

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gatehouse of Fleet

Sunday 8th February 2026

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 is now 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. During Lent we will incorporate a Lenten devotion into this time.

Foodbank The next collection day is Tuesday 10th February. After a busy January, the shelves are looking bare and we are in need of all toiletries and foodstuffs from the list on the noticeboard - except tea, biscuits and sweets. The drop off point is Gatehouse Post Office.

Fleet Valley Revd Alison will be leading a time of worship at Fleet Valley Care Home on Wednesday 18th February at 2pm. Please do join me if you are able to.

Lent observances We begin with a service of Holy Communion and Ashing on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February** at 10am in St Mary's Church. There will be no 'Pause for Prayer' that day. Churches Together **Lent Lunches** take place each Wednesday from **18th February through to 25th March** with a short reflection at 12.20pm in the Parish Church, followed by a soup lunch in the Hall at 12.30pm. Donations this year will go to Barcaple for the Ukranian children's summer visit. Anyone is welcome to attend the **Lent Groups** meeting at 11am in the Parish Church Hall led by Val Ott, or at 7pm in Fleet Valley.

Mothering Sunday at our Vestry meeting this week we decided to create a memories garden at the front of the church for Mothering Sunday and invite people to leave potted daffodils in memory of their mothers. Publicity for this will follow.

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, invoices to Linda Tel: 07353 283870 email: lgaston57@icloud.com

Cheques The bank has informed us that we can no longer pay in cheques in Gatehouse, which makes it much more difficult and expensive to process any cheques received. If you can avoid making donations by cheque it would be much appreciated please. Bank details for online payments are available from David Hart. Many thanks.

Rev'd Alison's contact details:

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COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your
works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns
supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

PSALM Psalm 136:1-9. 23-end

R For his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **R**
Give thanks to the God of gods, **R**
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **R**
Who only does great wonders, **R**
Who by his wisdom made the heavens, **R**
Who spread out the earth upon the
waters, **R**
Who created great lights, **R**
The sun to rule the day, **R**
The moon and the stars to govern the
night, **R**
It is he who remembered us in our low
estate, **R**
And delivered us from our enemies, **R**
Who gives food to all creatures, **R**
Give thanks to the God of heaven. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-end

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the
earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your
Church:
may we who have been nourished at your
table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's
cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.