

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



CHRISTMAS 2014

Bulletin No 318

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

Sept 7 Ben James Miller
Oct 19 Ava Catherine Magowan
Joseph Alexander George Mitchell
Oct 26 Emma Lynsey Reid

-----oOo-----

MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

Oct 3 Stuart McKenna and Ann Baillie

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

April	Jean Sharp
May 23	May Gracie
June 4	James Fisher
July 15	Sarah Solly
July 22	Mina Clarkson
July 23	Jean Sloan
Sept 12	Iris Corbett
Sept 17	Jean Cuthbertson
Sept 19	Winnie Clark
Sept 23	Betty Cowan
Oct 20	Grace Sibbald



Manse of St Mary's

October 2014

Dear Friends

I'm looking forward happily and eagerly to the Service of Ordination of new elders, on 16 November. Then eleven elders will be added to our Kirk Session to that very Presbyterian and very Scottish role within the church, at the very heart of the congregation's life, to fulfil an office which is the envy of many other traditions and denominations of the faith.

Among these eleven will be the hundredth elder I shall have ordained across the years; we will then again have over a hundred members of the Kirk Session.

I am sure you will offer them your good wishes as they take up this role, that you will support them in your prayers and encourage them in this work, and that you will welcome them into your homes when they take on responsibility for a district within the congregation.

I like very much the tradition, not followed in any other church I know, of elders processing into church before the Sunday service begins. This tradition goes back to the days when St Mary's was a small congregation and the elders numbered no more than a dozen and a half. Shift work in the pits and the steelworks meant men (and they were all men in these days!) were often uncertain as to whether work commitments would allow church attendance and it was not clear, until the last moment, who would be present to uplift the offering! So, all elders met in

the Session House, now the lounge, where duties were allocated, before they all came into church together. As members increased and duties were operated by a rota, the tradition was maintained and has happily continued to this day.

So, from the end of November, eleven new faces will appear in that "procession", the faces of those who have already shown wide commitment to the life and work of St Mary's. Some have strong family ties to the congregation going back generations; some have come from other congregations and denominations of the Christian Church; some have become members of St Mary's in recent years. All have been involved in the organisations and activities, with their own families, and made already a valued contribution. I am sure they will greatly enrich our congregational life; in themselves, they represent the continuity of the work of the church. People come and go; ministers come and go; but the Kirk Session at the heart of the congregation goes on!

I'm looking forward with somewhat mixed feelings to my own retirement and demission from the charge of St Mary's. Of this intention, I have informed the Kirk Session and the Presbytery of Hamilton, and it is right that the congregation should be aware of it. During the month of March, on the 15th, I shall conduct my last service in St Mary's but of that, enough for the moment.....

For I'm looking forward with great excitement and anticipation, as I'm sure you all are, to the climax of our Centenary Year celebrations, in November and December. My last year in St Mary's has been a very special one! Indeed, the last 2 years have been full of interest and variety, of thanksgiving and blessing, of hope and praise, as we've looked back over our remarkable story, rejoicing in our heritage, and finding new stimulus for the future. Read Bill Simpson's article in this Bulletin which offers a detailed description of the 3 events which will celebrate the climax of our Centenary Year, the Congregational Dinner, and the 2 very special services, when in fellowship together we shall express our gratitude for the past and our commitment for the future.

Thanksgiving and Rededication, these must be our twin themes and both will be at the heart of our worship: at the Anniversary Service, led by ministers who have had their place in the story of St Mary's: Rev Cameron Mackenzie will preach at that service; and at the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, when we will welcome the Rt Rev John P Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. We are immensely grateful that John is able to share in our worship, that day, the nearest Sunday to the date of dedication of the Church, the 12th December 1914, and to bring to us the greetings of the National Church. I suggested in the last Bulletin that this is the first occasion when a serving moderator has occupied our pulpit; no one has contradicted me so we shall welcome John all the more warmly for that!

I look forward with confident assurance to a magnificent turn-out of our members at these 2 highly significant services, when our thanksgiving and

rededication will surely combine to make these acts of worship full of blessing and inspiration.

We celebrate the 100th anniversary of our fine place of worship, but it is in the story of the people whose vision and hope built it that we find our inspiration to thanksgiving and dedication. As they built our church, as succeeding generations and our own generation have added to and enhanced the building, so the congregation has built and built upon the faith of those who have gone before.

Our church stands as a striking symbol, offers a parable, paints a picture, if you like, of the ongoing story of Christ's Church in this place. "Let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a spiritual temple to offer sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. You are the people of God," says Peter's Letter, using the same picture language. That's the calling to which our fathers and mothers in the faith responded, the calling to which we dedicate ourselves in these days of celebration, and for the future, God's future, on which upon us coming generations will build.

May we all know God's blessing and his renewing power, in these days of celebration.

Yours aye

David W. Dyke





THE GUILD

1904 - 2014



Our session began with a celebration to mark 110 years of our branch of the Guild. Exalt, a choir from Glasgow, provided the entertainment and the members enjoyed their selection of songs and readings all of which told of God's unfailing love for us all. At the start of the evening Mrs Martha Johnstone and Mrs Alison Doyle cut a celebration cake which was baked and donated by Valerie and Isobel Craig. The Guild table cover had been added to and thanks is due to Mrs Betty Galloway who embroidered the names on the cover. At the close of the evening the ladies enjoyed supper supplied by the committee and served by a willing group of young women from the church. It is hoped that they may be the Guild of the future. On display was a floral collage depicting the Guild badge and this was created by June and Hazel Graham. The syllabus for the session is varied and I hope it will be of interest to those who attend week by week. My thanks to Mrs Myra Philip for her work as secretary and to the committee for their work and support. During December we will hear from Rev John Campbell who will help us remember the true meaning of Christmas, enjoy a

Christmas at home and flower arranging demonstration and our annual visit to the Bentley Hotel for Dinner and Entertainment. If you would like to join us during the session you will be made most welcome, if you need transport please contact either Mrs Sheila Brown or myself.

Eleanor Simpson
President



The AGM of the National Women's Guild of the Church of Scotland took place on Saturday 6 September at the Caird Hall Dundee. St Mary's Guild was represented by a delegation of 4 ladies led by Mrs Claire MacKenzie, Convenor of the Presbyterian Council.

The meeting was opened by the newly elected National Convenor/Chair, Mrs Kay Keith who gave a very warm welcome to all and in particular to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev John P Chalmers and to the representatives from Jamaica, Africa and the Czech Republic.

The theme was *Go Serve* and both the Rt Rev John P Chalmers and the Rev Dr Margaret Fowler, representing Jamaica, gave their views and opinions from their vast knowledge and experiences of working, not only within, but outwith the Church: working with the aged, those addicted to drugs and drink, the poor and the destitute in our local communities. Rev Dr Fowler also encouraged the church to lobby our local members of the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments for changes in policies to help those less fortunate than other.

The guest speaker was the landscape artist John Lowrie Morrison who gave a most interesting speech on the History of Art, from pre Reformation to the present day and described how he tries to depict the wonders of God's Creations on canvas. Brighton's Praise Group performed a medley of hymns and songs with which there was audience participation. The meeting closed with a prayer by Linda Young, the National Vice Convenor who wished everyone a safe journey home.

In all, the day was most informative and thought provoking and the fellowship with our sisters, wonderful and hopefully, the delegation from St Mary's can bring some new ideas to the Guild in this new Session.

Valerie Craig

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Monday 6th October saw the start of this year's session and it was good to welcome a large turnout of members, our first speaker of the year was our Minister. In his talk titled "Rambling Reminiscence's" Mr. Doyle told us of

his life from his childhood in Motherwell through his move with his parents to Glasgow and his subsequent schooling before going to study at Glasgow University and further research at Cambridge University, where he realised that his future lay in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and Parish Ministry.

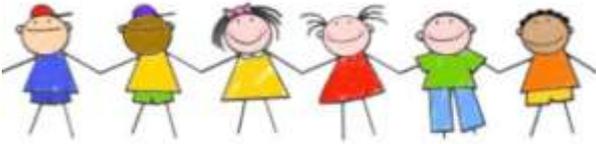
Judith Roebuck spoke of the work and responsibilities of Historic Scotland, from Listed Buildings to Historic Monuments and National Heritage Sites, showing pictures of sites, some of which were in the local area. These include, the gardens at Dalziel House, the office building in Park Street, formerly Colville's Office and the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Coursington Road

A look at "Old Lanarkshire Part 2" with Mrs Margaret Anderson, a Historian and Tour Guide picked up from where she left off last year and brought us from the Roman times through the development of gravel roads and turnpikes (Toll Roads) constructed by both Telford and Macadam. These roads saw a move away from fording and ferrying of rivers to the construction of Toll Bridges. The growth of mining and the production of iron and steel led to the construction of the Monklands Canal and eventually the introduction of the railway network.

We look forward to the forthcoming visit of the Rev John Harris as he "Reflects on a Motherwell Ministry." The forthcoming program once again makes use of the talents of a number of our church members, notice of which can as usual be found in each week's church intimation sheet.

We will resume after the Christmas break on Monday 12th January 2014, when one of our Elders Mr Stuart Greenhorn talks on "A Day in the Life". Be assured that a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may find it convenient to join us. We meet in the Conference Room at 7.30 pm.

Allan Joyce
President



UPDATE

THE TODDLERS GROUP

Our new session at the Parent & Toddler Group has been fun filled and we have many more special mornings planned between now and Christmas. We have welcomed a number of new children and babies along with their Parents, Grandparents or Childminders. We have also said "goodbye" to a number of our older children as they move on to nursery school.

Many of the children have had a "photo-shoot" and were fantastic models for Johan Lennox, one of our Mums who has recently and successfully started her own photography business.

At the time of press, we are looking forward to hosting our Halloween Party where the children will dress up, play games and dook for apples. We will also hold a sponsored "bounce", involving a bouncy castle, trampolines and bouncing balls with the funds going towards our Christmas party celebrations.

Finally, a big thank you to June Graham who helps organise a rota of ladies who help with snacks, tea and toast each Tuesday and Friday morning.

Joanne Blackwood

Christian Aid' partners in **Sierra Leone** are working flat out to protect people from the Ebola virus. 200,000 disposable gloves and 360 kg of powdered chlorine have been given to health centres and medical teams. 1.8 million people are being targeted with advice on how to avoid becoming infected. Emergency quarantine measures have left people without food and parents face the dilemma of having to break quarantine in order to feed their children. Christian Aid's partners are distributing food and supplies to people in their own homes so they don't have to leave.

Across **Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal** flash floods have submerged hundreds of villages and triggered landslides. Christian Aid's partners are already on the ground delivering food, shelter, medicine and other life-saving essentials.

In **Iraq**, an estimated 1.2 million people have been forced to leave their homes. It is thought that 200,000 people are living in terrible conditions in refugee camps across northern Iraq. Christian Aid's partners are distributing hygiene kits, food and clothes to displaced families.

In **Gaza**, Christian Aid is supporting its partners on the long road to recovery from the recent conflict. St Mary's special appeal contribution of £704.55 was much appreciated. The letter of thanks to the church ended with these words:

"Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference."

Margaret MacGregor

Junior Church

Harvest...

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church departments taking part in our morning worship for Harvest. The Mini Zone and Kids Zone both performed their new Harvest songs and this was very much enjoyed by the congregation.

Our Y Zone performed a short harvest sketch, reminding us all to be thankful for all that we have and to think of others less fortunate. This was very well done and was well delivered by our budding performers!

The teachers and helpers wish to thank the parents and friends for donating food gifts to be used by the Loaves and Fishes Trust. It was a wonderful sight to see so many children process into the church with their gifts.

Harvest Preparations...

Well done to our Y Zone for helping to decorate the church for Harvest. I'm sure you all noticed the garlands of fruit draped around the pillars, the nets full of fish, our very creative vegetable animals, and the windows surrounded by harvest flowers and foods. Their display added greatly to our Harvest service! The Y Zone were also busy making scarecrow decorations for the Harvest Lunch tables - what a lot of hard work on the Saturday night. This was rewarded with pizza! Our harvest bread this year was again made by Megan and Gregor Graham under the watchful eye of "Auntie June" We are delighted that the skills and secrets for this special part of our Harvest display are being passed onto the next generation!

Zone news...

The Autumn session will be rounded off with an All Saints Party hosted by the Kids Zone. The hall will be filled with angels and shepherds, Roman Soldiers and Kings,

with lots of messy team games followed by dancing and snacks .

Anniversary Service...

All Zones of our Junior Church will be invited to be part of our very special Centenary Service. We look forward to being part of this historical service.

Coming up ...

Week by week the children look forward to new and exciting activities and are already busy preparing for Christmas. I'm sure the congregation will continue to give our young people their prayerful support in the coming weeks.

Junior Church Christmas dates...

December is a busy month for us all. We do hope that you will be able to join us at our special family services and at our Christmas parties. The children of the Junior Choir and Junior Church departments will be taking part in a number of services and we look forward to sharing our worship with them.

Parties-

Tots Zone	Sunday 14th Dec at 11 am
Kids Zone	Saturday 13th Dec 2-4 pm
Mini Zone	Saturday 13th Dec 2-4 pm

Carol Singing by torch light and festive supper

Sunday 14th Dec early evening

Nativity Play Sunday 21st Dec 11 am

Karen Maxwell
Junior Church Co-ordinator



"Let the little children come to me," Matthew 19:14



1914 CENTENARY UPDATE 2014

Dear Friends

On Sunday 5 October we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. Following morning worship harvest lunch was served in the Avon Hall as part of our ongoing Centenary Celebrations. The Lunch was organised by the Centenary Action Team and at the helm was Margaret McCloy and her very willing team. We are grateful to Margaret and many others who organised, provided and served on the day. The response of the congregation was excellent with the Avon Hall full to capacity. Many, many thanks!

We are approaching the climax of our Centenary year and we look forward to our final event and our 2 very special services. Saturday 29 November promises to be the highlight of our Centenary events. Our Centenary Congregational Dinner takes place in Motherwell Concert Hall and promises to be a very memorable occasion. A great deal of planning has gone into the evening and as I write I am delighted to confirm that some 300 plan to be present.

On Sunday 30 October we look forward to the first of our 2 very special services. At our Centenary Anniversary Service we will welcome to our pulpit one of our former ministers Revd A Cameron MacKenzie. Also present will be Revd John WF Harris, Revd Frank Gibson, Revd Lawson Brown, Revd William Ewart and Revd Ian B Doyle. Following the service a light lunch will be provided for all the congregation and we hope that as many as are able will join with us.

Finally on Sunday 14 December at our morning worship the Centenary Service of Re-Dedication will take place. the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Revd John P Chalmers will preach and we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The final report from the Centenary Action Team will feature in the January 2015 bulletin.

WA Simpson (Chairman)
The Centenary Action Team

REFLECTIONS



February 1947 Bulletin - Children's Corner

"On a little hillock in Central Europe there is an old-fashioned church called the Church of the Lanterns. If you went into the church and looked round, you would be very surprised to find that it has no lights at all, no electric, gas or oil lamps. It wasn't that the builders forgot to put in the lights. No! The old landlord of the district who built the church arranged that for every seat in it there would be a little lantern made. These lanterns were kept in a cottage just at the foot of the hill, and everyone who came to worship God in that church, first collected a lantern and then took it with him to light up the House of God.

If you went there on a wintry evening you might see a line of people passing by in the darkness and you would know that they were going to church because each one would be carrying a lantern, sending out a beam of light into the darkness of the night.

Why did the old man think of such a plan? Possibly to make sure that each person in the village would go to church. Each one could say to themselves "Now I must not forget to go for if I do there will be a corner in the church unlit, one seat in darkness. I must go and take my place and help light up the church."

It's true, too in our homes, school, place of work and at play we can be lantern-bearers, shedding light everywhere bringing happiness and cheer if we have dwelling in our hearts, Jesus who is the Light of the World."



6th Guides

Jean Fraser, Lynn Lowe and Annabelle Maclean have returned from their adventure in India at the WAGGGS World Centre at Sangam. On the first Tuesday back at Guides Jean and Lynn gave the first of no doubt many insights into their activities. They told the girls of the great poverty that children live in near to Sangam. They visited girls in the legal slums, there are also illegal ones. The poverty was very bad. They also visited a female orphanage. The girls here were very happy despite some having been placed there when a mother remarried and only males were accepted by her new husband. They had also returned with Indian saris which the girls had the opportunity to try on.



6th A Guides

The Thursday Guides have had some changes in leadership over the summer holidays and Jill Morrison is now the Guide Guider with Suzanne Milne as her assistant. They are ably assisted by a group of young leaders. Andrea Davidson has been with the company as a guide, young leader, assistant guider and guide guider for more years than she wishes to remember, actually 13 in charge. Andrea is taking a supporting role to assist the girls working on the Baden Powell Award section of the programme. Her sister Linda Rennie has also ended her role as assistant guider after a 17 years. The unit is due to hold a sponsored silence to raise funds for the work of the St Andrew's Ambulance Service for whom Suzanne now works. The St Andrew's Ambulance service are also going to provide the girls with a First Aid demonstration one evening.

In September at the County Annual Review 3 of the Thursday Guides, Aimee Graham, Kirsty Russell, and Gillian Davidson were presented with their Baden Powell Award by the County Commissioner, Lilian Hall.

Also at this event Doreen Barclay was presented with the Good Service Brooch. This award recognised the hard work and commitment Doreen has given to Gowanpark, the County Outdoor Centre over many years.



6th B Brownies - Monday night

Brownies finished the session in June 2014 with a special evening to celebrate our 40th Birthday when we were joined by parents and guests from the church and representatives from Girlguiding in Motherwell and South Lanarkshire.

Everyone enjoyed a well earned rest during the school holidays but we all returned at the end of August in time to get organised for our annual Pack Holiday at Gowanpark, South Lanarkshire Girlguiding's residential centre just outside the village of Crossford in the Clyde Valley.

Eighteen Brownies and 6 leaders/helpers had an excellent weekend during 12-14 September. The theme of the weekend was Disney's "Frozen" and the girls were split into sixes - Snowflakes, Snowballs and Snowmen. No prizes for guessing who was "Elsa"? On Saturday morning the girls were kept busy making various crafts and baking and on Saturday afternoon we ventured along the Clyde Walkway to Valley International Park where we ate lunch and as a special treat had ice cream before we had to walk back to Gowanpark to prepare for our evening buffet/DVD night; following which the girls were in bed and sleeping by 11 pm.

Sunday morning was taken up with a short Service and then onto more activities where the girls made a special photo frame to remind them that 2014 was the year of the Big Brownie Birthday, celebrating 100 years of Brownies. Lunch was served and then it was time for the presentation of prizes and certificates. All too soon parents' cars were filing into the car park and by 2.45 pm silence - no brownies, just leaders tidying up.

Another successful weekend away!

Since we came back from Pack Holiday, Brownies have been busy on a Monday night tackling the "Seasons Badge". They have spent time looking at the stars, made a bark rubbing and then made this into a picture, made chocolate apples and finally are in the process of making a collage of information about animals that hibernate in this country and around the world. All their work can be seen on our notice boards in the Cameron Hall.

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us with Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, St Andrews Day, Christmas Crafts and finally our Christmas Party to finish off another busy term.

Lastly, Doreen Barclay, Brownie Guider (Marshmallow!) says a big thank you to all her fellow Guiders for their support during this special year.

On Sunday 27 October a group of young leaders working on the Bronze section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award had a training day at Gowanpark. On a very wet and windy day they set up lightweight tents, cooked a pasta lunch on lightweight stoves and walked along a section of the Clyde Walkway. Two of them also managed to take photographs for a school Photography class featuring the glorious colours of Autumn.





13th Motherwell Boys Brigade

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

Saturday 6 December, 10-12

Christmas Coffee Morning

**Tea, Coffee, Home Baking
Entertainment, Stalls**

***Tickets £1 available from any boy or officer
(under 12's free)***

Back by popular demand - Hot Breakfast Rolls!

Roll & Sausage, Roll & Bacon - £1.30 each

FLOWER LIST

NOVEMBER

- 2nd Mrs M Graham
Mrs B Hamilton
Mrs L Huggins
Mrs J Weir
- 9th Mrs S Sinclair
Mrs A Corbett
- 16th Mrs M Hay
- 23rd Mrs M McDonald
Miss J Graham
- 30th Mr S Dick

DECEMBER

- 7th Mrs S Carswell
The Guild
- 14th Mr W Wotherspoon
Mrs Williams
Mrs I Scott
- 21st Mrs M Wilkie
Mrs M Jarvie
- 28th Mrs F Renwick
Mrs Earl

JANUARY

- 4th Mrs Munro
Mrs D Connor
Mrs M Hardie
Mrs J Weir
Mrs J Rennie
- 11th Mr J Williams
Mr & Mrs W McNair
- 18th Mrs M McArdle
Miss J Graham
- 25th Mrs N McMillan
Mrs M Wilson



June Graham - Flower Convener



FORTHCOMING SERVICES



Nov	9	10.45 am	Service of Remembrance
	16	11.00 am	Ordination of Elders
	30	11.00 am	Centenary Anniversary Service Guest Preacher: Rev A Cameron Mackenzie
Dec	7	11.00 am	Gift Service Lessons and Carols for Christmas
	14	11.00 am	Centenary Thanksgiving and Rededication Service Guest Preacher: Rt Rev John P Chalmers
	21	11.00 am	Christmas Sunday Nativity Play
	24	11.15 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	25	10.30 am	Christmas Family Service
	28	11.00 am	Worship in the Light of Christmas
Feb	8	11.00 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday November 29	Centenary Congregational Dinner
Sunday December 14 at 6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight (Soup and festive fare in the hall)