

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

EASTER 2024

Bulletin No 362



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

2023

23 December

Margaret Hunter

2024

15 January

Bill Chree

1 February

Sarah Wyper

7 February

Irvine Brown

26 February

James Galloway





March 2024

Dear Friends,

The whole point of telling Hazel Graham that it would be my 75th birthday on February 27th, which was of course 2 days after Thinking Day, was because it made for a fun time with the young people at the service. The Brownie Packs were going to celebrate being 90, 50 and 35 years old, so I said to Hazel, "Great! I'll be 75 on the 27th, so I'll bring a cake to church and I've got an idea about using my aprons and we can tell the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand."

Never for a moment did I think that Hazel would go and spring a surprise on me - and what a lovely surprise it was too! Not only that, at the Wednesday Tearoom, low and behold, June Graham appeared with another cake! (Please don't tell anyone else but Arthur Barrie is ever so slightly miffed - can we please make sure we make a fuss of him when it's his birthday.)

So a big thank you to everyone for making it a very special time for me, and for allowing me to share the special birthdays with the Brownies.

Which leads nicely to the very special time that is Easter, the time when we celebrate and share the wonderful news that Jesus has risen from the dead. The events that we call Holy Week must have left the disciples reeling. On the day we call Palm Sunday Jesus came into Jerusalem, the folk in the city going wild with excitement, fervently hoping and expecting that this was the person who would drive out the hated Roman occupiers and bring freedom to an oppressed nation.

But when that did not happen the crowd was turned against Jesus and by the Friday they were baying for his blood.

Friday must have completely shattered the disciples, and on the Saturday they were all lying low, hiding, their faith in tatters.

The Sunday changes all of that, transforming the disciples from a fearful cowering little band into a rejuvenated, renewed force, committed to moving forward with the message of the Gospel.

It is, of course, a story that we know very well, but it is more than that. It is a truth that we all ought to proclaim - that this Jesus, the teacher beyond compare, the miracle worker who changed lives, the hero who gave his life for others, was raised from the dead and now lives and reigns in glory. This is the central truth of the Resurrection and it is what galvanises us into action and outreach, care and compassion, fellowship and love.

It is in that circle of faith and fellowship that we proclaim the Easter message of hope, love, renewal, and healing, commending to God all whom we know are finding the present time difficult. And to Bryce and Helen, as always, our love and our prayers and God's blessing.

Once again can I thank everyone who assists with or participates in the services Sunday by Sunday. You are all much appreciated.

To everyone at St Mary's, including those of you who join us via the recorded services Sunday by Sunday, a very happy, peaceful and joyful Easter.

With every blessing.

Rev John Thomson

FINANCIAL REPORT

It has been agreed recently by the Board and Kirk Session to spend £41,000 on necessary works to ensure our buildings meet all Health and Safety requirements. This spend is absolutely necessary in the wake of 2 Churches being closed, by the Presbytery, after showing similar Health and Safety issues.

The cost of the work will be met out of our reserves and we will also apply for appropriate grants to lessen the cost to ourselves.

This will leave us with a worryingly low Reserve Fund and could lead to difficulties if an emergency situation arises.

The intention of the Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Property Committee, is to seek permission from the Office Bearers of the Church to put in place a major fund-raising event to pay for a new, long overdue, heating system for our Sanctuary. This, if agreed will pay for the heating system which may require £150,000 to complete. If we can achieve that figure then the days of heavy coats, scarves and other winter woollies on worship days could be a thing of the past.

This initiative will require the help of every member by giving generously. The sooner the money is raised the sooner our heating system will be completely renovated.

Once again, I thank you for your contributions through giving so far this year and again, I appeal to you to consider what you give and increase if you are able to afford it. Please also consider giving by Standing Order through your bank and also consider joining the Gift Aid scheme. Please contact me for any information about these initiatives and I will be happy to help.

Kind regards
Leslie Innes
Finance and Stewardship Convenor.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Coffee, tea, treat and chat from 10 - 12 noon.



We continue to welcome a good number of our members, locals and visitors on a Wednesday morning.

It has become a good place for new members to our congregation to get to know us. We would still welcome volunteers to serve teas and coffees.

We also celebrate significant birthdays and recently the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Gavin and Sheila Sinclair.



WORK PARTY

The Work Party will resume their activities on Monday 15 April. The majority of our labours this year will be external, since there will be significant internal works being undertaken by contractors, under the supervision of the Property Committee. If you would like to offer your time, and join us, you would be made most welcome. As I said last year, enthusiasm trumps skills!

Howard



MOTHERWELL FOOD BANK

Please continue to donate to this Christian Project which offers support to those who are at a crisis point in their life. All packs are given out on a referral basis to people living in our local area.

Suggested items: hotdogs, meatballs, long-life milk, noodles, breakfast cereal, pasta and sauce, meals in a tin, tinned meat, tinned veg, tinned rice/custard.

Donations can be left in the vestibule of the church or in the church kitchen.

OUTREACH PROJECT

The Outreach Project continues to operate each week, with the regular 4 church members: Margaret and Ian Carrol, Tracy Dodd and June Wilson, together with others who help out when they can.

This project focusses on helping those less fortunate in our community who find themselves having stumbled across difficult times and situations. Many are registered homeless, and all are often found living rough on the streets of Motherwell, asking passers-by for help in the form of money or food, be that in the precinct or at the entrance of local supermarkets.

The Project operates as a group within the church, however, the work is generally carried out individually. This involves offering a hot or cold drink, pie, sandwich or something sweet to these people. More importantly, they are offered that brief moment of companionship and compassion, a friendly face to talk to, and for most of the regulars, this is just as important.

We understand it may seem daunting to approach some of these people, but we can assure everyone, we have never received any negative response or reaction. In fact, the opposite has been true in most cases, with the people being very friendly and polite.

Any more volunteers to help with this invaluable project would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you
June Wilson
The Outreach Team



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Having enjoyed the varied programme of the first half of the session, which was closed by members taking part in the Fellowship Annual End of Year Quiz. A light hearted brain teaser prepared and presented by our quiz master and secretary Alan (modesty precludes me from mentioning the members of the winning team). This was followed, in time old fashion, with warm mince pies and tea/coffee and time for a chat.

The session resumed on Monday 8 January when we were addressed by our Interim Moderator Rev Peter Donald.

On the 22 January we were treated to an interesting and very informative talk by Lauren Hetherington on her experiences as a leader at Camp Canada, as a student of the Conservatoire in Glasgow she was employed as an accompanist for the dramatic and musical sections in the camp programme. It had been for her a rewarding and eye-opening experience, noting in her talk the expectations of the children and the financial cost involved for parents in sending their children there for each summer school break.

Monday 5 February and I am grateful to Vice President Howard for leading the meeting in my absence and introducing the speaker Andrew Murray, who I am informed thrilled those present with his presentation "Making Films" using footage shot from a Drone. I am assured this created a great deal of interest and discussion.

Monday 19 February and Howard once again chaired the meeting where we were privileged to an evening of communal sing of church music introduced by Junior Church Coordinator and conductor of The Inbetweeners, Mrs Karen Maxwell and the Church Organist Ronald Mackie. The singing of the Fellowship proved to be very

enthusiastic especially the section prepared by Ronald which had a Scottish connection. Following the vote of thanks by Bill Simpson, Ronald expressed the feeling that he would like to investigate the possibility of including the Fellowship singing as part of a church service.

There are only 2 more meetings before the end of the session, a joint evening with the Guild and our AGM.

As I am standing down at the AGM after nineteen years as president, this will be my last contribution to the magazine and I would like to thank everyone of their support over my time as President, especially the secretaries, treasurers, pianists, and committee members, but most of all the members for their faithful regular attendance and support.

Following the Summer break meetings will resume in October 2024.

At the close of each meeting there is an opportunity for a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

I would take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to all men in the congregation to join this friendly and lively group in the Conference Room any Monday evening they are free, or where there is a subject that may be of special interest, and they will be assured of a warm welcome.

Allan Joyce
President

Y Zone fun in the Coffee Bar.





GUILD

As I come to the end of my 2 years as Guild President I would like first of all to thank the Committee for their hard work and support. And a thank you to Valerie for taking the meeting on Monday 4 March, when, I have heard, a fun evening was had by all. This was the second time that the Men's Fellowship has joined us during the session.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed a very successful variety of speakers and events, such as cookery demonstrations, being made more aware of mental health difficulties in young people and recognising positive outcomes, and a young lady who told of the difficulties she experienced while growing up. We also enjoyed entertainment from HODC Concert party.

The Afternoon Tea and Concert was very well attended - with a delicious Afternoon Tea. Our thanks to Heather Greenhorn and friends who supported this event, not to mention the beautiful table decorations and fun games.



Throughout the year the Guild motto - "Whose we are and whom we serve" - provided inspiration and forward thinking.

Our projects have been very successful and through the generosity of our members we have been able to support BEAT to the tune of £610, while "Home for Good" has received £425.

A reminder that the trip to Dumfries House takes place on 13 May. The cost is £40, which includes entrance to the House and, of course, Afternoon Tea!

We were entertained by the Brownies at the start of our AGM, at which Myra Philip was elected as our next President, and Eleanor Simpson our Vice-President. I wish them and the Committee every success in the coming year.

Without the support of everyone the Guild would not be as successful or innovative as it is proving to be, and once again I would like to thank all of you for 2 very happy and interesting years.

Marlene Thomson
Guild President

Y-ZONE RECYCLING

The post box where you can leave your stamps which will be used to support the Church of Scotland project in Malawi is located in the Coffee Bar.



2023-24 Session Update....

We have 30 boys on the roll and are getting regular attendances of around 25 on a Friday night.

COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing in early March we have had 7 battalion competitions so far this session - Swimming Gala (2nd Place), Senior 5-a-side (1st Place) and the Quiz (1st Place) are all known results but the results of the Physical Challenge, Restricted Drill and Bible Knowledge will all need to wait until the Battalion Review in May. The Battalion Cross Country took place in Strathclyde Park in January and we placed 1st in the Junior Race (Jamie Reid), and in the Senior Race we got a 1st for Euan Blackwood and a 2nd for Alex Maxwell.

We are currently preparing for the First Aid and Athletics before the end of the session.

This year we also entered a few of the Boy's Brigade National Competitions. We entered the Senior 5-a-side, FIFA (Football Computer Game) and Masterteam Quiz.

The Senior 5-a-side is always a really high standard of football and this year was no different. We hosted the first round of the competition at Dalziel in November and finished 3rd in the round but wouldn't progress to the latter stages this year.

In the National 'Masterteam' Quiz we progressed through several rounds to get to the Scottish Final. The Scottish Final was held on Saturday 3rd February in Milton of Campsie. 6 teams had reached the final via the local qualifying rounds. 13th Motherwell achieved third place in the final - and while this doesn't take us to the UK final, 3rd best in Scotland is a great result!

Well done to our team of Euan Blackwood, Charlie Fleck, Alasdair Crombie and Adam Hattie!

In FIFA we progressed through the rounds to get to the 5th round which was the Scottish Semi Final. We hosted this tie against 2nd East Kilbride and after a tense evening of games (we were losing 3-0 after the first 3 games!) and 3 penalty shoot-outs we emerged as winners of the tie 5 games to 4.

We thought that this was then going to take us to the Scottish Final against 6th/8th Dundee but it transpires that 2 teams from each region go to the UK Finals - so we are off to Belfast again on 23rd March for the UK Final of the FIFA competition. Well done to our team of Finlay Bradshaw, Scott Campbell and Alex Maxwell and best wishes for the UK Final!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

On the first Saturday in December we hosted our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. The winning 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 £2500** 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 (£3000!!), 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Following on from the success (and competitiveness!) of last year we once again hosted the Christmas Tree Festival. We invited organisations to enter a Christmas tree that would represent their organisation at Christmas time.

We had 15 creative entries that were on display in the church throughout the festive season. All the visitors to the Coffee Morning entered through the church and were invited to vote for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd favourite Christmas trees.

This year we had 3 category winners -

Pre-school and Primary - Toddlers noisy Baby Shark Tree

Secondary School Age - Guides creative recycling tree

No longer at school age - Inbetweeners naughty elf tree

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part - you should start thinking about your Christmas 2024 entry!

PRESIDENTS BADGES

This year we have 4 boys who will gain their President's Badge - Euan Cargill, Alistair Crombie, Zack Fleming and Kyle Rankin. This is the culmination of 4 years in the Company Section having worked through the Awards scheme, a period of Christian faith development, carried out service to the company or community and been to a camp or other overnight event. The final part is participation in a leadership development course known as Building Your Skills which the boys took part in during February, run by Lanarkshire District.

QUEENS BADGE

This year we have 2 boys who are in the final stages of their work towards the Queens Badge: Euan Blackwood and Ewan Bowman. The boys have been a huge boost to the officer team in the Junior Section and have been out in the community fulfilling the volunteering section of the award. As part of this the boys served as stewards at the Ups and Downs show last March as part of our ongoing link with the theatre group (as the current crop of QB candidate will do this year).

The boys will then be working to complete the recording of their work in time to be presented with the award at the Battalion Review in May.

BATTALION REVIEW

The Battalion Review will take place this year on Friday 10 May and will be hosted in St Mary's so watch this space for more information. Parents and friends of the Battalion are welcome to come along.

BB CAMP 2023 & 2024

At the end of November we held our Camp 2023 film night where the boys got to see the highlights of hundreds of hours of footage taken at Camp in July. Lots of happy recollections and comedy moments and it certainly put everyone in the mood for Camp 2024. A big thank you to our reserve officer Paul Bradshaw for producing the film

Camp 2024 was booked long ago and was launched to the boys in February - we are all organised to go back to Aviemore at the end of June....detailed planning is now in progress!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

National Masterteam Quiz Scottish Finalists 2024



Adam Hattie | Alistair Crombie | Charlie Fleck | Euan Blackwood

National FIFA UK Finalists 2024



Finlay Bradshaw | Scott Campbell | Alex Maxwell



Our Girls were out in force at our Thinking Day Service when we again recognised the many years of Girlguiding in St Mary's.

6th Rainbows - 35 years

6th Brownies - 90 years and

6thB Brownies - 50 years.

What an achievement with dedication from many leaders, parents and girls over those years. We must also thank the ladies and friends of St Mary's who knitted trefoil gifts for our girls.



6th Motherwell Brownies



Seems like a long time ago now..... but the girls finished last year with their **Xmas Party**, fun had by one and all! And didn't they all look lovely!



The Brownies then returned to the Unit in January 'full of beans' and looking forward to the 2nd half of the session!

We started with the enrolment of 8 of the Girls, each **making their Brownie Promise!**

Tuesday evenings into 2024 have continued to be filled with much fun, with the girls:

- Pancake making!
- Taking part in a Scottish Night!
- Doing badge work, the **Zero Waste** badge, making amongst other things "Reduce, Reuse & Recycle" Posters, & the **Entertainer** badge, see below for more; and
- the much loved playing of games, "Ladders" and "Hedgehogs" continuing to be the favourites!



Then it was **BIG CELEBRATIONS** in February with the Brownie Unit celebrating its **90TH BIRTHDAY** what an achievement! Along with the Rainbows celebrating their

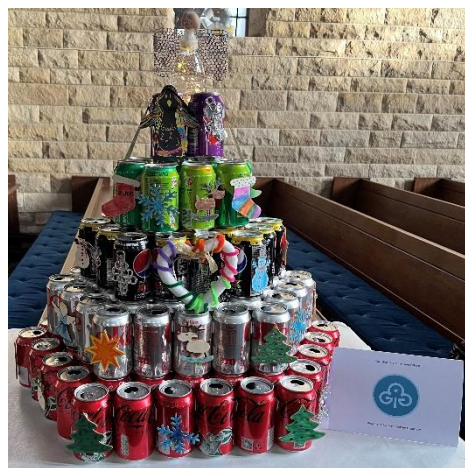
35th Birthday and the Monday night Brownies their 50th Birthday, the Girls attended a special Thinking Day celebration service! They performed at the service singing Toy Story's "You've Got a Friend in Me", contributing to their Entertainer's Badge!



6th Guides



A lot of thought and discussion went in to the creation of the Guide Tree for the BB competition. Recycling and helping the planet resulted in the winning entry below. (and much recycling afterwards!)



The girls have taken part in contributing their views to Girlguiding on new uniforms which are being introduced. They were given the opportunity to choose styles, logos and colours. They had a Scottish Tasting evening at the end of January and also found out about Chinese New Year and created dragons.

Thinking Day celebrations had them doing activities linked to the Girlguiding World Centres and renewing their promise by candlelight in a Twingle (equivalent of Christingle).



They were also delighted to sing Top of the World by The Carpenters at the Thinking Day Service.



So it's been a busy couple of months, and more to come shortly.....

At the time of writing the girls were just getting ready to go to their **Brownie Camp**! It's safe to say they are all 'super excited' and counting the days until they are in the house!

We look forward to telling you all about it in the next edition of the Magazine.....if the Brownie Leaders survive!



Update

Christian Aid continues to carry out development work in longstanding situations of need. The charity works with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Christian Aid has been working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Middle East since the early 1950s, when they provided humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees. In the current emergency in Gaza, their established partners are responding as best they can, under intense pressure. They're responding with medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation, and cash.

St Mary's congregation has supported Christian Aid for many years and continued support is needed now and in the foreseeable future. There will be several opportunities to support Christian Aid in the coming months.

In the meantime, if you haven't already done so, please have a look at the website www.christianaid.org.uk both for an example of ongoing development work eg 'Aline's story' - (how Christian Aid helped her out of extreme poverty in Burundi) and 'Keeping Hope Alive' - Christian Aid's work on peace Case study: Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Margaret MacGregor



JUNIOR CHURCH CHALLENGE

A photograph of a potted plant with several bright yellow daffodils in bloom, set against a dark background.

A circular logo for the Junior Church Challenge, featuring a stylized cross and the text "JUNIOR CHURCH CHALLENGE" around the perimeter.

It's Spring!

The Junior Church would like you to send photos showing "signs of spring" during March

These can be sent to the Junior Church WhatsApp or to the Church Office and will be included in the weekly slideshow

JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS



Our children and young people in Junior Church were delighted to be part of the special December services. Our highlight was our annual Nativity play. The children presented the Christmas story in verse and song ... a very special morning.

We also had great fun at our Winter Wonderland party. Our children enjoyed games, crafts and songs in the halls before heading outside for hot chocolate and carol singing. We also had a special visit from Santa - a lovely way to end our morning.

Our Tree of Peace

In January the Junior Church worked hard to decorate our tree with doves - a symbol of peace for the New Year for all. Thanks to all who handed in Christmas cards for our challenge.



January and February are months for preparations. Alongside our programme of Parables, we have enjoyed preparing for the special Mothering Sunday service and have taken time to learn all about the importance of the Easter story. Our art work can be seen in the church windows alongside the beautiful displays from our Y Zone.

A special thank you to Barbara, Ava, Megan, Diane and Elaine and the teens in the Y Zone for creating very effective window displays. If you are passing, please take to stop and admire them.

Please see the dates for your diary so that you don't miss out:

Sunday 10 March - Junior Church to meet in AVON HALL 10.45 am with mums and grans.

Sunday 17 March - Easter fun morning! Children in hall from 10 am for games, stories, crafts, and an egg hunt and the Lego Easter Story movie created by the Y Zone.

Sunday 24 March - Children will be in church to share in the Palm Sunday Service.

Easter Sunday children to be invited to service with families. Crafts etc will be provided.



Y ZONE

What a busy time we have had since our last Y-Zone report! In November we enjoyed our second Y-Zone family night which was a huge success thanks to Fraser Hamilton our amazing compere who added lots of laughs and energy to the night. Fraser helped to coordinate and guide us through our evening's programme and was ably assisted by Ali Miller, Hilary Kidd, Lesley Niven, Stuart Reid and Isabel Johnstone. The evening was also enhanced by a most fabulous selection of food that was provided and prepared by Ian and Sandra Beattie who were the back bone to our night. Not to mention the support in the background from Helen Calder and Alan Joyce - a huge thanks to all. The evening saw Y-Zone members along with their families (64 in all) join with a few special guests for food and a series of games and challenges. A super evening and one which we hope to repeat (all be it in a different format) later in the year! We also enjoyed being part of the various Christmas events from Nativity to Christmas parties, BB Christmas tree competition and not forgetting the Carol Singing and Panto. It was a great time of year and great to be part of the Junior Church and wider church family!

Now into our 2024 session we have enjoyed introducing our 2 min thought for the day while enjoying lots of fun with 'in for a penny in for a pound' game, the 'upside down challenge' and 'Jenga'. We also were involved in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the theme is 'You shall love the Lord your God, and enjoyed a game where we looked at our choices in life and reasons behind them. And in recent weeks we have been working on a big art project for the windows of the conference room which is being co-ordinated by Junior Church - hopefully together we will add some colour and fun to the windows for passers-by to enjoy. We also enjoy simply spending time as a group and enjoyed a Saturday night out together at an Escape Room which was held in Hamilton Old Parish Church. All in all a busy time full of fun!





FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	24 March	11 am	Palm Sunday
HOLY WEEK SERVICES:			
Wednesday - 27 March at Motherwell South - Rev Alistair May: 7.30 pm			
Thursday - 28 March - St Mary's - Rev Derek Pope & Rev Arthur Barrie: 7.30 pm			
Friday - 29 March - Good Friday Service - North Motherwell - Rev Alan Gibson: 7.30 pm			
Sunday	31 March	11 am	Easter Sunday



FLOWER LIST

APRIL

7th	Mrs E Calder Mr A Craig
14th	Mrs H Graham Mrs E Currie
21st	Mrs E Taylor/ Mrs J Findlay Mrs E Simpson Mrs E Scott
28th	Mrs L Kelly Mrs A Johnstone Mrs J Knox

MAY

5th	Mr & Mrs Malcolm Mrs J McPherson
12th	Mrs J Conquer Mrs C Allan
19th	Mrs S Brown Mrs J Westwood
26th	Mrs A Pearce Mrs C Allan

JUNE

2nd	Mrs W Burrell
9th	Mrs C Anderson
16th	Mrs I Scott
23rd	Mrs F Hannah

Useful Contacts

Minister: Bryce Calder 01698 328665
Church and Halls: 01698 268554
Telephone listening
Church Service: 01698 533200



St Mary's Motherwell(@stmarysmwell)/X
Rev Bryce Calder(@bryce_calder)/X



St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

Website: <https://www.stmarysmotherwell.org.uk>

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell, ML1 3AB

June Graham - Flower Convener
Please note: there are dates available
for contributions to the Flower Ministry.
Flowers are delivered to those who have
experienced illness or bereavement.