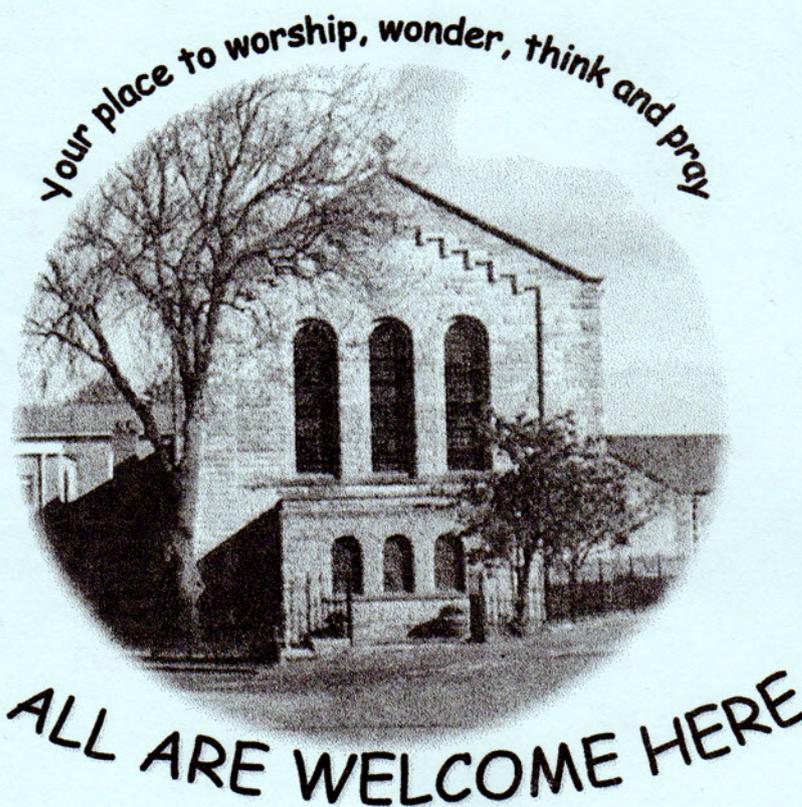


ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



NEW YEAR - NEW BEGINNINGS



FEBRUARY 2019

Bulletin No 339

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

-----oOo-----

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

9 Dec 2018 Josh Brettell Carrol

-----oOo-----

MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

22 Dec 2018 Darren Wilson and Jemma Sowarby

28 Dec 2018 Jenna Carrol and Fraser Millar

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

2018

18 Dec	Thomas Irvine	Kirknowe Nursing Home
22 Dec	Helen Brown	Netherton Court Care Home

2019

8 Jan	Jim Williams	North Lodge Avenue
9 Jan	Eva Barr	Attercliffe Avenue





Manse of St Mary's

January 2019

Dear Friends:

Christmas And New Year

I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year in 2019.

On behalf of the Manse Family, a big thank you for all your lovely cards and good wishes over the Festive Season. Our second Christmas at *St Mary's Parish Church* was just as special as the first. We feel blessed indeed to be part of such a loving, caring, gifted and generous Church Family.

At the beginning of this New Year, on behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to take afresh the opportunity to invite everyone along to our Church activities in 2019. From our Sunday Morning Services and Junior Church, to weekly groups for adults and children alike, there is something for all at *St Mary's Parish Church*. Everyone is welcome along, as are your family, neighbours and friends. If you can't manage along to Church, or know of someone who can't, and would like to organise a pastoral visit - just give me a call or e-mail.

YOYP 2018

2018 was designated the *Year of Young People* [YOYP 2018] by the Scottish Government. This was something which we actively and imaginatively participated in as a congregation. As Minister, I would like to thank our Junior Church Co-ordinator, Karen Maxwell, and all our Church Youth Leaders, for making the year such a resounding success. Karen wrote an excellent article for the Presbytery of Hamilton about how we celebrated YOYP 2018 at *St Mary's* and this will be presented to the Presbytery in due course. During the year we were also featured in *Life and Work Magazine* [both their print and on-line versions].

Our children and young people are vitally important to us at *St Mary's Parish Church* and we will continue to take the spirit and goals of YOYP 2018 into 2019 and beyond.

Vision 20:20+

At a Kirk Session Conference on 18 November, and at the regular January Kirk Session Meeting, our Church Elders began the process of designing a Five-Year Plan for the Ministry and Mission of *St Mary's Parish Church*.

Lots of good and exciting ideas were put forward and it was agreed to establish 4 Working Groups to help bring these ideas to fruition. One Working Group will focus on Elder's Development - making sure that our Elders are trained and equipped to best serve the congregation in the years ahead. A second Working Group will look at advancing Outreach and Pastoral Care [there were many good ideas in these categories and they simply need to be prioritised and enabled]. A third Working Group will explore Spiritual Development within *St Mary's Parish Church* - including opportunities for Prayer, Bible Study, Adult Christian Education etc. A fourth Working Group will develop a Communications Policy for the Church which will allow us to share our message with one another, our Parish and the wider community using every means available to us, including the new digital media platforms.

Alongside the Kirk Session, the Congregational Board will continue in its efforts to make sure that, as we go forward, our finances are robust and our Church buildings are maintained and developed to the highest possible standard. Both of these things will be essential for the success of *St Mary's Parish Church* in the years to come.

As Minister, I am really excited by the many possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead and, in forthcoming Bulletins, I will keep the congregation up-to-date with the progress that is being made.

Your Friend & Pastor:

Rev Bryce Calder

A Prayer At A Time Of National Decision Making

The following prayer was written by Rev Dr Martin Johnstone who is Secretary of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council. It has been used in Churches all over Scotland - including our own. The prayer seeks unity at a time of great national decision making.

God,
who in Jesus,
broke down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship You.

God,
at this time of heavy responsibility,
as decisions about future relationships
with our neighbours in Europe are being taken,
we pray for our leaders:
that they will lead wisely;
that they will listen attentively;
that they will exercise grace;
and that they will know peace
in their deliberations.

God,
at this time of uncertainty,
within our nations and communities,
we pray for ourselves:
that we will remain open to the stranger;
welcoming to the neighbour;
and committed to those who struggle.

God,
we pray for Your Church, of which we are a part:
that we might be a place of honest reflection;
respectful dialogue;
open friendship;
humility and reconciliation.

We pray that
we might be a community that points to heaven,
and show ways in which heaven is glimpsed on
earth.

God,
who in Jesus,
breaks down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship You:

AMEN



PROPERTY MATTERS

Happy New Year to all from your Property Committee.

Your committee has been busy with various tasks, some planned, some that are a wee surprise. We have fitted an exciting new Digital Information Screen at the Avon Street entrance door as well as a map to assist visitors navigate the church building.

We have also had some minor maintenance jobs in the church and the manse to complete, including a leaking roof and blocked drains.

In the coming year we have several major projects to progress. The church building requires a wiring and emergency lighting upgrade and the chancel steps are still to be completed. We are in the process of seeking some grants to help meet the cost of this ongoing work.

The Property Committee are a small dedicated group who work throughout the year to help keep our buildings warm, water tight and pleasant. We meet formally one week before the Board meeting, 5 times a year, if you would like to join the committee, or would like some more information, please contact the Property Convenor Alan Joyce Jnr or any Elder.

God Bless

Alan Joyce



GUILD

The Guild session recommenced on Monday 7 January, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Our first speaker was Ann Struthers who told us of her journey to Mount Sinai with a group of young people. This was a most interesting journey with much climbing in rough terrain and sleeping under the stars. The highlight being watching the sunrise from the top of Mount Sinai.

We continue the session with Hilary Kidd, one of our church members who works for Young Scot and will give us a view of YOYP 2018 from a national perspective, followed by the boys of the BB Company. We then have a joint night with the Men's Fellowship - A Burns Supper. As our session continues, we hear from the national Boys Brigade representative as we have chosen BB Scotland as our project partner this year.

There is an open invitation to one and all to attend the Guild, where you will find at the door a very warm welcome from Jean Hunter. After the meeting there is tea and biscuits when everyone likes to get together and have a chat.

I'm looking forward to each week and I hope you are too.

Valerie Craig
President



Guild Christmas Dinner at The Bentley

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At time of writing the Fellowship has still to resume after the festive break.

The meetings in November and December were as usual very well attended.

Colin Mackenzie spoke of his family history and heritage, with pointers on where information could be researched.

The Year of Young People was celebrated when Mrs Karen Maxwell introduced 9 young people from the congregation to tell of their interests and achievements. The visit of the young people, Adam, Josh, Megan, Eilidh, Ellie, Kyle, Jack, Ava and Gregor was recorded in a joint photograph with the Fellowship. (on view on notice board).

Former dentist from the town, Tom Colquhoun told of his journey from dentist to his now chosen profession Mountain Guide.

December and Douglas Keith shared his travels in 2018 in his usual humorous and interesting manner.

Bill Taylor excelled in his end of year Quiz taxing brains and chuckle muscles.

We look forward to future meetings

JANUARY		
14	My Heros	Rev John Thomson
21	Charity Fund Raising	Arlene Smith
28	Burns Supper	Joint night with the Guild
FEBRUARY		
4	Commonwealth Games	Robert Nimmo
11	Submarines	Joe McGrath
18	History of Pensions	Stuart Reid
25	In the Footsteps of Livingstone	Jim Percival
MARCH		
4	Commonwealth Netball	Fiona Moore McGrath
11	West Highland Way	David Gardiner
18	Pan-Am Flight 103	Bob Conquer
25	AGM/Junior Choir	

The already published syllabus has been changed and there will now be no meetings in April.

As always, a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may be free to attend, meetings start at 7.30 pm and finish at 9.00 pm.

Allan Joyce
President

THE CLEANING TEAM



A Prayerful time

At the start of a new year and a new session we have been encouraged to think of others in our prayers and thoughts. As we work together as part of the Cleaning Team let us take time to think about those who use the spaces we are working in.

- The Vestibule and hallways - those entering St Mary's to come to worship or to our organisations.
- The Kitchen - those who provide hospitality and food and fellowship at our many events
- The Coffee Bar - many friends who come to meet each week, those who are there to collect their children and the children in the TOTS.
- The Lounge - The prayer group, the choir as they meet on a Sunday, pastoral meetings for bereaved or baptismal families, the BB staff as they meet before a company night, our office bearers of the church.
- The session room - our session, our choirs, our Men's Fellowship, our Wednesday ladies group.
- Avon Hall - our many organisations who meet weekly. The Guild, the Rainbows, the Guides, The Anchor, Junior and Company Sections, our Junior Church.
- The Cameron Hall - the Brownies, the Badminton group, the Junior Church
- The Sanctuary - all who worship in St Mary's, families and friends
- The Chancel - the choir, the communion elders, our Choir master
- The Pulpit - our Minister, our Student in training.
- The Vestry - the minister and those who visit for pastoral support.



Christmas with the Cleaning Team.



EVENTS ACTION TEAM

The Events Action Team hosted a Christmas film night in December to start off the festive period with a few hours away from the hustle and bustle of a Saturday in the run up to Christmas. We all enjoyed watching "Home Alone 2" after feasting on hot dogs, popcorn, juice and sweets.

The kids all enjoyed the slapstick of the film in the comfort of beanbags while the adults put their feet up with a coffee and mince pie (or 2)

Looking ahead to April we have the:

**Church Quiz Night
Held in the Avon Hall
Monday 29 April at 7 pm**

Tickets prices are £5 per team of 4, however we always find a place for everyone to come along and take part on the night.

Tickets will be available in the Avon Hall in the coming months and an announcement in the Church Notices too.

Can we thank everyone for their support at our events and wish them a Happy New Year.

The Events Action Team



Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect

young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries. In 2019 the theme is Leadership. Guides and Girl Scouts are leaders. We can learn different ways to be leaders and develop the power to bring changes in the world.

Our Thinking Day Service will be held on Sunday 24 February this year and we invite you all to join us.

Lots of us are aware of the Girl Guide World Centres: Our Chalet in Switzerland, Our Cabana in Mexico, Sangam in India and Pax Lodge in London. A new centre is called Kasafiri and is based in Africa. It moves around countries in Africa bringing the world experience to many girls. It was first suggested in 2011 at the World Conference in Edinburgh and has so far visited Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Benin, Madagascar and Uganda. The word Kasafiri means "to journey" in Swahili.

6th A Rainbows



The girls from the Rainbows have been busy throughout the session so far, having lots of fun and making new friends. Some of our new Rainbows made their Promise before the

Christmas break. A highlight of 2018 was our joint Christmas party where the girls all looked beautiful in their party outfits. They played games, dance, and had a wonderful evening. At the end of the night Santa arrived to distribute gifts.



The girls are looking forward to more fun and friendship in 2019.

6th Rainbows

We have welcomed a new group of Rainbows who have made their Promise in November. They were very happy with themselves. They are enjoying rainbow games and making crafts.

We spent a few weeks making Christmas crafts before our Christmas Party. This was a joint party with our friends from the Red Squirrels. The new year sees us looking forward to starting the new Rainbow programme but having fun playing with our Rainbow friends and making lots of noise!



6thA Brownies

The Brownies had a Christmas party with games, crafts and food. Emma Mooney (Barn Owl) finished up as Guider and we all wish her well. Emma was a Thursday Brownie herself and when she finished Guides she returned as a Guider. Three new Brownies have just joined and one is moving to Guides. The girls are looking forward to going to see the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by Shine at the end of January.



6thB Brownies

Christmas with the 6thB Brownies partying and entertaining the Guild at the Christmas Market.



6th Brownies



Christmas has been a time for all our units to dress up, party and have lots of fun.

Both Guide Units visited Hamilton.

The destination for the 6thA Guides was the Vue Cinema and 6th Guides Frankie and Bennie's restaurant.



Anyone wishing to help in our Rainbow, Brownie or Guide units should approach any of our Guiders for information or leave their name and contact details in the office.

Our 3 choirs joined together for a final performance at our Lessons and Carols - ending with "Let me tell you about a baby". A wonderful, resounding sound as almost 70 voices joined together in praise.



The People's Passion

This year's Passion Play will be a new script and, as well as Hamilton, there will be performances in Wishaw, Motherwell, Lanark and Carluke throughout Holy Week.

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7.00 pm in Hamilton Old Parish Church Sanctuary, starting 8 January.

If you would like to be involved in the performances, or, behind the scenes, the Director Liz Blackman would be delighted to hear from you (liz1b@ymail.com). Alternatively, you can just come along and join in at a rehearsal.

Friends old and new are always welcome.

Twitter Reminder

As well as providing recorded services, St Mary's Parish Church now has a dedicated Twitter Address [@stmarysmwell](https://twitter.com/stmarysmwell) where details about services and Church events can be found.

Please follow us and encourage your friends and family to do so too. Through the medium of Twitter, we hope to further spread the news of all that is going on in our fantastic Church Family.

I also have a Twitter Address [[@bryce_calder](https://twitter.com/bryce_calder)] where I share some of my own personal thoughts about such diverse subjects as: church, theology, football, music, ethics, society and politics. You are also very welcome to follow me.

Company Section Session Update....

Since our last article our main activities as a Company have been.....Battalion & National competitions, the coffee morning and a trip to Stirling for a challenge game of football which led us into our Christmas break.

COMPETITIONS

The Battalion Swimming Gala took place in November and our outstanding team managed a very convincing win. This was closely followed by the National Junior 5-a-sides where our very young team gave a good account for themselves at the Edinburgh heats but didn't manage to progress to the next round (next year boys!)

The first of the 2 Battalion drill competitions, the restricted drill, took place in December and by all accounts our squad gave a great performance but the result will not be known until the Review in May.

The final competition before Christmas was the Battalion Quiz and our team of 2 juniors and 2 seniors came a very strong 2nd place behind 20th Motherwell.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In December we hosted another successful coffee morning. The recipe of festive music (including the Junior Section!), excellent coffee, creamy cakes and Christmas gifts was popular once again and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise a **fantastic total of £2200** for company funds.

This money is used in the running of the Company over the course of the session, to help with our BB subscriptions (£2000+!!), badges, training, activities, class materials, subsidising trips and competitions etc.

Without this money we wouldn't be able to do half the things we do!

A big thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported the event and to all those friends of the company (visible and invisible) who helped in the kitchen, staffed the cake stalls and mucked in for the clearing up - the coffee morning would not be such a success without you.

(OTHER) CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Just prior to the coffee morning we were invited by our official partners, The Guild, to take a stall at their Christmas night where some of our boys sold some of our Christmas wares as a coffee morning preview and did very well as a result!

As Rev Calder is Battalion Chaplain this year, St Mary's hosted the Battalion Carol Service one Sunday evening in December and some of our boys from 13th took part in the service.

BB CAMP 2018 & 2019

At the end of November we held our Camp 2018 film night where the boys got to see the highlights of hundreds of hours of footage taken at Camp in July. To give it the proper cinema feel the boys enjoyed cinema snacks while watching the film. A big thank you to Officer Greg Weir for producing the film especially as he has been working in London!

Camp 2019 was booked long ago and was launched to the boys in the first part of the session - we have 26 boys signed up to go to Aviemore in July....detailed planning is now in progress!

COMING UP....

We are only just into the New Year but we are continuing our preparation for the first aid, squad drill and Bible Knowledge competitions, the Queen's Badge guys are busy working away to complete their programmes and we have 11 busy Fridays and 6 Battalion competitions before the Easter holidays!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

St. Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell



Update in Photos!



← The Swim Team (from L to R):
Evan Pattison, Andrew Gardiner, Finlay Holtz, Callum Smith, Fraser Neilson, Scott Rankin, Alex Maxwell, Cameron Sanders, Josh Greenhorn



National Junior 5-a-side Team →→→→→
(from L to R): Euan Blackwood, Ross Andrew, Toby Ferrie, Ethan Phillips, Finlay Bradshaw, Alex Maxwell, Nathan Bradshaw, Alex Hamilton



← The Restricted Drill Squad (from L to R):
Innes McClair, Andrew Gardiner, Greg Clapperton, Oliver Fry, Andrew Tweedie, Ewan Bowman. Officer Graeme Brown

Quiz Team ↗
(from L to R): Callum Warnock, James MacIntosh, Alex Hamilton & Charlie Fleck





junior section update

The Junior Section 2018/19 session began in September with a jam-packed games night. The night was a great way to catch up with boys returning after the summer break and to welcome new boys moving up from the Anchor Boys.

Since our opening night we have been full steam ahead into our achievement programme; competed in two battalion competitions (Bible Knowledge and Safety); had our Halloween Party, Christmas Party and a Movie night; welcomed some amazing guest speakers during Guest Member November; took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade; performed a unique BB version of the 12 days of Christmas at the BB Christmas Coffee morning and made crafts for the coffee morning.... No wonder all the boys and officers were glad of the recent break over the festive period!

To write in detail about all of the above would take up far more space in the Church magazine than we can fairly claim, so instead of a chapter on the Junior Section, the rest of this article will focus on details of our Guest Member November initiative.

Guest Member November ran throughout the month of November (surprisingly enough) and involved our opening talks being given by specially invited guests. This initiative is now in its third year and continues to interest the boys and officers alike. This year we welcomed three fantastic guests and we have a special fourth guest (Tom Colquhoun) scheduled to come along in February (his schedule was full for November)! Our first guest was Alex Dunn, Alex is an incredible badminton player who represented Scotland in the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He spoke to the boys about his experience at the games, his training regime and the sporting men and women who inspire him.

The boys were fascinated to hear all about his experiences and felt motivated and inspired when they learned that he went to the same primary school as many of them and played in many of the same sports clubs they are currently part of.

Our second guest was Rev John Thomson. Rev Thomson visited just after Armistice Day and gave a poignant talk to the boys about his relatives who served in the armed forces. He also brought along his medal collection comprising of some that have been passed down to him; those he has earned and some he has collected over the years. The boys were enthralled by the personal accounts that Rev Thomson was able to share - they made the importance of respecting and marking Remembrance Day powerfully apparent to the boys and officers alike.

Our third and final guest in November was Graham Calder who spoke to the boys about Dalziel Rugby Club and his experiences as a rugby player and coach. Graham did a wonderful job of helping the boys to understand the various skills that can be acquired through taking part in a team sport. He also emphasised the importance of taking part in sports not just for the chance to compete, but for the fun and friendship they can provide.

Everyone in the Junior Section really appreciated Alex, Rev Thomson and Graham giving so generously of their time to visit the Junior Section. Although, the officers are now somewhat concerned about who to invite along in November 2019 to keep up the very high standard that has been set!



Stephanie Laing
Officer in charge

Junior Church News!

Christmas Celebrations ..

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church involved in our Christmas services. We had a super response to our gift service and would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and friends for supporting the work of The Basic food bank supporting families in our town.



Our Nativity Sunday saw the chancel filled with shepherds, shepherdesses, wise men, choir members, roman soldiers, inn keepers angels and narrators. The Kids Zone told the Christmas story this year performing The nativity - Hosanna Rock! The narrators, Alex Maxwell and Charlie Fleck told the story of the very first Christmas as the actors and chorus acted and performed. With talented actors, soloists and a full chorus from the Kids Zone the children impressed the congregation with their talents at this special service.

With solos from Alice Kelly as Mary and Aimee Lennox as the star, a duet with Fraser Neilson and Alice Kelly and lively choral items from the angels and choir - added to the choral items from the full cast it was a super Nativity Sunday enjoyed by all.



Our thanks to Hazel and Ian Graham and the staff of the Kids Zone along with the willing team of stage crew, production experts, choreographers and set designers! (The Y Zone) As always the Nativity was enhanced by the musical team - Karen Maxwell, Ross Carrol, Chris Mitchell and Paul Bradshaw.

It was also great to have the children in the Mini Zone adding to the nativity as they performed their action Christmas song.

At the end of this very special play the children were given the opportunity to sing Baby Shark! Mr Calder even managed to link his all age address ... he loves a challenge!!

Christmas Parties...

Our party season was the usual mix of games, laughter, hot dogs, ice cream, treats and Santa! Each Zone leader hosted a party for the children and everyone had a fun filled time.

The children were delighted that Santa was able to visit the parties and we do hope that he enjoyed our singing and mince pies! The Mini Zone and Kids Zone filled the afternoon with traditional games, crafts and unusual and messy relay races! A big thank you to the staff who helped to make the parties a success. All who attended would want me to make special mention to June Graham who again catered for all the Christmas festivities....cakes, scones with cream and hand made mallow snowmen just a few of the treats on offer! A big thank you to June from all in the Junior Church.



fly in the sleigh... no dieting required for Christmas! It was a super evening enjoyed by all and one which we all hope know be repeated again next year. Next time with even more chairs in the hall!



Candles and carol singing



After a busy afternoon rehearsing the nativity play (and a McDonalds treat for dinner) the Junior Church staff along with the events team prepared for another festive event on the December calendar. As the Y Zone took to the stage for a final run through, Joe Bradshaw our talented technician made sure the sound and lights were ready to roll. Sincere thanks again for all his hard work.

Over 200 friends in the congregation enjoyed a wonderful festive evening hosted by the Kids Zone and Y Zone. Carol singing in the church grounds was followed by hot soup, crusty bread, mince pies and cakes before ending the evening with a performance of the pantomime produced, and written by Ian Graham and performed by our Y Zone. As always the panto was a huge success and we were glad to see that Santa didn't have to try drastic measures to

New Year....

The 2019 session has already started and the teachers are busy preparing for the term ahead. We all look forward to sharing in the many Family Services.



Pictures from the All Saints Party in November





YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

So how did we get involved?

Scotland's first ever YOYP was happening in 2018. The Church of Scotland planned to be actively involved through events and activities celebrating church engagement with children and young people at Local, Presbytery and National level. They wanted young people to be at the heart of the designing, developing and deciding the shape of how churches would get involved.

The then Moderator was quoted as saying-
"This is an amazing opportunity and we would like to encourage the participation of all churches. Seize the moment God has given for our generation."

This was all based on the Guidelines and Themes as directed by the Scottish Government.

With this background in mind, we were charged as a Congregation to look more closely at the young folk in our Church Family,

This began with the completion of the Church Health Check scoring from 1-5 across many areas.

Bryce and I were given great reassurance that here, in St Mary's, there is a lot going on for young people, but that we were going to use the initiatives of YOYP to focus more closely on our practices and changes.

We began by hosting a YOYP Launch Service in January 2018, which included the signing of the charter by many representatives from session, the congregation and our youth organisations. The Hymns on the day were chosen by the Junior Church and the Call to Worship and Bible Readings were led by our own young folk. This service was mentioned in a Life and Work article on YOYP.

We then established a Display Board in our main corridor to record and advertise the monthly events.

Each month we had been given a specific Theme to focus on and, as the year, progressed we covered almost all of these.

In January we hosted our Launch Service and then the Junior Choir visited the Men's Fellowship - a cross generational visit. This was under the auspice of One Church.

In February as part of Health and Well-Being the Boys Brigade had a visit and presentation from PC Kenny Foy for boys, then for parents and staff on the subject of drugs awareness.

March continued with the Guiding Units supporting the local Food Bank and the BB Senior Boys stewarding at the local Theatre Group UPS and DOWNS - a theatre group for Down Syndrome children and their siblings which meets each Sunday afternoon in our Church. Two of our own boys are in the cast. (An Anchor Boy and a Young Officer) This highlights our community involvements.

As the months progressed, we have also:

- Introduced children and young people to lead the Sunday Morning Call to Worship.
- Supported, and been involved in, our Harvest Celebrations.
- Contributed to, and supported the work of, a Scottish Charity that cares for Refugees in Syria [SAFR Scottish Action For Refugees].
- Attended Praise in the Park [Presbytery of Hamilton].

- Enjoyed a very successful Summer Club Week at which many of our older young people worked as Helpers/Leaders
- The BB helped at the Guild Christmas Fayre.
- Our CAST group have arranged many Christian Aid events.
- And we have had a 'Design a New Pulpit Fall' competition within our Junior Church.

A Busy year!

We ended the year with a visit back to the Men's Fellowship where a selection of our young people shared what we'd been up to.

Nine of our young people accompanied me to talk about what YOYP meant to them.

Adam - his support and achievements to gain his Queens Badge.

Josh - his selection for the local rugby club and how he transferred his skill into his church life.

Megan - on the highs and lows of the DofE Award.

Eilidh - on Life as a Brownie.

Ellie - our Junior Choir year and Praise in the Park.

Kyle - What we get up to in Junior Church.

Jack - on receiving his YOYP award for Music.

Ava and Gregor - A busy Summer Club Week.



I ended the year, as Junior Church Co-ordinator by asking our Youth Leaders and Kirk Session if we had kept our promise to our young people:

"To get to know you, listen to you, share faith with you, pray for you, involve you and keep you safe, develop your gifts and help you grow in our relationship with God."

I think we have done just that.

But we won't stop here...we'll continue to build on this...and make the next YOYP 2019 special too!

It's not a number game...But it's definitely worth celebrating and noting ...

Toddlers	68 [Mid-Week]
Tots [0-3 Years]	12 [Sunday Junior Church]
Mini Zone [3-7 Years]	18 [Sunday Junior Church]
Kids zone [P3-P7]	36 [Sunday Junior Church]
Y zone [S1-S6]	16 [Sunday Junior Church]
CAST	20 [Youth Christian Aid Support Team]
Junior Choir	28 [Mid-Week & Sundays]
Rainbows	21 [Mid-Week]
Brownies	69 [Mid-Week]
Guides	45 [Mid-Week]
Anchor Boys	36 [Mid-Week]
Junior Section	26 [Mid-Week]
Company Section	42 [Mid-Week]
	437

And add to that the 135 children from Summer Club.... St Mary's has reached out to 572 young people during YOYP!!!!

Karen Maxwell
Junior Church Co-ordinator



UPDATE

At Christmas time, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We got the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas just past, peace must have seemed like an impossible dream.

Two-thirds of people forced from home are still in their own country. Seeking safety but unwilling or unable to leave, they are denied the official protection given to refugees. The reasons for their displacement are many: conflict, flooding, drought, fear. Torn from their homes, their families and their communities, displaced people are among the most vulnerable to poverty and exploitation in the world.

Violence and conflict remains the norm for many across the globe, from South Sudan to Colombia. But while peace is broken every day, it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers.

In South Sudan, Bishop Paride Taban is relentless in working for peace in his country where millions of citizens are suffering from hunger caused by years of civil war. Now in his eighties, he believes that peace is something you have to practice.

Elsewhere in the shadow of violence and conflict, Diana Abbas, the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon, continues to sow the seeds of peace through counselling and therapy. Through psychotherapy, literacy classes and art therapy, the centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence

they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre, more children can find peace. Our church has continued to support Christian Aid, through retiring offerings in December and by supporting our CAST members when they provided coffee after the morning service. Please have a look at Christian Aid's website, (www.christianaid.org.uk) to get more details of the work being done with your support

Margaret MacGregor

SCOTTISH ACTION FOR REFUGEES

COLLECTION FOR CALAIS

There are 3000 people sleeping rough across northern France and Belgium, struggling with terrible conditions and freezing temperatures. SAFR (Scottish Action for Refugees) are collecting goods that will be taken out to Calais in a van, by Eastwood Refugee Aid, and delivered directly to the camp via the charity Care4Calais

The items being collected are:

Socks for Adults or Children [New or Good Condition]

Hats for Adults or Children [New or Good Condition]

Gloves for Adults or Children [New or Good Condition]

Chocolate Bars

Sugar

Tea

Instant Coffee

Over the next 2 Sundays, 19th January and 26th January there will be boxes in St Mary's into which you can place your donations. Alternatively, you can take them directly to the collection point [Scout Hall, 71 Glencairn Drive, Pollockshields, G41 4QN] on 2nd February 10 am- 3 pm.

Further information on SAFR, including how to donate on a regular basis can be found on www.scottishactionforrefugees.org.uk, or on the Facebook page. I'm always happy to share about SAFR's work if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Helen Calder



As we leave behind the year just past, we look forward to a New Year with our trust in God. This is a time of new beginnings to be faced with hope. As the famous saying goes, "Fear knocks at the door. Faith answered. And lo, no-one was there." May your faith in God overcome all fears as we go forward into the unknown with our hand in His. I wish you and yours a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

More people are displaced today than ever before - an unprecedented 65.6 million people have been forced from their homes across the globe. As crises unfold around the world, it has led to a huge demand for Scripture among people who long for God's comfort, hope and healing,

Below are 2 quotes. Firstly, from the Ukrainian Bible Society and secondly from the Bible Society in Syria.

"Amid tension, people are looking for the comfort and stability that is found in the Word of God."

"During Christmas we organised our greatest distribution ever. You should see the children when they receive these gifts. They feel the Bible is a gift from God, special for them, In this way, we give hope that God will help them pass through this bad time."

A recent report from the United Bible Societies shows that God's Word is bringing comfort, hope and healing to conflict zones around the world. In 2017 nearly 355 million Scripture items, including Bibles, Testaments, Gospels and smaller Scripture items were distributed or downloaded. The number of full Bibles made available around the world topped 34 million for the third year running. UBS continues to be the largest translator and distributor of Scripture with around 70% of the world's full Bible translations having been provided by Bible Societies.

The Action Team are holding a concert to be held in St Mary's church on Saturday 2 March. The project chosen to be supported is "Syria - Trauma Healing". 'Cantabile Ensemble', whose Music Director is Mark Donnelly, will entertain us on the night. I am sure that this will be an excellent concert and one you will not want to miss.

With Christian love

Margaret Carrol
Motherwell Action Group

FLOWER LIST	
FEBRUARY	
3rd	Church Choir Mrs I Gardiner
10th	Miss Kelly
17th	Mrs E Scott Mrs C Brownlie Mrs D Livingstone
24th	Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Mr & Mrs Malcolm
MARCH	
3rd	Mrs M Graham Mrs M Skimming Mrs M Carrol
10th	Mrs M Watson Mrs E Fraser
17th	Mrs M Johnstone
24th	Mrs I Craig
APRIL	
31 st	Mrs B Neilson Mrs J Findlay
7th	Mrs E Calder Mrs Murray Mrs H Graham
14th	Mrs E Currie Mrs E Taylor & Mrs J Findlay
21st	Mrs E Simpson Mrs S Forrest Mrs L Kelly
28th	Mrs A Johnstone Mr & Mrs Malcolm Mrs J McPherson



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Feb	10	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Feb	24	11 am	Thinking Day Service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb	13	7.30 pm	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Apr	29	7 pm	Annual Quiz Night



June Graham - Flower Convener

The Prayer Meeting and Vestry Hour - Thursday	
7 pm	Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm	Vestry Hour

Remembrance 1918-2018

