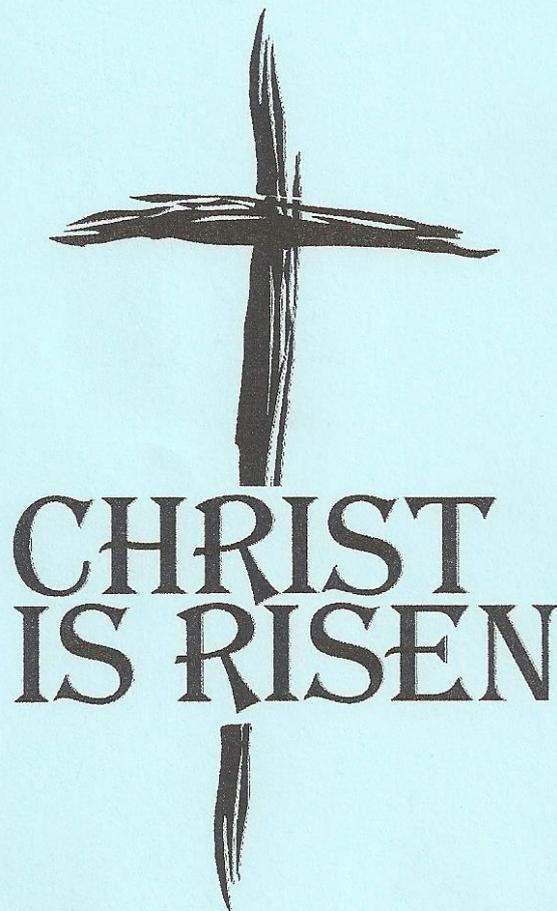


ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



EASTER 2017

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

19 Mar Emma Margaret Bolton

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

15 Jan	Thomas Johnstone
6 Feb	Dennis Leary
13 Feb	Christina Cameron
16 Feb	William Rodger
15 Mar	John Luke

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FOR INFORMATION DURING VACANCY

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

During the period before a new minister is appointed please contact the Rev Arthur Barrie Tel: 01698 261147 for baptisms and marriages and Rev John Stevenson Tel: 01698 817582 for funerals and hospital visits.

ILLNESS OR HOSPITALISATION

It is vitally important over the next few months to use the Yellow Cards at the end of the pews if you know of anyone who requires a pastoral visit due to illness or hospitalisation. These cards can be left in the church office.

An Easter Prayer from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr

This is the day that the Lord has made
the day hope comes striding from an empty tomb
the day joy comes dancing through grief and pain

With glad and thankful hearts
we join with Christian people the world over
and with the saints in heaven
to bless You for the dying and undying love
of our Saviour Christ
for the Lord is risen
he is risen indeed

Wherever conflict flares
roll back the stone
and let Your people find peace
in the triumph of the Prince of Peace

Wherever Your people are oppressed
roll back the stone
and let Your people find freedom
in the good news of an empty tomb.

Wherever Your people are sick, mourning or
in need
roll back the stone
and let this day of Resurrection
bring healing, comfort and hope

For a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in the rising to life of life itself
our Saviour Christ

Hallelujah

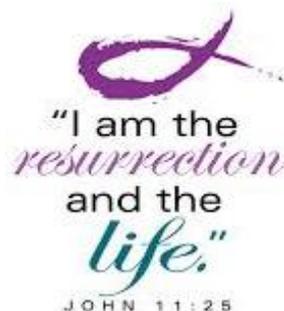
Amen

CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

CrossReach News is available to download now!

CrossReach News Issue 1 for 2017 is out now. In this edition you can read about how 'Heart for Art' is expanding, how to set up a Social Care project and take a look back at CrossReach Week 2016 including an interview with the Moderator of the General Assembly. 'Me and My Job' features Rebecca Tennant who is the Community and Events Officer based at Charis House.

You can download CrossReach News at:
www.crossreach.org.uk.



March on, my soul, with strength,
march forward, void of fear; he
who has led will lead, through each
succeeding year; and as you
journey on your way, his hand shall
hold you day by day.



The Cleaning Team continue to meet every 4/6 weeks to help with the duties in the church sanctuary and in our halls and corridors.

We are a busy team and I think most enjoy the fellowship at coffee time as much (if not more!) as they do the cleaning!! We are very fortunate to have 24 willing helpers, but it is always good to welcome a new pair of marigolds to the team! Our target is one new member a month.

So, if you have a spare 2 hours and you'd like to join the team please speak to Heather Greenhorn or Margaret McCloy for our next dates. Our next clean will be Monday 27th March.

Sincere thanks to all our team members for all their hard work during the last session. We really do appreciate your efforts.

WORK PARTY



The Work Party will resume their activities on Monday 1st May.

We meet each Monday around 9 am, finishing around 12 noon.

As well as the general tidying of the grounds around the church and halls, we are undertaking some redecoration, and joiner work.

We will also be undertaking some gardening around the manse, during the vacancy.

If you would like to join us, you will be made most welcome. All you need is enthusiasm!!

Even if you are not able to attend every week, your help when available, will still be valued.

Howard Rennie



THE GUILD

The new session began on Monday 9 January with a visit from Colin Ogilvie, speaking on his work in the community in Overtown and his new career in photography. The following week our speaker from the Scottish Refugee Council had a personal emergency and we gratefully had an entertaining and informative talk from Rev John Thomson who stepped in at the very last minute. We continued our session with Scottish entertainment provided by Jim Hughes and a most interesting talk by John Harden ED Consultant at Wishaw General, when we learned much of what goes on behind the scenes in the Emergency Department.

We continued to be entertained most ably by a variety of guests. Naida Meek had us singing along to a variety of songs from Musicals after challenging us to identify the songs and Yvonne Waring entertained us using the various voices of Joyce Grenfell. Knowetop Primary School Choir provided delightful singing prior to our AGM.



We had a visit from Ivy Blair who gave us much information on our Project: Prospects - All Friends Together which is about helping churches to welcome people with learning disabilities and include them in all aspects of church life and to build friendships - with Jesus and with other church members. Our fundraising Coffee Evening raised over £270 which when added to other monies raised will mean we can send around £340 to this project.

We had a most interesting talk from the Olive Tree Scotland organisation which aims

to promote a wider understanding of the situation in the Holy Land today including Israel-Palestine issues. They help support people, especially women and children who suffer deprivation in the current situation. We were able to buy crafts from Palestine, which give employment, income and hope to those in a difficult economic situation.



As we moved towards the end of our session we had a joint panel night with the Men's Fellowship when many topical issues were discussed with seriousness and humour. We are grateful to Alan Joyce Jnr for compering this evening and for Andrew Livingstone, Stuart McCue-Dick, Laura St John and Barbara Aitkenhead for giving their views on such diverse subjects as the potential loss of Motherwell's public toilets to the Spaceport plans for Prestwick Airport.

Robert Neilson provided us with a most interesting evening bringing us up to date with the work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. No one told the Guild secretary that dressing up was in her job description.



We now look forward to our final meetings when we welcome the Rev Joanne Hood, and Same Difference singers to our closing social. We round off the session with our outing to Culzean Castle and Ayr this year.

We hope that the ladies of the congregation get a flavour of what happens at the Guild on Monday evenings from our reports and more will join in our fellowship in the new session.

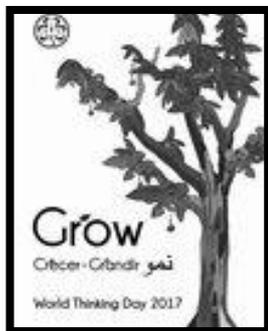
Myra Philip
President



THINKING DAY

Once again Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Leaders and ladies of the Trefoil Guild joined with members of the congregation to celebrate being part of the world-wide family of Girlguiding.

Our tree with all its coloured leaves represented the many members of Girlguiding in St Mary's. We are lucky to have 23 Rainbows, 56 Brownies, 34 Guides and 30 leaders as well as 11 ladies who are members of Motherwell Trefoil Guild. We hope everyone enjoyed the girls' and leaders' contributions to the service in word and song. It was good to continue fellowship in the church hall after the service with tea and coffee.



6th Brownies on Pack Holiday

The Tuesday Brownies have just returned from Pack Holiday at Gowanpark over the weekend of 17-19 March.



6thA Motherwell Guides

The Thursday Guides' date for celebrating their 50th birthday is Saturday 10 June. Already past members of the unit have been in touch wanting to be part of the celebration.

If you would like to be included email Jill Morrison on: jill83morrison@gmail.com or leave your details in the church office.

Check out the pictures below for some familiar faces from around 1970?



Guide Camp



Parade in the Duchess Park

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell

junior section update



Start of the new session

The Junior Section got off to a brilliant and busy start in Autumn 2016 with a new intake of boys promoted from the Anchor Boys and new leading boys being appointed. Congratulations to Toby Ferrie, Euan Bowman, Alastair Cooke and Ewan Blackwood who are our leading boys for the 2016-17 session.

The boys also enjoyed their Hallowe'en party in October and took part in the first 3 competitions of the Battalion calendar: General Knowledge, Bible Knowledge and Safety.

Then in November a new initiative was introduced at Junior Section that the boys really engaged with and seemed to enjoy, this new initiative was.....

Guest Member November

Every Wednesday in November the Junior Section opening talk was completed by an invited guest speaker. Throughout the month the Junior Section were delighted to welcome interesting and inspiring speakers. Details of the talks that were given are outlined below:

Week 1 - Robert Neilson kicked off the month talking to the boys about fire safety and his job with the Fire and Rescue service. The boys were especially impressed by the uniform he brought along - it was a great way of getting them to think about what it might be like wearing it in an emergency situation.

Week 2 - Gordon Duncan spoke to the boys about what his work as a Sports Journalist for Clyde 1 entails. The boys were enthralled by his tales of interviewing some of their sporting heroes and enjoyed getting to try out his headset and microphone.

Week 3 - Alan Joyce and Graeme Brown shared their experiences of taking part in Iron Man competitions. The boys were particularly inspired by their dazzling display of medals and their gripping descriptions of taking part in these emotionally and physically demanding races.

Week 4 - David Lindsay spoke to the boys about his important work in training guide dogs and powerfully conveyed to the boys the unique relationship that exists between a guide dog and its owner.

The Junior Section officers and boys were incredibly grateful to all the speakers for giving so freely and fully of their time. Our sincerest thanks go to them all.

We hope to make Guest Member November an annual initiative. However I think we will need to start searching now for speakers for 2017 that will be on par with the amazing speakers we had in 2016!

Christmas Preparations and Celebrations

Once again this year the Junior Section boys worked really hard on their BB Christmas Coffee Morning performance and pulled it off on the day with their usual wholehearted enthusiasm.

The first half of the session finished with the boys enjoying their Christmas Party and Christmas jumper and movie night.

Junior Section Centenary Celebrations

2017 marks the centenary of the Junior Section. The Battalion are planning to mark this momentous year in the history of the Junior Section with some special events.

We are looking forward to taking part in these events and maybe even planning a special event of our own.

Stephanie Laing - Officer in charge

company section update

The New Year to Easter block of our BB session is always a busy one....this article will hopefully give you a flavour of this busy time...

BATTALION COMPETITIONS

Since the last article we have taken part in 4 Battalion competitions - the Quiz, Bible Knowledge, Physical Challenge and outdoor Senior 5-a-side football. A great mix of competitions with something to cater for everyone in the company.

The battalion quiz is always a fun but closely fought night and this year was no different and our team finished third. Congratulations to the awesome team from 20th (North Motherwell) for winning again this year.

We used the Penny Bible for our Bible Knowledge materials again this year and the stories of Luke provided some great material for the team to learn about Jesus life. We will have to wait until the Review to find out if we improved on last year's performance!

The physical challenge competition is a good test for the athletes in the company and a strong performance from our team will hopefully bring a good result at the Review.

The senior 5-a-side was a hard fought tournament and our team finished second at the Ravenscraig event.

A great set of results but more importantly excellent participation from the boys all taking part to the best of their ability and in the spirit of the BB. A big thank you to the parents also for all your support and for chauffeuring the boys to and from the competitions!

The squad drill and first aid competitions will take place before the school Easter holidays and the athletics will be the last competition later in April when the nights are a bit lighter!

QUEENS BADGE

This year we have one boy who is in the final stages of his work towards the Queens Badge and will be heading off to Scottish Headquarters at Carronvale House in Larbert at the end of April to complete this 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 12 May but the venue is still to be confirmed so watch this space for more information. Parents and friends of the Battalion are more than welcome to come along.

SUMMER CAMP

We are returning to our favourite campsite outside Aviemore for our Summer Camp and are looking forward to going away as soon as the schools break up from Sat 1st - Wed 5th of July. We have an action packed camp in the making all we need is some sunshine and no midges!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

Dates for the Diary

Fri 31 March - BB on as normal
Fri 07 April - No BB (School Holidays)
Fri 14 April - No BB (school holidays)
Fri 21 April - BB BACK!

Fri 12 May - Battalion Review

1 - 5 July - BB Summer Camp

Junior Church News!

Mother's day

The church was filled with lots of special ladies on this special Sunday. The congregation shared in a family service and enjoyed the contributions from our 3 choirs. The Junior Choir singing about "My Mum" raised a smile and a tear! The ladies in the congregation were impressed with the Mothering Sunday gift they each received as the left church. I do hope they all used them!



Easter celebrations

The children are already preparing for the Junior Church celebrations at Easter. The children are invited to attend church on Sunday 2nd and 9th April with their families then all children are invited to join our Easter Sunday picnic at Junior Church. We hope to have an egg hunt and craft time before sharing a picnic as we listen to the Easter story. The Y Zone have been busy making an Easter gift for everyone to receive as they leave church...something to remind us all of the importance of the cross. Make sure to collect yours as you leave the Easter Sunday Communion Service.



Good news

We are delighted to report that Zoe Galloway has successfully recovered from her recent major operation. We are so pleased to see her back, full of energy and fun to join her friends at Junior Church. A big thank you from Zoe and her family for the support given by her friends in the congregation.



Next session

April and May are already looking like busy months as we begin to prepare for our annual Christian Aid events. Our messy morning is in the planning stages and CAST promise us even more fun and mess than last year! Our Y Zone will also be taking part in the Long March this year...training in progress!!





UPDATE

As part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, Christian Aid is asking for help with the crisis in East Africa.

People are dying daily from hunger and malnutrition across East Africa in the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945.

Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people face starvation and nearly 5 million people urgently need food. This crisis follows more than 3 years of devastating conflict, which has left millions of people without a safe place to call home.

The situation is also grave in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia where 14 million people are going hungry every day, caught up in the region's worst drought in 50 years. In Somalia alone, over 360,000 children under 5 are extremely malnourished.

In South Sudan, Christian Aid's partners have long been providing life-saving help: distributing seeds, farming tools and fishing gear so families can access nutritious food. They have also provided agricultural training, repaired community water points, built latrines and handed out sanitation and hygiene supplies.

In Kenya and Ethiopia, Christian Aid's partners are ready to respond in some of the worst-affected areas. In Somalia, the organization plans to work with ACT Alliance sister agencies to provide support.

In April and May, there will be a series of fund-raising events here in St Mary's for Christian Aid.

On Thursday 27 April at 7 pm, there will be a CONCERT, featuring all 3 of St Mary's choirs, (Church Choir, Junior Choir and In-betweeners) local school choirs and guest soloists.

On Christian Aid Sunday, 14 May, CAST will host a lunch after the morning service.

The house-to-house collection will run from 14th - 20th May.

The 'Long March' in Strathclyde Park will take place on Sunday 21 May.

There will be an information evening in Motherwell South Parish Church on Tuesday, 25 April at which staff members from Christian Aid Scotland will give feedback on Christian Aid's work and current challenges.

Please continue to support Christian Aid with your usual generosity.

Margaret MacGregor



What a joy to see new growth in our gardens, blossom decorating the trees and daffodils in splendour. "A host of golden daffodils" the poet Wm Wordsworth wrote when admiring their beauty. A welcome sight for us all as we move forward into Spring.

The Scottish Bible Society and Bible Societies throughout the world are engaged in projects to aid countries whose people suffer through famine, war, global disasters and persecution. Many people go to these countries to help and support them in their time of need. Here, at home, another way of supporting those countries is by publicising their plight, donating money and goods, fundraising and very importantly, upholding them in prayer.

The Motherwell Action Group receives a lot of information and advice from Bible House on charities which are being supported in the coming year and, after much consideration, the group chose the project 'Haiti - New Words : New Life'. It's not easy to choose a project when there are so many other worthwhile causes.

You may remember Hurricane Matthew which struck Haiti last October and directly affected 1,000,000 people. The immediate priority, at that time, was to provide accommodation and urgently needed supplies as well as repair to as much of the infrastructure as possible. The current priority is to help people rebuild their lives particularly in the area of trauma healing. People are looking for both comfort and hope and to that end the project is providing 200,000 copies of the Bible in Creole and French and 2000 copies of the New Testament. However, 60% of Haiti's population are illiterate so a literacy programme has been set up. Not only does this programme teach people to read and write, but opens up opportunities for new work.

At the time of writing our fundraising concert has still to be held on Saturday, 25th March in St Mary's. 'Brats & Callets' will entertain us with an evening of popular songs and ballads. I'll be in a position, at a later date, to let you know the amount that was raised for our project. Our group would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers.

With every blessing,

Margaret Carrol

Motherwell Action Group
Scottish Bible Society



FLOWER LIST



APRIL

- 2nd Mrs H Wilson
Mrs B Neilson
Mrs J Findlay
- 9th Mrs A Anderson
Mrs Murray
Mrs H Graham
- 16th Mrs E Currie
Mrs E Taylor & Mrs J Findlay
- 23rd Mrs E Simpson
Mrs A Scott
Mrs Kelly
- 30th Mrs A Johnstone
Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson

MAY

- 7th Mrs I Craig
- 14th Mrs S Brown
Mrs E Ross
- 21st Mrs A Pearce
- 28th Mrs M Graham
Mrs C Allan

JUNE

- 4th Mrs E M Barr
Mrs W Burrell
- 11th Mrs L Thain
- 18th Mrs M Bimbi
Mrs Graham
- 25th Mrs M Jarvie
Mrs F Hannah



June Graham - Flower Convener

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



April	9	11.00 am	Palm Sunday
April	16	7.00 am	Dawn Service
April	16	11.00 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
May	14	11 am	Christian Aid Sunday

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April	10-14	Mon - Fri at 7.30 pm	United Holy Week Services: North Motherwell Parish Church
April	24	Monday 7.30 pm	Annual Quiz Night - £10 for team of 4
April	27	Thursday 7 pm	Christian Aid Concert
May	14	Christian Aid Lunch after Church service	
May	14-20	Christian Aid Week	

Useful Telephone Contacts:

Interim Moderator:	Rev Arthur Barrie	261147
Locum Minister:	Rev John Stevenson	817582
Session Clerk:	Allan Joyce	251352
Treasurer:	Anne Johnstone	2677362
Finance Convenor:	Leslie Innes	262808
Flower Convenor:	June Graham	263515
Church and Halls:		268554

