

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gatehouse of Fleet
Sunday, 18th January 2026
2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson

Please pray for Joyce and Rob Thacker, Laura Durling, Sally-Anne and Peter Madeley, Carol Ducker, Rowan Huggitt, Barbara Graham, Sonia Perry and Dee DuRose

Pause for Prayer will now be held at Denis and Judy's house at 10am each Wednesday morning, please do join us when you can as we pray for our church, community and the wider world.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity On Saturday 24th January at 12.30pm Gatehouse Churches Together is having a soup and sweet lunch in the Parish Church Hall. Entry is by donation and proceeds are towards Bethany Trust. Please do come along, and if you are able to contribute any eats, there is a sign up form in the porch. Many thanks.

Lent Course At our Festival Planning meeting this week we started to think about the shape of our Lent devotions. We considered linking some more work on the front garden with 'Tending the Garden' devotions, but it was felt that it would be too cold at that time of year. Churches Together as ever, will offer a Lent lunch preceded by a reflection each Wednesday. There will also be Churches Together Lent study groups and last year we held our own study group. What would you like to see on offer from St Mary's this year? A study group, weekly devotions, something different, or even nothing extra at all. All thoughts welcomed and valued. Revd Alison.

A retreat to Iona Revd Dr Elizabeth Breakey is organising a retreat to Iona for people within the Galloway Region. Staying in Bishop's House, this will be a relaxed retreat with a rhythm of prayer, then space to do your own thing through the day, including joining with services in the Iona Abbey. It is on 3-10 October 2026, and will cost £700 for a twin room, £1,050 for a single, full board. If you're interested, see the poster on the noticeboard for more details, or speak to Revd Alison.

Gift Aid and Giving If you are a visitor or come occasionally to St. Mary's, and you are a tax payer, you may want to complete one of the green envelopes in the pew (not forgetting to include your name and address) in order that we can reclaim the tax. If you would rather give a regular amount, either by standing order or by weekly envelope, please contact the treasurer Linda Gaston, who is also treasurer for Greyfriars. Cash bills may still be given to David Hart Tel: 01557 814294 email david21gatehouse@icloud.com and invoices to Linda Tel: 07353 283870 email: lgaston57@icloud.com

Website our regularly updated website has the weekly pew sheets, news articles and lots of other current information, please do look through it, and let Revd Alison have any good quality photographs you are willing to share.
We also have a Facebook page – St Mary's Church, Gatehouse of Fleet. If you use Facebook, please do follow and share any posts from this page.

Rev'd Alison's contact details:
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Facebook: St Mary's Church

COLLECT

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the
riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength. The LORD says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

PSALM Psalm 40:1-2

R I love to do your will, O God,
[your law is in my heart].

I waited patiently upon the Lord;
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the desolate pit,
out of the mire and clay;
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made
my footing sure. **R**

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;

many shall see and stand in awe
and put their trust in the Lord.
Happy are they who trust in the Lord!
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to
false gods. **R**

Great things are they that you have done,
O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your
plans for us!
there is none who can be compared
with you.
O that I could make them known and
tell them!
but they are more than I can count. **R**

In sacrifice and offering you take no
pleasure
you have given me ears to hear you;
burnt-offering and sin-offering you have
not required,
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
In the roll of the book it is written
concerning me:
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'" **R**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great
congregation;
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.
Your righteousness have I not hidden in
my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
deliverance;
I have not concealed your love and
faithfulness
from the great congregation. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you

may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John 1:29-42

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

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

POST COMMUNION

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord.