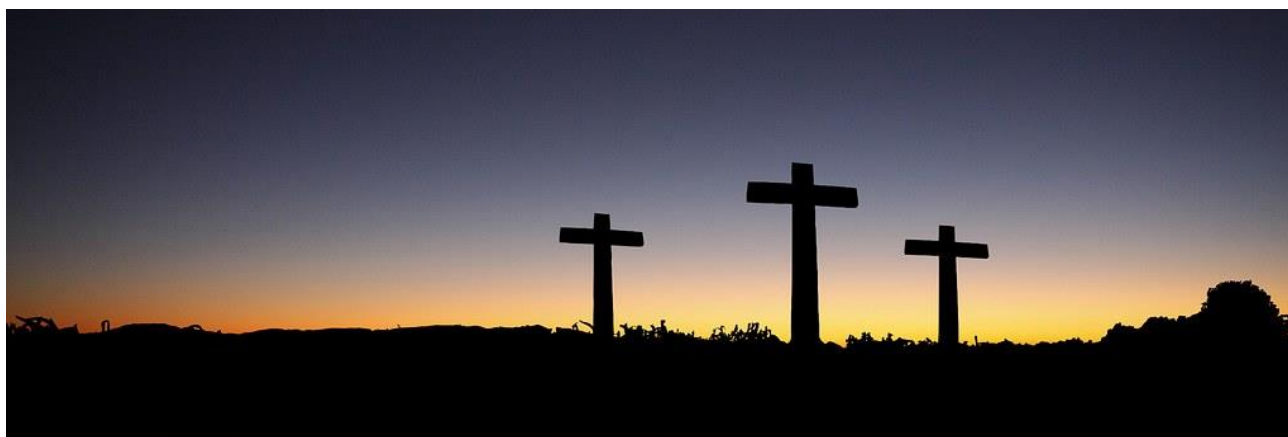


ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



EASTER 2023

Bulletin No 358



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

27 November 2022 Luke Ian Miller

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

January 2023	Nettie Thomson
12 January	Mary Cumming
13 January	William (Bill) Wotherspoon
20 January	John Carswell
14 February	Peter Ferguson
8 March	Jessie Pettigrew
21 March	Christine Loudon



Presentation of Long Service Awards to Elders James Galloway (40), Ian Beaton (40) and William Simpson (50).



Hamilton
Lent 2023

Dear Friends,

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus....." These are the opening words of almost every letter which Paul wrote, to churches and individuals, in the fast-expanding infant church, in those hectic and heady years after his encounter on the Damascus Road. Paul uses this opening to help establish his credentials as a true convert - to assure everyone that he was no longer the persecutor of Christians, but a totally changed person, utterly committed to spreading the Gospel.

It is now something like seven years since Marlene and I first arrived on a Sunday morning at St Mary's - and were made so warmly welcome that we instantly decided that this was the place for us! - so I hope that I don't have to establish my credentials! We feel completely at home in St Mary's - you see us in the choir Sunday by Sunday, Marlene is currently Guild President, and the Men's Fellowship know that once I have arrived they can start. [I usually arrive at the last minute because it takes me a little longer to get through the border check-point between South and North Lanarkshire!!]

Over these years I have had countless opportunities to be even more involved on Sundays - conducting worship, preaching, celebrating the great festivals of Communion, Baptisms, Remembrance, Easter and Christmas, and also the privilege of leading families and friends in giving thanks for loved ones who have passed away.

So this is an opportunity for me to publicly say "thank you" to Bryce for his graciousness in allowing me to have this level of involvement, including the joy of

baptising our grand-daughter, and playing a small part in offering support and guidance to the succession of ministry trainees. And I have to say Bryce is especially trusting when it comes to asking me to provide pastoral cover for him when he and Helen are on holiday - I do my best to hand back the congregation untraumatized and in good heart!

But this Pastoral Letter is slightly different. I am writing it because, unfortunately, Bryce is on sick leave, and he has asked me to cover for him until he is able to return. So I am asking you to keep me in your prayers as I in turn assure you that I will do all I can to support and look after all of you until we get Bryce back.

More importantly however, I am asking you to keep Bryce, and Helen and the family, in your thoughts and prayers during what, for them, is an anxious time.

Please also remember that Alan Joyce and Stewart Maxwell, our Co-Session Clerks have significant responsibilities, as do all the office-bearers, with Stewart having the additional task of representing St Mary's during the Presbytery planning process.

During the season of Lent the world-wide Christian Church reflects upon the courage, determination, and faith of Jesus as he embarked upon the final weeks of his earthly life, having "steadfastly set his face to Jerusalem." [St Luke 9:51]

Lent is a special time, calling upon us to take our cue from Jesus. So together let us trust in God, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continue going forward in mission and outreach, with determination, courage, and, above all, faith.

With every blessing.

Rev John Thomson

NEW ELDERS



Rosaline Ward, Elaine Neilson, Ronald Mackie, Hilary Kidd, Alan Henderson, Fraser Joyce, Kristeen Kennedy, and Kirsteen Dick were recently admitted to eldership in St Mary's.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

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

Due to the generosity of all who come for a chat and a treat on Wednesday mornings we continue to support others. Benefiting in the church was the kitchen with a new urn and thermal jugs.

The young people of our church benefited too, with money donated to the Guiding units for their Centenary Fun afternoon and support for the Boys Brigade Quiz team travelling to Northern Ireland.

We were also able to make a gift to a Ukrainian family.

The Coffee Morning has also been supporting the Y Zone in promoting Fair Trade. The chocolate was particularly well received.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A card has been received from the residents of Avondale Care Home for the Prayer Shawls received at Christmas.

Thank you to all who made the 44 shawls needed. In fact, 66 were produced.



Work Party 2023

The above will resume their activities on **Monday 17 April at 9 am.**

If you are able to join us, even if you are unable to attend every Monday, you would still be welcome Enthusiasm trumps skills!

Howard



End of year financial report to the Annual Business Meeting - February 2023

I reported at the recent Annual Business Meeting that at the 31st December 2022 our finances, although still in reasonable shape, had suffered a deficit of £7,000 in our General Account. This is the account which pays all of our bills with the money received from Standing Orders and from envelopes. Although in deficit in 2022 we still have a small amount in this account built up over a number of years of surplus.

This deficit has appeared at a bad time in the history of this Church. The Presbytery are moving on with plans to reduce the number of Churches in Motherwell and the only criteria taken into account for the survival of a Church is a) the size of our Parish and b) the amount of income generated to carry on our Christian Mission. At a time like this we need to show that we are capable of surviving financially and able to meet our commitments. While we cannot change the size of our Parish we can certainly increase the amount of income generated. We need to do this at a time when our Treasurer has predicted a £13,000 deficit for 2023.

We are in a situation as families and individuals where household costs are spiralling out of control and people are finding it difficult to find the extra money to buy groceries and pay fuel bills. Our Church, like most organisations, is finding costs increasing almost on a daily basis. Thankfully we have been tied into a low tariff for gas and electricity for the last 4 years. This low tariff ends in October of this year and who knows how much we will be charged thereafter.

I would urge you all to consider whether you can increase what you give or not. Even a small increase would help our financial position. Even if you cannot increase what you give, you can, if not already signed up, agree to join the Gift Aid initiative. That would mean that for every £1 given, the Government would contribute 25 pence in tax recovered. Over the last 5 years we have received over £100,000 in tax recovered. This money is vital and most certainly if we had not received it, our Church would have struggled to honour our financial commitments and therefore would have struggled to survive.

Please consider giving through Gift Aid. The rules for this are that you must be a tax payer and you must fill in a form which can be had at the Church office. If you have any doubt about this or you are not a taxpayer but have a spouse or partner who is, please come and speak to me about a joint contribution in the name of the tax payer.

We have 529 members in this Congregation and 250 did not contribute to the upkeep of the Church in any way in 2022. The figures for the previous 4 years are similar. If we were to receive a contribution, no matter how small on a regular basis from those who do not contribute, what a difference to our finances that would make. Therefore, I appeal to those 'sleeping members' to consider returning to attendance and/or to contribute financially in some way.

Our Church is at a crossroads in our history and we must ensure that we remain in our building, continuing the great work already being done by a great many people. Thanks to all of you who have supported the Church financially over the last year and before. Your support is gratefully received and most certainly greatly appreciated by myself, the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

Thanks again!

Kind regards
Leslie Innes
Finance and Stewardship
Convenor



GUILD

This year has been the first full syllabus and meetings since Covid, averaging between 40 and 50 members each meeting. We have had great fun and uplifting meetings but remembering, "Whose we are and whom we serve".

We have had a variety of music, Some Difference, St Mary's Church Choir, Inbetweeners and Faith Notes. The Cadzow Quartet will be joining us at our Closing Social on 20th March. The Men's Fellowship invited us on 2 evenings, the St Andrew's Celebration and meeting the New Elders on the 13 March. Nineteen of us attended the Big Sing in Motherwell.

Our Guild Theme, "Wee Seeds, Big Trees", and Project, "Home for Good", highlighted the growth in our faith as we support those children and young adults who are seeking a home for good. We have raised over £400 for this project by having a "Christmas Arrangement in a Cup", and a "Bring and Buy" Sale. This could not have been achieved without the support of the committee and Guild members.

Our Christmas Dinner, Film Night and Desert Island Discs have been well received and have helped us recover from the lockdowns of Covid. The most successful evening by far has been the display of Wedding Dresses. Over eighty people attended and it just felt as if we were guests at a real wedding. I would like to thank Heather Greenhorn, Karen Maxwell, and their friends, for supplying the food and looking after the dresses.

Thank you also to the brides who kindly lent their dresses and the live models who were beautiful.



Long Service Certificates were received by Clare Mackenzie (50 years) Jean Mitchell and Helen McKenna (both 40 years) and Joyce Knox (25 years). Mention must also be made of the 66 prayer shawls made by Guild and Church members. Forty-four prayer shawls were presented to residents at Avondale Care Home. This was a huge undertaking by Clare and is an ongoing project via the Guild and is a great ministry.



Long Service Certificates were presented at the AGM by Rev John Thomson

We have over the last few months lost some of our members but it is heartening to know new members have joined us and hopefully more will do so over the next year. We are an outgoing group and have had some excellent events, both interesting and light hearted.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee and welcome new member June Wilson and new Secretary, Helen McKenna. Jean Mitchell remains on the Committee and together with Isobel Stewart, will organise any Guild outings. I would also like to thank Elizabeth Blackwood who now retires from the Guild Committee.

Let us look forward to next year which I hope will be as exciting as this year. Thank you to everyone who have made this such a successful Guild.

Marlene Thomson
Guild President



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the first meeting of the year on Monday 16 January I was pleased to welcome a good turnout of members and in a talk entitled "From River Banks" fellowship member Rev John Thomson told of his journey into and thorough his ministry.

On Monday 30 January the Fellowship enjoyed a gossip with tea and coffee interspersed with dips into the works of our National Bard in a presentation prepared by our secretary Alan.

Monday 13 February and we enjoyed the discussion between John Thomson and our minister Bryce on Bryce's choice of his "Desert Island Discs" which for some of the members reminded them of the music enjoyed by their children.

Monday 27 February and in a most enjoyable and entertaining talk entitled "80 40" Alasdair Blackwood told of his time in St Mary's and in his teaching career, evoking happy memories for many of us of school days and changes in and around the church.

At the time of writing, I am looking forward to our next meeting which is joint with the Guild when a group of our newest Elders will be involved in a "Question Time" panel chaired by one of their number Hilary Kidd, giving their spontaneous views on the questions,

Once again it has been my pleasure to chair our well attended fortnightly meetings and while there are no more meetings this session, I extend an open invitation to join us when we restart in October, where you can be assured that a warm welcome awaits you any evening you care to join us, we meet at 7.30 in the Avon Hall.

Allan Joyce
President

2022-23 Session Update....

We have 40 boys on the roll and are getting regular attendances of around 30. The session is back running at pre-pandemic levels of activities at a local company (Friday night), Battalion Competition and even National Competition level.

COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing in mid-March we have had 6 battalion competitions so far this session - Junior 5-a-side (1st Place), Swimming Gala (3rd Place - hit by a sickness bug at the competition!) 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.

We are currently preparing for the Cross Country and Squad Drill before the Easter holidays and then have 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 Junior 5-a-side, Senior 5-a-side, FIFA (Football Computer Game) and Masterteam Quiz.

The Junior football didn't work out for us as the fixtures clashed with our boys own teams football games on a Saturday. The Seniors successfully progressed to the second round of their competition but were drawn to a heat in Buckie in the very north of Scotland so the logistics and senior boys work and school commitments meant we had to bow out of that one! We did well in the FIFA competition, getting as far as the quarter finals.

In the National 'Masterteam' Quiz we progressed through several rounds to get to the Scottish Final. The Scottish Final was held on Saturday 11th February in Coatbridge. 7 teams had reached the final via the local qualifying rounds. 13th Motherwell achieved first place in the final making us **Scottish Champions**.

We now progress to the UK final to be held in Northern Ireland on Saturday 24th March. Well done so far and good luck in the UK final to our team of Evan Pattison, Charlie Fleck, Alasdair Crombie and Adam Hattie!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

In December it was wonderful to be able to host an *in-person* Christmas Coffee Morning!! The recipe of festive music (including the Junior Section!), excellent coffee, creamy cakes and Christmas gifts was popular once again and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise a **fantastic total of £2300** 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.

PRESIDENTS BADGES

This year we have 6 boys who will gain their President's Badge - Finlay Bradshaw, Charlie Fleck, Alex Hamilton, Alex Maxwell, Lewis McLachlan, Fraser Neilson and Adam Shepherd. This is the culmination of 4 years in the Company Section having worked through the Discovery 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 in November run by Lanarkshire District in Blantyre St Andrew's Parish Church.

QUEENS BADGE

This year we have 6 boys who are in the final stages of their work towards the Queens Badge: Ross Andrew, Nathan Bradshaw, Oliver Fry, Gregor Graham, Innes McClair and Evan Pattison. The boys have been working across all the sections of the Company this session 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 in early March as part of our ongoing link with the theatre group.

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 12 May in the Kings Church so watch this space for more information. Parents and friends of the Battalion are welcome to come along.

BB CAMP 2022 & 2023

At the end of November we held our Camp 2022 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 2023. A big thank you to Officer Greg Weir for producing the film

Camp 2023 was booked long ago and was launched to the boys in January - we have 24 boys signed up to go to Aviemore in July.... detailed planning is now in progress!

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

Captain Stewart Maxwell

National Masterteam Quiz Scottish Champions 2023!



Adam Hattie | Alistair Crombie | Charlie Fleck | Evan Pattison

FAIR TRADE WITH THE ANCHOR BOYS



Update

Christian Aid, like other charities, is coping with huge demands on its personnel and resources. Apart from its ongoing development work in many countries, it is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, responding to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Bryce has continued to offer us in St Mary's a way to contribute to DEC appeals by opening 'Just Giving' pages which have been highly successful.

The Motherwell and District Christian Aid Committee is now back to 'normal' and arranging local fundraising events. Our recent Pancake Day coffee morning in Crosshill Parish Church raised £651.70. It was great to see so many people from different churches coming along to support Christian Aid.

The next fundraiser will be a concert by Octave in May. Details will be given in the church intimations.

Christian Aid Week is 14-20 May.

Please continue to support Christian Aid in any way you can. The website - www.christianaid.org.uk - gives details of the charity's work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

Margaret MacGregor

Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides joined together for fun to celebrate Thinking Day and celebrate 100 years of Guiding in St Mary's on the afternoon of Saturday 25 February.

The girls had loads of fun working their way around the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) 5 World Centres. A passport was stamped as they visited the UK - having fun on a bouncy castle, India - making a peacock, Switzerland - creating fruit skewers which were coated in chocolate, Mexico - making maracas and Ghana - playing bongo drums and the balafon.



Crafts were taken home in World Thinking Day bags with a piece of birthday cake too. The afternoon ended with Hot Dogs and treats.

We were pleased to see our girls taking part in the Thinking Day Service on the Sunday and being joined by former leaders and girls in church and online. It was good to meet up with friends for a chat later in the hall.



Each month the Guides have been having a special evening to celebrate their Centenary, culminating with the fun day.

Among the cards received the unit was delighted to receive one from Scottish Guide Headquarters congratulating them on reaching the special milestone and wishing them well for the future.



Sheila Sinclair, Ellie Maxwell and Jean Fraser before cutting the birthday cake.



6th Motherwell Brownies



With a heavy heart, the 6th Pack Leaders were saddened to hear of the passing away of Miss Jessie Pettigrew, who had been a Brown Owl of the Unit in years gone by. The Brownies had very recently made a book of Brownie activities for Miss Pettigrew to look through, which we were told she enjoyed very much and loved nothing more than talking about her time in the Brownies, and we hope this gave her some happy reminders and memories of that time.

Only 2 months since the start to the 2023 Brownie year but with nearly 30 Brownies attending it has also been a busy one:

Charity Badge: the Brownies started this badge through entering the "BB Xmas Tree Competition", where they designed a Gifting Tree, collecting and donating presents for girls and boys of all age groups! They have since launched an "Easter Egg Collection", designing posters, and telling all their friends and family about their quest to collect as many eggs as possible to donate to local Foodbanks this Easter! The Brownies also send a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all their friends in St Mary's Church who are helping them with this challenge. In true Brownie style "**WELL DONE, WELL DONE, VERY WELL DONE!**"



Pancake Tuesday: Tues 21 February saw the girls make their very own pancakes from scratch, using some pancake ingredients, metallic cake cases, a peg, and a tea light! Mixed comments on how tasty they were (I think the sugar was missing)!



Fairtrade: the Girls recently spent the evening learning about Fairtrade, and painting the Fairtrade logo! They also participated in the tasting of some lovely Fairtrade chocolate, which the leaders enjoyed too!

Centenary Fun Day & Thinking Day: the girls also attended a Fun Day held to celebrate 100 years of Guiding in St Mary's. This was followed by a Thinking Day Service on Sunday morning.

And as always, each Tuesday night is filled with lots of **games, fun.... and lots of noise!**

6Bth Brownies

We have had a busy few weeks in Brownies - we started by celebrating Chinese New Year, which is the year of the Rabbit, by making sock bunnies with rice and making bookmarks and lucky red envelopes.

We also celebrated Burns night by sampling some Scottish food and making some Cranachan and dancing some Scottish dances



We enjoyed making toppings for our pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and for Thinking Day we ate treats from around the world and made friendship bracelets.

We have also had a number of our new Brownies making their Promise after they have worked hard on completing their Mission Books.



We had a great time participating in different activities to celebrate the Guides 100th Birthday, and we are looking forward to our Easter party.



The Rainbows have been learning about Fair Trade too and obviously enjoy the chocolate and ice cream.



They said goodbye to Claire Scobbie as a leader and will miss her. Claire put her artistic talents to work helping make Denise's key ring.



The girls are seen here delighted to receive their Drawing badge.



JUNIOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES



JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS

The Junior Church have had a good start to 2023. We were delighted to welcome all our families back after the festive break and have enjoyed working together on our new theme.

This session we have been looking at the themes of Creation, the big picnic, Communion and God's wonderful world. Activities have included making bird and bug boxes, bedside lights, creation wheels, sharing bags and supporting the Y Zone with some of their Eco tasks.

We enjoyed sharing in the special service for our Long Service Elders Sunday and loved making a noise at the Songs of Praise with our craft tambourines.

We are currently preparing for our special morning at church for Mothering Sunday. We will be inviting all our mums, grans and aunties to

join us at this special morning in church and in the halls for crafts, stories and treats.

Easter preparations are also ongoing and the team are busy preparing for our Easter fun afternoon. This will be held in the church grounds and in the Avon Hall from 2-4 pm on Saturday 25 March. We look forward to joining all our families for games, crafts and the premier of the Easter Story Lego Movie created by the Y Zone. We also hope to end our afternoon of fun with an egg hunt in the grounds.

Hiding in the grounds will also be some little hand-crafted chickens and eggs. Sincere thanks to the crafting ladies in the congregation for supporting Junior Church and sharing your talents.

We have also supported the Brownie Challenge to collect eggs for the local foodbank. This is very much appreciated.

Y ZONE

The Y-Zone have enjoyed another fun session full of Bible based activities and crafts.

We have enjoyed team building games and memory challenges along with 'would you rather' game which helped us think about the choices we make.

One of the themes running through the session has been the environment and we have spent time thinking about how we can make the church a more environmentally friendly place.

From poster competitions to question and answers with Bryce and finally in preparing a presentation on the Eco Award for the session.



(The winner of the Poster competition was Jennifer Ward)



Fairtrade Fortnight at
St Mary's Parish Church
Motherwell

What is Fairtrade?

CHOOSE THE WORLD
YOU WANT



It's one simple way to spark change – and it starts with our choices. Choosing Fairtrade means standing with farmers for fairness and equality, and against some of the biggest challenges the world faces



Fairtrade means fairer pay and more power in the hands of farmers, so that they can build a fairer future for their communities and create change for us all, from investing in climate friendly farming techniques and clean water for their community, to nurturing women leaders and making sure children get an education. When you choose Fairtrade, you're choosing the world you want to see.

Fairtrade changes the way trade works through upholding fair working principles and standards, and a fairer deal for farmers and workers. Fairtrade is the only certification that combines a fair minimum price for products and an extra amount of money (called the Fairtrade Premium) for farmers to spend on what their communities or businesses need.

We believe the people who earned that Fairtrade Premium know best how to transform their community, so how they spend that money is always their decision

When you choose Fairtrade, you're joining a global Fairtrade community of farmers, workers, businesses and consumers that's tackling some of the biggest problems facing the planet right now.

Whether that's climate change, women's rights, child labour or poverty, you can be proud that you're choosing to be part of the solution.



You're starting a ripple of change. For example, it begins with more money for farmers, and how they choose to spend it – on new classrooms maybe, which could lead to more children in school, creating opportunities and career choices for the first time in generations.

Meanwhile, Fairtrade works on many levels to strengthen environmental and climate protection, and is committed to finding new ways to support farmers with the challenges of climate change. And so choosing Fairtrade means you're making a wider impact on the planet by supporting a global fight for climate justice.

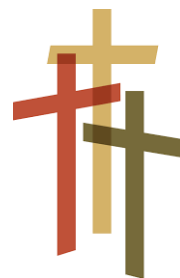




FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	2 April	11 am	Palm Sunday - Joint Service in Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church
HOLY WEEK SERVICES:			
Wednesday - 5 April at Craigneuk Belhaven: 7.00 pm			
Thursday - 6 April - Communion at St Margaret's: 7.00 pm			
Friday - 7 April - Good Friday Service at Crosshill: 7.00 pm			
Sunday - Outdoor Service in the Duchess of Hamilton Park: 9 am followed by an Easter Breakfast in St Mary's Halls			
Sunday	9 April	11 am	Easter Sunday

FLOWER LIST



APRIL

2nd Mrs B Neilson
Mrs E Calder
Mr A Craig

9th Mrs H Graham
Mrs E Currie

16th Mrs E Taylor/
Mrs J Findlay
Mrs E Simpson

23rd Mrs E Scott
Mrs S Forrest/
Mrs L Kelly

30th Mrs A Johnstone
Mrs J Knox

MAY

7th Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson

14th Mrs J Conquer

21st Mrs S Brown
Mrs J Westwood

28th Mrs A Pearce

JUNE

4th Mrs W Burrell

11th

18th

25th Mrs F Hannah

Useful Contacts

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



twitter@stmarysmwell
twitter@bryce_calder



St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

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

June Graham - Flower Convener
Please note: there are dates available
for contributions to the Flower Ministry.