

# ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



# CHRISTMAS 2021

Bulletin No 352

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### **BAPTISM**

**"Go therefore .... and baptise"**

5 September

Lily Louise McCluskie

7 November

Lottie Elizabeth Kozak

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### **FUNERALS**

**"I am the resurrection and the life"**

17 September

Isabella Craig

21 September

Robert Osborne

29 September

May Graham

22 October

May Muircroft

11 November

Thomas Smith





Manse of St Mary's

November 2021

Dear Friends:

### Christmas Message

Each year the major stores invest a lot of money, imagination and effort into their Christmas Campaigns and Television Advertisements.

This year *Marks & Spencer* have brought Percy Pig to life to highlight that what they have to offer is "*Anything But Ordinary*".

A few years ago, *Marks & Spencer* made an even bolder claim with their campaign slogan: "**CHRISTMAS IS MARKS & SPENCER**".

At the time, I remember thinking that there are more apt words to describe Christmas. There is ONE Hebrew word in particular that encapsulates the Christmas message perfectly, that is: "**IMMANUEL**". Interestingly, the Hebrew word "**IMMANUEL**" needs FOUR English words to convey its full meaning: "**GOD is with US!**"

It is the Prophet Isaiah who, 7 centuries before the birth of Jesus, first used the word "**IMMANUEL**". During the reign of King Ahaz, a very troubled and turbulent period in Israel's history, Isaiah pointed to a time when God would come among His people in a very special and powerful way. "*The Lord Himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and name him Emmanuel.*" [Isaiah 7:14]

Matthew's Gospel makes it clear that in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem Isaiah's prophecy found its ultimate and true fulfilment: "**Now all this happened in order to make what the Lord had said through the prophet come true, 'A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called IMMANUEL [which means God is with us].'**" [Matthew 1:22-23]

On that first Christmas, Jesus came to this earth as **IMMANUEL** - "**GOD with US!**" As the famous Christmas carol says:

**"He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all."**

Christmas then means more than just presents and good food. It means more than family and friends around us. It means more than parties, fun and colourful decorations. The true message of Christmas is that, in Christ, the baby born in the manger, **GOD HAS COME AMONG US**. Theologians call this the mystery of the **INCARNATION** - God coming in human flesh.

As a result of the **INCARNATION**, we need never wonder what God is like, for in Jesus we see God in all His wonder, love, peace and majesty. As the Apostle Paul says: "**Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.**" [Colossians 1:15]. Neither need we search in the darkness for God's way of living. For, in Jesus, we see God's way of forgiveness, freedom and love encapsulated and demonstrated, and set before us to be followed.

This Christmas, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the season, may we make time to reflect upon, and rejoice in, the miracle of miracles, the mystery of mysteries, the birth of **JESUS, IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!** And through Christ, may we allow the Creator of the Universe to touch each of our hearts in a new and fresh way by the power of His Holy Spirit.

If Christmas was just about *Marks and Spencer* or *Percy Pig* or anything else of a purely commercial nature, it would be of limited appeal and value. Praise God, though, that Christmas is something far more wonderful and important than that.

ALDI'S 2021 Christmas Campaign is: **"MAKING CHRISTMAS AMAZING!"** This Christmas, through our lives, may we proclaim the **AMAZING** truth that in the baby born in the manger 2000 years ago **"GOD is with US"** always.

### Christmas Services

Last year's Advent and Christmas Services were broadcast live from the Church but we weren't allowed to have a congregation in the building - except for the Christmas Eve Watchnight Service.

This year, we have the joy of being able to hold our Christmas Services 'in person' once again - as well as on-line. The Services will be as follows:

Advent I [28<sup>th</sup> November] Advent Communion Service at 11.00 AM

Advent II [5<sup>th</sup> December] Christmas Gift Service at 11.00 AM

Advent III [12<sup>th</sup> December] Lessons and Carols Service at 11.00 AM

Advent IV [19<sup>th</sup> December] Junior Church Nativity Service at 11.00 AM

Christmas Eve [24<sup>th</sup> December] Watchnight Service at 11.15 PM

Christmas Day [25<sup>th</sup> December] Short All-Age Christmas Service at 10.30 AM

Boxing Day [26<sup>th</sup> December] Final Service of 2021

As well as our Christmas Services, we will also hold our annual Outdoor Carol Singing by Firelight in the Church Garden on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December [6.00 pm]. This will be followed by refreshments in the Church Sanctuary and the much loved Y-Zone Panto.

It's wonderful to look out from the pulpit on Sundays and see that numbers 'in person' have been slowly increasing at our Morning Services, but we are still quite far off our pre-Covid attendance numbers. I know that some people can only worship from home using the 'live service' link or catch-up, and for others this may still be the safest option. If you are able to come along 'in person', though, this Christmas it would be wonderful to see you - you have been much missed! There is no need to pre-book a place at Church any more. The lead up to Christmas will also see the resumption of after-service teas, coffees and biscuits in the Avon Hall - a small but welcome step towards normality.

Please be certain, that as you attend St Mary's, COVID Safety Measures are taken very seriously and that the Kirk Session and Congregational Board have taken every appropriate measure to make the Church as safe an environment for everyone as we possibly can.

### Session Clerk

At the September Meeting of the Kirk Session, our Session Clerk, Allan Joyce announced his retirement after 30 years in the post. As a congregation we will mark Allan's dedicated service at the Advent Communion on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November. It would be especially wonderful to have a bustling church for this special and significant occasion.

At its November Meeting the Kirk Session unanimously approved the appointment of Dual Session Clerks. This is a first for St Mary's Parish but it is not uncommon within the Church of Scotland. Alan Joyce Jr will step into his father's shoes and fulfil the traditional administrative role of the Session Clerk. Stewart Maxwell meanwhile will become Session Clerk with a special remit of Mission Planning. I am delighted to have 2 very Godly and competent people to work alongside and to fulfil these important congregational roles.

### Closing Words

As I end my Christmas Newsletter, on behalf of myself, my wife Helen, and our family, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the congregation a very blessed Christmas and New Year ahead.

As we near the end of 2021 - such a dark and difficult year for so many people - may the hope, peace, joy and love of **JESUS, IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US** bring light to each and all of us throughout the special and sacred seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Your Friend & Pastor:

**Rev Bryce Calder**

### **AN ADVENT PRAYER**

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things, look forward to Your coming among us afresh.

We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.

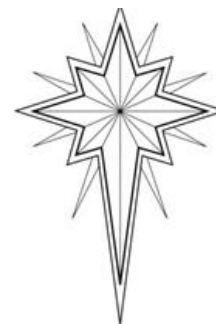
We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of Your presence.

We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

**AMEN**

*Henri J M Nouwen*



## A MESSAGE FROM HAZEL SHAW

Hello everyone, I hope and pray you are all well. It is a great privilege to introduce myself and to share some things I have learned during my first couple of months on placement here at St Mary's Parish Church. I think by now you all know my name - even if I am still learning all of yours. I'm Hazel and I am married to Iain. We live in Strathaven and have 2 children Laura and Mark. We also have a black cockapoo called Alfie who is 4 but still has the energy of a puppy! I am a Candidate for Ministry and am studying Theology at the Highland Theological College in Paisley which I am loving. I am very grateful and excited about all that God has in store for me on this journey and look forward to seeing how I can continue to serve Him, especially as we move on from what has been a very unusual time. As an ex banker it's been particularly strange - Before now I would never have thought it acceptable to enter a bank, wear a mask and ask for money!

Being honest, I was quite nervous about starting placement, not knowing anyone, and not really knowing what might be expected. I shouldn't have worried though as Bryce was so kind when we met up for an initial chat and then on my first and indeed every subsequent visit to the Church I have received such a warm welcome from everyone. So the first thing I have learned is the welcoming nature of the congregation here at St Mary's.

***"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you," Romans 15:7***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME**

Bryce and I have met regularly to discuss and plan my involvement in the church services and I am so grateful for each

opportunity offered and the encouragement I have been given. I have loved being involved in so many different aspects of worship - leading prayers, sharing the Word of God and preaching the Gospel, sharing in the joy of weddings and baptisms, offering comfort and hope at funerals, joining with brothers and sisters in Christ in Holy Communion, participating in the Remembrance Services to name a few.

I've also had the privilege of attending Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings, joining with the Guild, enjoying tea at the coffee mornings and meeting some of the Junior Church members. It has been great to meet so many people all serving our Lord in so many ways. This has been so encouraging for me to see. There's a real sense of community within the congregation and for that I am most appreciative. I have been so encouraged with the outreach initiatives- the Refuweege appeal, the winter coats collection, sponsored walk to support the Bible Society, the new project to support those who are homeless or sitting out on our local streets. Wonderful work.

***"So encourage each other and build each other up" 1 Thessalonians 5:11***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT**

Moving forward, as restrictions continue to ease, I hope that I will be able to get involved in even more aspects of the vibrant life of this Church. To close I'd like to leave you this little story to encourage you as we move forward together from what has been some very challenging times.



A daughter was telling her Mum about everything going wrong. She'd failed an exam, her boyfriend had dumped her and her best friend was moving away.

Meanwhile, the Mum was baking a cake. She asked her daughter if she would like something to eat. The daughter smiled and said "yes, absolutely, I love your cake".

"Here have some cooking oil" her mum offers.

"Yuck" says the daughter.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross Mum!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe some baking soda?"

"Mum, these are all horrible!"

To which the Mum replies,

"Yes all those things seem bad all by themselves but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

And so it is with God. God works in the same way. At times, we wonder why God lets us go through hard times but the good news is that we can trust that God's plans for us will become something wonderful.

Why not check out Romans 8:28 for yourself!

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO IN THE  
NAME OF JESUS**

Yours in Christ,  
Hazel Shaw



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## EVENTS ACTION TEAM

The Events Action team have been quiet as restrictions have limited events within the Church over the last 2 years. Hopefully now we are seeing a gradual lifting of restrictions and we can again meet socially for the church quiz and a Harvest lunch in 2022.

One event we are planning is the Family Christmas Film Night on Saturday 11 December. This is always a great night to switch off from the busy Christmas period for a couple of hours and settle down with friends and family and watch a Christmas movie together. The invitation is open to everyone as we are all part of the St Marys family. Details will be available soon via the Church service, intimations, and social media outlets.

The Events Action Team are arranging the Christmas trees for the Church this year and they will be delivered at the end of November. If anyone would like to assist with decorating the Church for Christmas, please get in touch with the church office and your help will be greatly appreciated. I know you will agree with me that our sanctuary is beautiful when decorated for the Christmas services and benefits from the talented decoration designers.

The Events Action team



## FINANCE REPORT TO 20TH OCTOBER 2021

The finance report below shows us that our finances are in reasonably good order. However, we must be very careful to keep the level of giving up so that when the financial year, ending on 31 December, closes we have as near as possible achieved a break-even year. I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year.

Kind regards  
 Leslie Innes  
 Finance and Stewardship Convenor

### St Mary's Parish Church Wednesday 20 October 2021 Finance Committee Report at 30 September 2021

1 INCOME	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
a) Offerings	£ 85,370	£ -	£ 85,370
b) Tax Recovered	£ -	£ -	£ -
c) Donations to General Fund	£ 750	£ -	£ 750
d) Donations to Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
e) Donations to Fabric Fund	£ -	£ -	£ -
f) Miscellaneous Income	£ 9,300	£ 145	£ 9,445
g) Use of Premises / Interest	£ 2,312	£ 36	£ 2,348
h) Life & Work	£ 396	£ -	£ 396
	<b>£ 98,128</b>	<b>£ 2,181</b>	<b>£ 100,309</b>
<b>2 EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 96,533</b>	<b>£ 12,157</b>	<b>£ 108,690</b>
<b>3 STATEMENT OF FUNDS</b>			
Congregation	£ 22,061		
Fabric	£ 8,587		
Reserve	£ 80,618		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 111,266</b>		
Consolidated Fabric Fund	£ 11,194		
<b>4 ANNUAL COMPARISONS</b>			
Offerings to End September 2021	£ 85,370		
Offerings to End September 2020	£ 88,654		
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-£ 3,284</b>		<b>-3.7%</b>
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income to End September 2021	£ 98,129	£ 2,181	£ 100,310
Income to End September 2020	£ 109,917	£ 11,529	£ 121,446
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-£ 11,788</b>	<b>-£ 9,348</b>	<b>-£ 21,136</b>
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Expenditure to End September 2021	£ 96,533	£ 12,157	£ 108,690
Expenditure to End September 2020	£ 107,217	£ 24,533	£ 131,750
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-£ 10,684</b>	<b>-£ 12,376</b>	<b>-£ 23,060</b>
			<b>-17.5%</b>





After a gap of 574 days the ladies of the Guild met face to face in the Avon Hall on Monday 4 October. It was so good to be able to meet again in fellowship and be addressed by our minister, Bryce. Bryce spoke on the Guild Strategy for the next 3 years - Look Forward in Faith with this year's Theme being Lights and Bushels.

We are meeting on a fortnightly basis and our second meeting was a repeat of Bill Simpson's entertainment at the Men's Fellowship. This was a fun and uplifting meeting enjoyed by all. On Monday 1 November we were joined by Liz Blackman and Helen Calder who gave us an insight into Drama Kirk and how it has developed over the last 18 months with Bible Studies regularly on line.

We continue the session with a visit from Karen Simpson and some of the young people of our church. We will then be joined by Ros Ward for a floral demonstration, a follow on from one given via Zoom by Ros last year.

We will end our session by having a Christmas Dinner at the Bentley, which we are looking forward to.

We continue to reach out to our Church young people through our knitting skills and some of our ladies are busy producing mini Christmas stockings.

New members are always welcome to join us on alternate Monday evenings in the Avon Hall at 7.30 pm.

Isabel Johnstone  
Guild President



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

On Monday 11 October it was good to again meet for the first time in many months face to face with almost a full turnout of Fellowship Members, where we enjoyed not only the fellowship but were also well entertained by the inimitable Bill Simpson. The evenings contents were controlled by his entertainment wheel of fortune, which when spun dictated the theme for Bill to follow and gave us an evening of Magic, Songs, Stories, and music which was played by him on a wide range of instruments. Howard Rennie's vote of thanks expressed the view that it had been a thoroughly entertaining evening and a very fitting start to the new session.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October our Minister Bryce, using a power point presentation spoke about the Book of Psalms. In his most interesting address, he explored the history of the book, it's writers and the fact that it could be divided into 4 distinct sections. Bryce's exploration of the make up of the Psalms and the way the verses were constructed was both entertaining and educational. The further discussions over tea and coffee showed the impact and interest his talk had engendered.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to an evening in the church where our Church Organist and Fellowship member Ronald Mackie will explain and demonstrate the scope of our magnificent Allen Organ.

Looking forward, on 22 November we will be addressed by Jillian Storrie.

The last meeting before the Festive Break will be on Monday 6 December when we will have our usual QUIZ.

### Meetings in 2022

Jan 17 - John Thomson  
Jan 31 - Howard Rennie - My Way  
Feb 14 - Alan Joyce - Couples  
Feb 28 - Alan Joyce - 30 yrs. of Fun  
Mar 14 - TBA  
Mar 28 - AGM

If you care to join us be assured that a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may find it convenient. We meet on the published dates in the Avon Hall at 7.30 pm.

Allan Joyce  
President







## **Back to BBs Update....**

All sections of the Company returned on a trial basis in May and June and the Company Section spent this successfully outdoors at Ravenscraig Sports Centre with a mix of outdoor games.

When considering the start of the new session there were still a number of restrictions for the 12+ age range that were going to make it difficult to be indoors in the church - namely the need to wear masks.

This combined with the volume of people because the Anchor Boys also meet on a Friday night made us look again at Ravenscraig as a temporary venue.

Ravenscraig have been very supportive and we have been able to secure the large indoor athletics area which we can use for a pretty much anything we like and also either an indoor or outdoor football pitch for an hour in the middle of the night.

Fortunately after such a long hiatus the boys have returned in good numbers - we have 38 boys on the register and attendance around 30 each week - supported by our excellent staff of 12 enthusiastic officers.

At Ravenscraig we have been able to offer a real mix of activities in the first 6 weeks - table tennis, short tennis, badminton, non-stop cricket, relays, netball, rugby, heady hand ball, football, volleyball, dungeon ball and circuits all after some warm-ups!

### **CHRISTMAS ~~COFFEE MORNING~~ FAYRE**

As a staff we have considered the coffee morning very carefully and come to the conclusion that we cannot host our usual coffee morning - the hall is normally jammed, we are not able to have the Junior Section sing, home-baking isn't able to be served - but we do want to do something so we are currently looking at a more Christmas Fayre style event with stalls in the hall, some takeaway food and drink, activities for the children and possibly something in the grounds.

Keep an eye on the church notices and BB twitter for more information.

Take care and stay safe, from your friends in the Boys' Brigade.

Captain Stewart Maxwell

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### **ANCHOR BOYS**

We have had a very successful start to our new session with 35 boys registering with our section.

Our nights have been made up with the usual mix of games and crafts and our new boys have settled in very well to our routine.

Our annual fancy dress party was a huge success with the boys taking part in various games and challenges. On the 5 November we had a fireworks themed night where boys had fun with sparklers and toasted marshmallows outside in the fire pit.

# 13<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



Our squads have been formed with our Primary 3 boys all taking on the role of Squad Leaders. The boys decided we would name our 4 squads Spiderman, Captain America, Thor and Iron Man and we look forward to having lots of competitions throughout the session to build up points.

We will be having some games nights as we look forward to our Christmas party night in a few weeks' time.

If you know of any boys in Primary 1-3 who would like to join our Anchor Boys Team then please get in touch. All are welcome.

Gordon Murray  
Officer-In-Charge

## junior section update

Junior Section started back for the 2021-2022 session in September. It was so good to be back in the church halls and able to meet together as a section.

We have welcomed several new boys and feel very fortunate that our numbers are thriving despite the long break we had to take due to lockdown.

We currently have around 30 boys joining us every Wednesday night. The boys have adapted brilliantly to the various infection control measures we have introduced as part of ensuring a safe return to face to face meetings and seem to be enjoying getting back into the swing of things.

We have also welcomed Cameron Fry as an officer. Cameron has just completed his Queens badge and it has been great to see him continue his BB journey as a new officer. Alongside Cameron our group of dedicated officers for this session are: Greg McLaughlin, Gillian Brown, Graeme Lindsay and Gavin McLaughlan. If anyone would like to volunteer to help at junior section we would be delighted to have you on board. Please contact Captain Maxwell if you would like to get involved.

In terms of our session nights, whilst we unfortunately do not have battalion competitions to prepare for at the moment (the battalion is still trying to configure a COVID compliant way of running them), we are making the most of the extra time for games, marching and team building activities.

We have also had our annual Halloween party recently and we have some great speakers lined up for Guest Member November including our first ever international speaker! We will be sure to provide an update on how it goes in the next edition.

Stephanie Laing  
Officer in charge

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### CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE

**Sunday 5 December**

This year our gift service will support families in need in our own area. Monetary donations, wrapped gifts (small toys, hats, scarves, colouring books, pens, books, jigsaws and toiletries) labelled with boy/girl and age would be most helpful. These will be distributed via Women's Aid and One Parent Families organisation.



Our Guiding units are now back to Face to Face meetings. With much preparation and organisation of materials our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are now back in the church halls having fun and enjoying each other's company as they take part in Guiding activities.

### 6B Brownies

The Monday Brownies started back a few weeks ago and are getting into the swing of things. We have a lot of new Brownies who are working towards their Promise badge whilst the older Brownies are working towards other Interest badges.

In the last few weeks, we have celebrated Harvest, by making Scarecrows. We've been learning new games to play and been busy building Dens. We had our Halloween party which was a great success and all the Brownies made a great effort with their costumes.

We celebrated Bonfire night and made our own Sparklers, shown in the picture below.

We're looking forward to many more nights with a pyjama party, a sponsored dance and obviously our Christmas celebrations approaching...

Halloween has been celebrated by our Rainbows and Guides shown below with some adaptations from previous years.



Our units are very busy with girls joining us for an exciting Guiding experience. More volunteers would be welcome and will have opportunities to try new things and gain new skills as well as being role models for our girls. Whether you wish to give a little or a lot of time register your interest by logging on to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/become-a-volunteer/>



## WORK PARTY

Normally we meet each Monday morning for 6 months. Starting in April and finishing in September.

This year, we only met for the first time in early August. We have carried out several small repairs within the main church buildings, but the biggest single challenge was to start the repainting of the Avon Street railings. We have completed the scraping of the old paint, and have undercoated the railings in readiness for starting the gloss painting in Spring 2022. The joy of having that to look forward to, will keep us going through the winter months! .... And if you believe that ..... We are grateful to a Hamilton painting contractor, who lets us have all the paint, and associated materials we need for any decoration that we undertake, at cost price. We are also very grateful, to the lady, who provides the home baking to us every Monday morning.

Howard Rennie

## YOUR PROPERTY MATTERS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone from the Property Team.

The church is open and warm, please come and see the beautiful Christmas tree and decorations, thanks to the Events Action Team and Margaret McCloy's Team of Elves.

Thanks to everyone who helped keep the church in such great order during 2021.

Hope to see you all soon.  
Thanks  
Alan Joyce

Property Convener

## COFFEE AT ST MARY'S



Coffee, tea, biscuits and chat are now a familiar sight in the Avon Hall on Wednesday mornings, from 10-12.

Around 30-40 have gathered for a chat each week over the last 2 months. We have also been lucky to have over 30 volunteers who help run this new venture. Many thanks to all who are assisting. Should you wish to help please speak to Christine Clark, Margaret Watson or Isabel Johnstone to have your name added to a rota.

**We are taking a break over the Christmas Period.**

**Our last coffee will be on 15 December and we will resume on 12 January.**

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## PRIZEWINNING HOLIDAY POSTCARDS





# Junior Church News!

It's been great to be back at Junior Church. Over the past few Sundays we have been learning many Bible stories- Jonah, Daniel and the lion's den, Noah, and the story of Moses. We also took time to make our Autumn display for the windows and took part in the Harvest family service... a busy few weeks. In November we look forward to sharing in 2 baptismal services, welcoming 2 new babies to our Tots Zone and also taking part in the Remembrance service and special anniversary service.

On 15 November some of our Junior Church children will be visiting the Guild to take part in a talk and talent night. We are delighted to have had so many volunteers... I'm sure the ladies will be looking forward to our visit.

As always, our staff team and our children in Junior Church are looking forward to the build up to Christmas. We have lots of lovely services and activities planned for this year.

Our monthly challenge is to make a Christmas decoration... details can be found on the following page.

Merry  
Christmas

Special dates...

We will be hosting a November Nativity Night ...this will be our launch for our all-age Nativity play and will be an opportunity to hand out parts and to try on our costumes!

Sunday 5 December is our annual Gift Service.

On Sunday 12 December we will be taking part in our service of Lessons and Carols.

Sunday 19 December will be our all-age Nativity play, performed during the morning service.



In the evening, at 6 pm we will be hosting our Carols by torchlight service in the church grounds, followed by hot treats in the church and a chance to watch the children's Christmas messages.

Our party afternoon will be on Saturday 18 December at 2 pm. Our "Winter wrap up and wellies" afternoon will take place in the church grounds and we hope to have lots of fun playing games, enjoying treats and meeting Santa . (Weather permitting!)



## JUNIOR CHURCH CHALLENGE

The theme for our challenge this month is  
Christmas trees!



We would love for our children and friends in the congregation to make a decoration using re-cycled household junk/craft resources or maybe even re-modelling an old decoration to hang in our conference room windows for our December display. We hope to decorate our window on Sunday 5 December.



Please, also share with us a picture of your Christmas tree decoration by sending your entries in the usual way to Karen, Lisa, Bryce or to the church twitter.



## UPDATE

In keeping with its ongoing campaign to draw attention to the damaging effects of climate change on the most vulnerable, Christian Aid took part in the march and gathering in Glasgow on 6 November and supported the Young Christian Climate Network in their really walk from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow.

The work of helping families in the grip of a global hunger emergency goes on. Christian Aid works with the long-standing partners such as the World Food Programme to bring help to people in desperate need.

The situation is particularly dire in South Sudan, where it is estimated that up to 60% of the country will face severe food insecurity.

Hundreds of thousands of women, men and children are likely to face famine. Christian Aid wants to work with its partners to raise emergency funds to provide the lifesaving support they need. The charity hopes to provide water hygiene kits to give households clean drinking water, buy seeds and tools for households to grow vegetables and buy essential food for families facing starvation.

This, of course, requires the continuing support of all its supporters. Please continue to support Christian Aid whenever possible and read information on its website: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

Margaret MacGregor



It's good to say 'hello' to you once more in our Christmas bulletin. I feel that the end of the year has come upon us much too quickly. As it comes to an end, let us pray that next year will bring with it new beginnings that we might experience the love and peace of Christ in our hearts and minds as we journey through 2022.

Throughout this global pandemic, the Scottish Bible Society is privileged to be a part of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide fellowship of organisations working in over 240 countries and locations serving and supporting each other in times of crisis. They each reach out with love and hope.

Despite national lockdowns, over 30 million full Bibles and 190 million other Scripture items, from New Testaments to Gospels, have been distributed and through their reading and prayer, lives have been transformed. One child, who lives in Syria, said: "Since I was eight, I have wanted my own children's Bible. I just got one and I can't put it down! I just read and read and read!" Many other stories are told of people whose lives have been changed through the reading of His Word.

'Global Growth of Bible-based Trauma Healing': Daily, we read or hear in the news about people who flee from their homeland because of terror, loss and war. At home, some are traumatised through fear, loss of a loved one or suffer hardship in their homes. Scottish Bible Society and Bible Societies, throughout the world, have volunteers who are trained to help bring healing and recovery through Bible-based Trauma Healing.

Trauma is a deep wound of the heart and mind that takes a long time to heal. It hurts every part of us: our relationships, our bodies, our thoughts, and our faith. People are being healed through taking part in this healing programme. Rami Dikki from the Bible Society in Syria reflected on the need for Trauma Healing and shared this: "But deep in the darkness, there is light. A light that no-one can put out. A light that brings joy and happiness."

Bible Societies are working hard to reach out with practical, nutritional and spiritual support to help those who are in need.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for the Scottish Bible Society.

Take care and God bless.

Margaret Carrol  
Motherwell Action Group

## FLOWER LIST FOR 2022



JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
2nd	Mrs J Weir	6th	Mrs I Gardiner Miss C Kelly	6th	Mrs M Skimming Mrs M Carrol
9th	Mr H Rennie Mrs E Williams	13th	Mrs D Livingstone Mrs C Brownlie	13th	Mrs M Watson Mrs C Dewar
16th	Mrs M McArdle Miss J Graham	20th	Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	20th	Miss I Johnstone
23rd	Mrs N McMillan Mrs M Wilson	27th	Mr & Mrs Malcolm	27th	Mrs J Findlay
30th	Church Choir				
APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
3rd	Mrs B Neilson Mrs E Calder	1st	Mr & Mrs Malcolm Mrs J McPherson	5th	Mrs W Burrell
10th	Mrs H Graham Mrs E Currie	8th	Mrs J Conquer	12th	
17th	Mrs E Taylor/ Mrs J Findlay Mrs E Simpson	15th	Mrs S Brown Mrs J Westwood	19th	
24th	Mrs E Scott Mrs S Forrest/ Mrs L Kelly Mrs Anne Johnstone	22nd	Mrs A Pearce	26th	Mrs F Hannah
		29th	Mrs C Allan		
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
3rd	Mrs E Blackwood			4th	Mrs N Smith
10th	Mrs F Shearer	7th	Miss J Pettigrew Mrs G Neill	11th	Friends of Irene Nimmo Mrs J Loughbridge
17th	Miss L Clarkson Mrs Galloway	14th	Mrs L O'Neill	18th	Mrs N Thomson
24th	Miss J Moffat Miss A Ford	21st	Mrs J Crawford Mrs E Fraser	25th	Mrs M Joyce Mrs J Findlay
31st	Mrs M Dick	29th			
OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
2nd	Mr A Joyce (Jnr) Mrs B Aitkenhead	6th	Mrs L Huggins Mrs J Weir	4th	Mr S McCue-Dick Mrs S Carswell The Guild
9th	Mrs S Forrest	13th	Mrs S Sinclair Mrs A Corbett	11th	Mr W Wotherspoon Mrs E Williams Mrs I Scott
16th	Mrs I Dougal Miss V Craig	20th	Mrs M McCloy Mrs D Livingstone	18th	Mrs M Wilkie Mrs C Dewar
23rd	Mrs Currie	27th	Miss J Graham	25th	Mrs F Renwick Mrs D Connor Mrs A Brown
30th					

There are dates in June, August and October which are currently free. Should you wish to put flowers in the sanctuary on any of these dates please contact June Graham, Flower Convener.



**Useful Contacts**

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



twitter@stmarysmwell  
 twitter@bryce\_calder



St Marys Parish Church Motherwell

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



**FLOWER LIST**

**DECEMBER 2021**

- 6th            Mr S McCue-Dick  
                  Mrs S Carswell  
                  The Guild
- 13th           Mr W Wotherspoon  
                  Mrs E Williams  
                  Mrs I Scott
- 20th           Mrs M Wilkie  
                  Mrs C Dewar
- 27th           Mrs F Renwick  
                  Mrs D Connor  
                  Mrs A Brown

**JANUARY 2022**

- 2nd            Mrs J Weir
- 9th             Mr H Rennie  
                  Mrs E Williams
- 16th           Mrs M McArdle  
                  Miss J Graham
- 23rd           Mrs N McMillan  
                  Mrs M Wilson

**FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

28	Nov	11.00 am	Anniversary Service with Communion
5	Dec	11.00 am	Gift Service
12	Dec	11.00 am	Lessons and Carols
19	Dec	11.00 am	Nativity Play
19	Dec	6.00 pm	Carols by Torchlight
24	Dec	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
25	Dec	10.30 am	Family Service

