

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



"I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from?"
Psalm 121

SUMMER 2023

Bulletin No 359



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BLESSING

12 March Connie Miller Edinburgh

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MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

2022

25 November Maria Kennedy and Ross Crawford

17 December Megan Hannah and Mark Smith

30 December Lyndsey Andrew and Alen Slamin

2023

10 April Kelly Anderson and John McCann

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

30 March Rena Smillie

4 May Robert Conquer





Ascension 2023

Dear Friends,

It seems no time since I was writing a pastoral letter for the last magazine - and here we are again!

At the time of writing Bryce, unfortunately, is still not back with us, so the first thing we must do is to remind him that he and Helen are always in our thoughts and prayers. Bryce, we hope that you will soon be back with us, because we are all missing you, and Helen, very much indeed.

I would like to thank our Co-Session Clerks, Stewart and Alan for all they are doing by way of leading the Session and congregation, and my thanks also to Arthur who has been very kind in taking some services and providing me with support.

Elsewhere you will read of the magnificent achievements of our Boys' Brigade - what a great advertisement for the BB Organisation, St Mary's, the officers and leaders, and of course the families - not to mention the boys themselves! Well done to all of you.

Presbytery have appointed Rev Les Brunger as Interim Moderator during Bryce's absence which means that he will take over responsibility for Kirk Session meetings and organising pulpit supply and pastoral cover. For the next 2-3 Sundays Arthur and I will be looking after things for you, so please do contact me if there is anything you feel I need to be aware of or deal with.

On Sunday 4th June Arthur will be at Cadzow Parish Church, Hamilton, celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his ordination. Our heartiest congratulations Arthur on this very special occasion. We

thank you for a lifetime of service to the Church of Scotland as preacher and pastor, colleague and friend, and we wish every blessing upon you, Elsie and the family.

Once again may I thank all of you for your support and encouragement at this time. Marlene and I are indeed blessed to be part of the St Mary's family.

As we approach summer and the holiday time the message is quite simple: stay safe, travel carefully, enjoy whatever breaks and holidays you embark upon - and know that always the Risen and Ascended Lord is with you each step of the way.

With every blessing.

Rev John Thomson

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Wednesday Coffee Mornings

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

The generosity of those who come on Wednesday mornings continues and has allowed us to fund some of the work being done by the Monday Work Party recently.

We will have a break during the Summer months. The last coffee will be served on 21 June and will start again on 16 August.

We have a good group of volunteers serving tea, coffee and treats but would be happy to welcome more. You choose the dates which suit, this can be on a regular basis or any Wednesday morning you are available.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Since the last magazine we have only had 2 meetings, the first of which was joint with the Guild, where the large number attending had an enjoyable evening when a number of our newest Elders formed a panel chaired by Hilary Kidd, where each member gave a short account of their journey into the Eldership and then expressed their views on a varied, interesting and sometimes humorous list of questions posed by the audience and by Hilary.

The final meeting of the year was our AGM where an almost full complement of members were in attendance.

The business of the AGM was quickly completed and the committee were re-elected for another year.

President	Allan Joyce
Vice President	Howard Rennie
Secretary	Alan Joyce
Treasurer	Tom Knox
Committee	Cameron Dick Bill Taylor Ronald Mackie
Honorary President	Rev Bryce Calder
Honorary Vice President	Rev Arthur Barrie

It was agreed that for next year the Fellowship would revert to meeting in The Conference Room, this would be fortnightly, on the same evenings as the Guild

The final part of the meeting was a Power Point presentation by the President entitled His Life and Passion, using pictures from the Holy Land and The Passion Play giving a short insight into the life of Jesus.

The Fellowship will resume on the first Monday of October when a warm welcome is assured to all who care to attend.

President
Allan Joyce



GUILD

It is quite remarkable that we are now into May and the summer is nearly upon us. The Committee are busy organising the syllabus for next year which is nearly complete.

The Guild trip - on Monday 15th May - was a great success. We were lucky with the weather as we visited the Riverside Museum in Glasgow. Many of us recognised the displays and could recall lifetime memories. The trams and trolley buses in Glasgow and the tiny cars which enabled us as families to spread our wings and visits other parts of Scotland and further afield. The display of prams was another hit and the we remembered the competition with friends to have the best-looking pram covers. Oh, the memories.



Our day was complete when other members joined us at The Radstone for tea. We all had a great time and returned home excited but tired. Some of the group even managed to attend the Church Quiz in the hall afterwards. I would like to thank Jean who did most of the organising, and Anne who ensured the financial transactions were completed.

The Guild Annual Gathering is at the Assembly Halls, Edinburgh on 9th September, 11 am - 4 pm. and Isabel Johnstone is taking names of those who wish to attend. Please let her know as soon as possible as she requires to apply for tickets.

The next Guild Committee meeting is scheduled for 28th August at 7.30 pm. Please remember to put into your diary.

We are now looking forward to the summer and hopefully meeting up with our families and friends. Wherever you travel, be safe, take care, and I wish you all good health. See you all again in October.

Marlene Thomson, Guild President

Championship Flag Winners!



END OF SESSION EVENTS

Our final parade night at church was the company sports night and presentation of awards where the boys are recognised for all their hard work throughout the session.

This year our Junior Sports Champion was Jamie Reid and our Senior Sports Champion was Euan Blackwood.

We also present 2 awards in recognition of boys who have made a particular contribution during the session or set an example to the other boys. This year the Officers' Endeavour award was presented to Scott Campbell and the Captain Mathie Commendation was presented to Nathan Bradshaw.

This year one of our new recruits inspired the introduction of a new award - Calum

Blackwood won Best Recruit for his commitment and enthusiasm throughout the session.

BATTALION REVIEW & FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP

The Annual Battalion Review took place on Friday 12 May in the Kings Centre and boys, officers, parents and friends of the Battalion enjoyed an evening of BB display items and presentations of individual awards and battalion competition trophies.

At 13th we have had a very successful year in the competitions - 5 first places (Bible Knowledge, Restricted Drill, Senior Football, Junior Football and Quiz) and 2 runners up places (First Aid and Athletics) out of a total of 11 competitions!

This all resulted in us coming out top in the Battalion to win the Championship Flag. We are all absolutely delighted with this result!

While it is nice to have success as a Company it is particularly pleasing to see boys within the Company achieve special individual awards.

PRESIDENT'S BADGES

We had 8 of our senior boys achieve their President's Badge this year: **Ewan McIntyre, Finlay Bradshaw, Charlie Fleck, Alex Hamilton, Alex Maxwell, Lewis McLachlan, Fraser Neilson and Adam Shepherd.**

This is the second highest award in the BB and involves completing the badge programme in physical, community and skills sections.

QUEEN'S BADGES

The Queen's Badge is the highest award in the Boy's Brigade and requires the young men to make some demanding commitments during the course of the programme.

Ross Andrew, Nathan Bradshaw, Oliver Fry, Gregor Graham, Innes McClair and Evan Pattison are all worthy recipients of the Queen's Badge. All 6 young men have given a great deal of time both to the company in their leadership roles and also to the community over the course of the last year. They have all developed through the process and have had an impact in each of the areas where they have worked.

Completing the Queen's Badge programme is not just about getting the award (although it is a proud moment for us all!) and I am sure that these outstanding young men will see it as the foundation for even greater things.

The officers of 13th congratulate the 6 young men on their achievements and wish them all the best for the future

COMING UP.....

We are returning to our favourite campsite at Badaguish outside Aviemore and are looking forward to going away as soon as the schools break up from Sat 1 - Wed 5 July.

24 boys are currently signed up to go supported by 6 staff and our Head Chef Mr Beattie and it looks to be another great camp in the making!

We will have excellent facilities including our campsite, indoor catering, dining and living areas and even a floodlit 5-a-side football pitch! The programme will be the usual mix of activities, sports, challenges, midgies and not enough sleep!

THANK YOU!

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Company over the last session.

To the officers in each of the sections who put in a great effort every week to provide an exciting and fun programme of events, to the parents who support their sons' involvement and to the congregation for its support collectively and as individuals - thank you!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

Dates for the Diary

1st July - 5th July - BB Summer Camp

Fri 6th October - First night back for Company Section.

National Masterteam Quiz UK Champions 2023!



Charlie Fleck | Adam Hattie | Evan Pattison | Alistair Crombie

THE MASTERTEAM

The Masterteam is a quiz competition run as part of the Boys' Brigade National Competitions programme

Of the 110 BB Companies who entered there were 54 from Scotland, 17 from Northern Ireland and 39 from England & Wales.

7th/16th Motherwell, 13th Motherwell and 19th Motherwell all entered from Motherwell, Bellshill & District Battalion.

The Motherwell, Bellshill and District companies took part in 2 local qualifying rounds - Round 1 hosted by 13th Motherwell at St Mary's Parish Church in November and Round 2 hosted by 19th Motherwell at St Margaret's Parish Church in January. Each of the rounds had 6 companies taking part.

19th Motherwell won the first round with 13th Motherwell in 2nd place and the second round was the reverse with 13th winning and 19th joint second with 4th/5th Kilmarnock.

Both 13th Motherwell and 19th Motherwell secured places at the Scottish Regional Final held in Coatbridge in February.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONS!

13th Motherwell achieved first place in the regional final making them **Scottish Champions**.

As Scottish Champions 13th would then progress to the UK final to be held in Northern Ireland on Saturday 25th March.

OUR TRIP TO BELFAST

The excitement of winning the Scottish final was quickly followed by the excitement of a trip to the UK Final in Belfast at the end of March. We had to get all the logistics organised - how to get there, where to stay, which officers would chaperone, and we have to thank all the friends of the company and the Kirk Session at St Mary's Parish Church for helping to fund the trip.

We had a great 24hrs in Belfast - we flew over on the Friday night, picked up our minibus and headed to the Boys Brigade NI centre in Lisburn outside Belfast where we were staying.

TITANIC

On the Saturday morning after an amazing Ulster Fry breakfast we headed off to the Titanic Experience.

We all found the Titanic experience fascinating - learning about the history of shipbuilding in Belfast, the building and sinking of Titanic and the exploration to find her many years later. Lots of history, technology and human interest stories.

THE UK FINAL

It was then back to the BB NI centre for lunch and to start the UK final along with the other regional finalists and runners up.

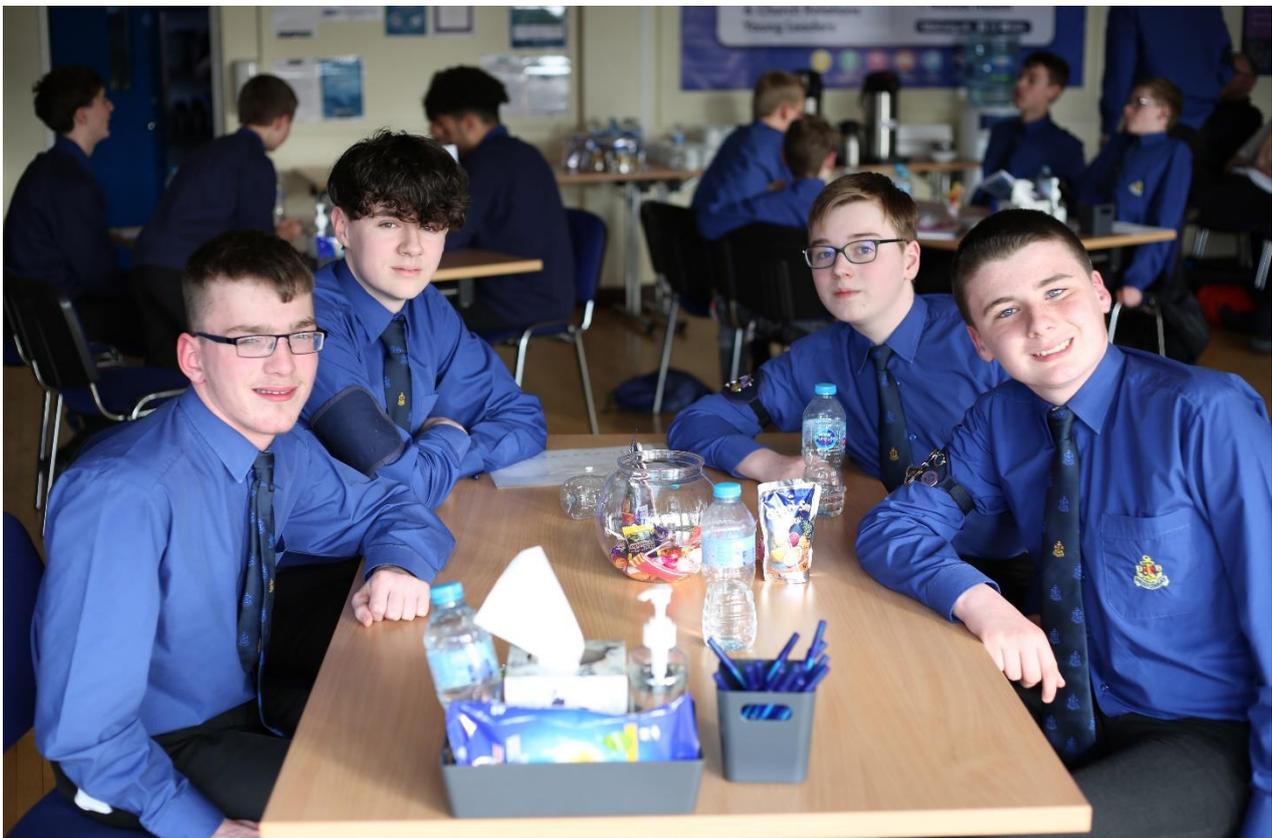
The competition was fierce with the company from Hartlepool racking up 10 out of 10 for the first 3 rounds leaving the 13th team trailing at the foot of the table. But by the half time break for ice creams the team had got into their stride and were sitting 3rd after 5 rounds.

We went into the 10th and final round in 3rd place but a blistering performance in the round saw a big change in the leaderboard. To huge surprise in the room 13th finished first by half a point ahead of 11th Bangor.

The National Masterteam trophy was presented to 13th Motherwell by Scott Carson the Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Congratulations Adam Hattie, Alistair Crombie, Evan Pattison and Charlie Fleck - the team from 13th Motherwell - and a first for Motherwell, Bellshill and District Battalion - National Masterteam Champions - we are all so proud of you!

Captain Stewart Maxwell



Rainbows

Like all of our units the Rainbows have been having lots of fun celebrating the Coronation with games and treats.

Pass the Crown



Pin the Diamond on the Crown



6th B Motherwell Brownies

The Brownie's enjoyed our Easter party, where we played games, hunted for eggs, made Chocolate crispy nests and made our own Easter bunnies craft.

We have been working towards various badges, for our Baking Badge - we made Top Hats, and the Brownies enjoyed licking all the chocolate left overs!!!

Our older Brownies are working on their Aviation Badge and so they made and decorated some paper airplanes, which they then flew to see whose plane flew the fastest.



Meanwhile, our new Brownies are working on their Mission booklets with a view to making their Brownie Promise soon.



6th Motherwell Brownies

There has been much excitement in the Girlguiding World with a new look and feel! This will be introduced over the next 2 years but for now there is a **new refreshed GirlGuiding Brand**, with a new Trefoil and Section Brands. The iconic yellow and brown of the Brownies stays. The new 'golden' yellow is used more than before making the section look more vibrant, exciting and reflects the girls' asking for less brown. The symbol for Brownies is a magnifying glass reflecting how curious and adventurous girls in Brownies are.



In the Unit, in the last 2 months, we have welcomed another 5 new Brownies and said goodbye to 5 of the Girls who have, with much excitement, transferred up to the Tuesday Guide Unit!

- Tuesday nights continue to be fun-filled with a lot of game playing, crafts and surprisingly we have even managed a couple of nights over at the Duchess Park!
- The girls are also working on their **Baking Badge**, cakes to come in the next couple of weeks, but the Kings Coronation gave them the perfect opportunity to make Afternoon Tea invitations and everyone from family to friends, to rabbits, dogs and toy monkeys were invited along!



- The girls also celebrated the King's Coronation by having a **Red, White & Blue** Party night! Dressed in red, white & blue, games were played with red, white & blue balloons, beautiful, colourful, jewelled crowns were made, the food was red, white and blue, and they played with our colourful parachute! A fun night had by all!



6th Guides

The Tuesday Guides have grasped another opportunity to eat and chose their treats for the Coronation Party.



Junior Church

Junior Church news...

In March our children in Junior Church enjoyed a fun filled afternoon of Easter crafts, games and songs. Our art work was on display in the halls and corridors and we added our Easter wreaths to the end of every pew for our Holy week services.



On Palm Sunday we joined the Motherwell Cluster churches for a joint service. Easter Sunday was an opportunity for us to meet at the park to worship together in the spring sunshine before heading back to the halls for breakfast.

April - June

Our Spring session began with a joint games morning led by our Y Zone - and the children thought about their individual talents.

Our theme of creation/Eco has continued - and has been the inspiration for our art morning thinking about God's amazing world and how we can care for it.

In preparation for the Coronation our children made a large 'Charity Coronation Crown'. this has been decorated with lots of shiny coin donations. If you would like to add to our collection it will be in the coffee hall for the next few Sundays. So far we have raised £76 for our chosen charity.

To mark the Coronation each child made a special keepsake coin, something to treasure for future years. Our friends in the congregation also received a small gift packet from Junior Church, containing some wild flower seeds.

Junior Church also received a commemorative medal as gift from Rev John Thomson and his wife Marlene. A very special keepsake indeed!

Thank you. We all enjoyed sharing in the celebration lunch afterwards. A busy weekend!



As the weeks pass we have the Christian Aid service to look forward to. Our Junior Church will be resplendent in red to raise awareness and are looking forward to taking part in this year's Prayer for others activities.

We look forward to ending our session with a Summer fun morning on Sunday 11th June and then sharing in a special family service on Sunday 25th June to mark the end of our session.

As always, we are most grateful to the team of leaders who week by week plan, prepare and share the stories, and activities with our children.

During the weeks of the school summer holidays our children are invited along to share in the morning worship in church with their families, or to join an informal meeting led by a small team of our parents for stories, games and a trip to the park weather permitting!

Finally, our Summer challenges. We look forward to seeing and sharing the photographs of your sunflowers as they begin to grow!



And .. remember if you are away for a day trip or on holiday to send us a postcard, a selfie or a message to let us know where you've been!

This year's Summer Challenges:



Challenge 1 –
send a **Summer Selfie!**

Maybe you'll be on a day trip with a friend, a weekend away, or away for your summer holiday.... we'd love to see your photographs!

Please send your entries to our Junior Church WhatsApp or to Bryce BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk

or to the church office
office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

Challenge 2 –
send a **Postcard!**

The Junior Church invites you to take part in our **Postcard Challenge**.

The address is -
Junior Church,
St Mary's Parish Church,
Avon Street,
Motherwell, ML1 3AB, UK.

What we challenge you to do is **tell us where you've been!**

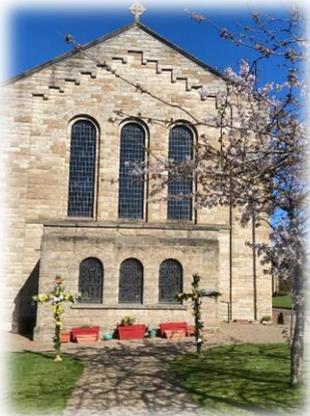
Maybe a day trip to Oban
Visiting family in Kent
Enjoying a weekend in London
Or somewhere exotic like the med! please let us know.

The Y Zone will display them to show where our friends have travelled to. We hope that this will help you to **keep our Junior Church in mind** and in your prayers as you travel near and far over the next months.

JUNIOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES



EASTER AT ST MARY'S



Y ZONE



The Y-Zone has enjoyed a fun packed session of Bible based games and activities. Taking things back to basics we have been looking at the people who wrote the Bible and have been trying to become more familiar with the various books, specifically with the New Testament. We have enjoyed 'group juggling', 'the empty chair game' and 'Mathew, Mark, Luke and John' ... to name but a few. We have also enjoyed helping out with a number of special teas and lunch and have enjoyed working with the littler ones within Junior Church in creating art work which has been displayed around the church.



We have also kept focus on what we can do to help the church become more environmentally friendly. To this end we have formed an Eco committee which will be tasked with monitoring the progress of our Eco Action Plan.

One area that we have already started looking at is recycling and on a weekly basis we are managing our own waste by recycling

what we can. Lots more is planned in this area, but delighted to be moving in the right direction.

We have also been up-cycling items where we can and have lots of crafts planned using pre-loved items.

Great work has also continued in this area via the other organisations within the church: Junior Church have always been great supporters of the environment through their focus and appreciation of creation and have recently made beautiful bird boxes for the church grounds and handed out wild flower seeds to the whole congregation as part of the coronation.

The property committee have also shown support by recycling unwanted and old clothes and all the proceeds were given to the Y-Zone to help towards resources for the Eco Award.

The BB's and girls in Guiding units have also shown their support by regularly using recycled items in their crafts and enjoy outdoor time for activities where they can.

This list is just a snap shot of the work that is being done and we look forward to sharing all the progress that is being made by the Eco committee and wider church family.





Update

This year, in Christian Aid week, the focus of fundraising was on the recurring problems of poverty and food insecurity for communities in Malawi. Covid, climate change, conflict in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis mean that in Malawi, soaring costs of food and essentials are crushing dreams, keeping people in desperate poverty.

Together with its partners, Christian Aid empowers vulnerable communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty, including giving them the skills to grow crops that are more resilient to the climate crisis, restore soil fertility, increase harvests, learn business skills and join cooperatives to earn more for their crops.

A crop highlighted by Christian Aid is pigeon peas (also known as yellow split peas). For thousands of farming families in Malawi, pigeon peas are a route out of poverty. The mighty pigeon pea is drought resistant, so thrives in the dry fields of southern Malawi. It's an essential part of the diet of millions of people around the world.

On Christian Aid Sunday, our wonderful Y Zone served tea, coffee and cakes after morning service to raise funds for Christian Aid. They also gave out quiz sheets and raised awareness of Christian Aid's work with communities like those in Malawi.

Margaret MacGregor





FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	11 June	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday	25 June	11 am	End of Session with the Junior Church

FLOWER LIST

JUNE

4th Mrs W Burrell
 11th Mrs C Anderson
 18th Mrs I Scott
 25th Mrs F Hannah



JULY

2nd Mrs E Blackwood
 9th Mrs F Shearer
 16th Miss L Clarkson
 Mrs Galloway
 23rd Miss J Moffat
 Miss A Ford
 30th Mrs M Dick

AUGUST

6th Mrs G Neill
 13th Mrs L O'Neill
 20th Mrs J Crawford
 27th

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.

