are other ways, we can help you worship, please speak to Revd Alison or one of the stewards.

Coffee Rota volunteers are needed to prepare and serve refreshments after church on a Sunday. This is an enjoyable and important part of our church life. Please put your name down on the sheet in the porch if you are able to help out occasionally.

Contact details for Revd Alison, if you have an item for the notices, would like a visit, or for any other reason:
The Rectory, 18 Castledykes Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AN
Mobile: 07725 467246 email: kirkgatepriest@gmail.com
Revd Alison's rest days are Monday and Saturday
Do visit the Church Website for the latest news, photographs, or information - www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk
or Facebook - **Greyfriars Church Kirkcudbright**

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our
judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
"Ask a sign of the LORD your
God; let it be deep as Sheol or
high as heaven." But Ahaz said,
"I will not ask, and I will not put
the LORD to the test." Then
Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house
of David! Is it too little for you
to weary mortals, that you weary
my God also? Therefore the Lord
himself will give you a sign. Look,
the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son, and shall
name him Immanuel. He shall eat
curds and honey by the time he
knows how to refuse the evil and
choose the good. For before the
child knows how to refuse the evil
and choose the good, the land
before whose two kings you are in
dread will be deserted."

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

R Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your
countenance and we shall be
saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are
enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim,
Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and come to
help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your
people?
You have fed them with the bread
of tears;
you have given them bowls of
tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of
our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to
scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man
of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so
strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away
from you;
give us life, that we may call upon
your name. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

*A reading from the letter of Paul
to the Romans.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set apart
for the gospel of God, which he
promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy scriptures,
the gospel concerning his Son,
who was descended from David
according to the flesh and was
declared to be Son of God
with power according to the
spirit of holiness by resurrection
from the dead, Jesus Christ our
Lord. Through Christ we have
received grace and apostleship
to bring about the obedience of
faith among all the Gentiles for
the sake of his name, including
yourselves who are called to
belong to Jesus Christ, To all
God's beloved in Rome, who are
called to be saints: Grace to you
and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

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

The birth of Jesus the Messiah
took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged
to Joseph, but before they lived
together, she was found to be
with child from the Holy Spirit.
Her husband Joseph, being a
righteous man and unwilling to
expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly.
But just when he had resolved
to do this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and
said, "Joseph, son of David, do
not be afraid to take Mary as your
wife, for the child conceived in
her is from the Holy Spirit. She
will bear a son, and you are to
name him Jesus, for he will save
his people from their sins." All this
took place to fulfil what had been
spoken by the Lord through the
prophet: "Look, the virgin shall
conceive and bear a son, and
they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him; he took her
as his wife, but had no marital
relations with her until she had
borne a son; and he named him
Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your
grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will
and with her rejoice in your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.