



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

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson

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

### **Lent observances**

Churches Together **Lent Lunches** take place each Wednesday from **18<sup>th</sup> February through to 25<sup>th</sup> March** with a short reflection at 12.20pm in the Parish Church, followed by a soup lunch in the Hall at 12.30pm. This Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, St.Mary's will be providing and serving soup. Donations this year will go to Barcaple for the Ukrainian children's summer visit.

**Pause for Prayer** is 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.

Anyone is welcome to attend the **Lent Groups** meeting at 11am in the Parish Church Hall led by Revd Val Ott, or at 7pm in Fleet Valley.

**New hymn books** From next Sunday, thanks to a generous donation and with Vestry approval, we will be using new hymn and service books. These will give us broader seasonal variations and hymn choices, without losing any of our old favourites!

**Diocesan Synod** takes place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock. Synod begins with the Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock at 10am. The Eucharist is open to all, and the proceedings of the Synod are open to communicant members of the Scottish Episcopal Church who are resident in the Diocese. Synod is attended by Clergy and the Lay Representative from each charge. If you wish to attend Synod as a visitor, please contact the Diocesan Secretary – [diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org)

**Mothering Sunday** we will be creating a memories garden at the front of the church for Mothering Sunday and invite people from the congregation and community to leave a pot of spring flowers in memory of their mothers. Please do help us publicise this where we can. Help would also be appreciated to prepare the area.

**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 £680 for a twin room, £1,040 for a single, full board. There are a few places left, if you're interested, see the poster on the noticeboard, or speak to Alison.

**Gift Aid and Giving** If you are a visitor, 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. As we can no longer pay in cheques in Gatehouse, if you can avoid making donations by cheque it would be much appreciated. If you would rather give a regular amount, by standing order or weekly envelope, please contact the treasurer Linda Gaston 07353 283870 or [lgaston57@icloud.com](mailto:lgaston57@icloud.com)

Rev'd Alison's contact details:

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Website: [www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk](http://www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk)      Facebook: St Mary's Church

### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
 whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days  
 in the wilderness,  
 and was tempted as we are, yet without  
 sin:  
 give us grace to discipline ourselves in  
 obedience to your Spirit;  
 and, as you know our weakness,  
 so may we know your power to save;  
 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

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### PSALM Psalm 32

**R** *I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
 and whose sin is put away!  
 Happy are they to whom the Lord  
 imputes no guilt,  
 and in whose spirit there is no guile! **R**

While I held my tongue, my bones  
 withered away,  
 because of my groaning all day long.  
 For your hand was heavy upon me day  
 and night;  
 my moisture was dried up as in the heat  
 of summer. **R**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
 and did not conceal my guilt.  
 I said, "I will confess my transgressions  
 to the Lord";  
 then you forgave me the guilt of my  
 sin. **R**

Therefore all the faithful will make their  
 prayers to you  
 in time of trouble;  
 when the great waters overflow, they  
 shall not reach them.  
 You are my hiding-place;  
 you preserve me from trouble;  
 you surround me with shouts of  
 deliverance. **R**

"I will instruct you and teach you  
 in the way that you should go;  
 I will guide you with my eye.  
 Do not be like horse or mule,  
 which have no understanding;  
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
 or else they will not stay near you." **R**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
 but mercy embraces those who trust  
 in the Lord.  
 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in  
 the Lord;  
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

### SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

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

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the

one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
 you have renewed us with the living  
 bread from heaven;  
 by it you nourish our faith,  
 increase our hope,  
 and strengthen our love:  
 teach us always to hunger for him  
 who is the true and living bread,  
 and enable us to live by every word  
 that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.