

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



CHRISTMAS 2024

Bulletin No 365



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

September	Mr Alex Gardiner
September	Mr Graham Currie
October	Mrs Isobel Bonomy

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Harvest Display 2024



December 2024

Dear Friends:

As I write my letter to the congregation, Advent and Christmas are very much in my mind. It is still only 4 November, though, and I am also aware of the imminence of Remembrance Sunday [10 November] and Remembrance Day [11 November].

This Remembrance, I will have the honour of taking part in Dalziel High School's Remembrance Service on Friday 8 November, our own St Mary's Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.45 am, the Motherwell Community Remembrance Sunday Service at 3.00 pm in the Duchess of Hamilton Park and the Glencairn Primary School Remembrance Service on Wednesday 13 November. With war still so rife in our modern world, the importance of Remembrance never fades. Rather, it grows as the years go on. This Remembrance Season may the words of the Apostle Paul be with us all, and with all who need to hear them the most: ***"May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*** [Philippians 4:7].

Later this month, on the week before Advent Sunday [Sunday 24 November], we will celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the Opening of our current Church Building. This special event falls on the day in the Church Year known as "Christ The King Sunday". The focus of our service will be the amazing faithfulness of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the history of our wonderful congregation. Our Events Action Team are organising a light lunch immediately after the service to mark this special occasion.

If you are hoping to attend, please give your name to anyone on the Events Action Team, or, contact us via the Church Office office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

Our Advent and Christmas Services will be as follows:

ADVENT COMMUNION -
SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM

ADVENT GIFTS SERVICE -
SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE -
SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT -
SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER AT 6.30 PM
[CHURCH GARDEN]

NATIVITY SERVICE -
SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE -
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER AT 11.15 PM

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE -
WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER AT 10.30 AM

Please come along to any, or all, of these services and enjoy the retelling of the most famous story in history as we sing favourite carols and read and reflect upon treasured Bible Stories.

The Service on Christmas Morning will be a short half-hour service to mark Christmas Day. It will be suitable for All-Ages, and I would invite anyone coming along [who would like] to bring a Christmas Gift with them - so we can show our gifts to one another.

There will be 2 shorter All-Age Services to see out the Old Year and welcome in the New Year. These will be:

END OF 2024 SERVICE - SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER [11.00 - 11.45 AM]

EPIPHANY SERVICE - SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025 [11.00 - 11.45 AM]

On behalf of my wife Helen and I [and our wider family], may we wish you all a very blessed Christmas - one filled with the Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light of Jesus.

A wee reminder, if you need any pastoral care and support in the days ahead, do not hesitate to contact me. My best phone contact is 07401949831 [The Manse Home Number is also available 01698 328665 - it has a new Answer Machine]. My email is: BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk

May God's blessing be with you and your loved ones.

Your Friend and Pastor: Bryce

A Christmas Blessing

HOPE came down at Christmas, and that **HOPE** was seen in Jesus:

May that **HOPE** be with us now

PEACE came down at Christmas, and that **PEACE** was seen in Jesus:

May that **PEACE** be with us now.

JOY came down at Christmas, and that **JOY** was seen in Jesus:

May that **JOY** be with us now

LOVE came down at Christmas, and that **LOVE** was seen in Jesus:

May that **LOVE** be with us now.

LIGHT came down at Christmas, and that **LIGHT** was seen in Jesus:

May that **LIGHT** be with us now.

MAY THE BLESSING OF GOD
THE FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT BE
WITH US ALL
THIS ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND
ALWAYS: **AMEN**

Look Forward In Faith: A New Mission Plan For the Next 5 Years

In the Autumn Bulletin, I wrote:

"As a congregation we need a new Mission Plan, and the Kirk Session and Board will start this process in the Autumn. It is hoped that it will be ready for the start of 2025 and will take our congregation forward in faith, hope and love in the 5 years ahead. It will be a practical but ambitious plan, and I look forward to sharing more with you in the weeks and months ahead."

The first step towards the creation of this plan was the unanimous Congregational Vote [on Sunday 27 October] in favour of moving to a Unitary Constitution.

Exciting news will follow in our next Bulletin.

Rev Bryce Calder

FINANCIAL REPORT

(31st October 2024)

As we approach the end of the financial year I would urge you to continue to support our Church financially in order to avoid a large deficit in our Congregational account. The Treasurer has estimated that this account may have a deficit of approximately £7,500.

The Congregational Account is the account that is used to pay our bills on a weekly basis. All of the money from weekly envelopes and Standing Order donations is paid into this account. Over the last 2 months of the financial year please consider increasing the amount you give. Even a temporary increase over these 2 months, of a small amount, could make a great difference.

Giving has increased by a small percentage amount but in contrast to that we have suffered huge increases in gas and electricity bills. Up until March of this year we were paying a very low rate for fuel. However, this agreement ended and was replaced with a much costlier agreement. Other price increases for a variety of supplies have also severely affected our budget.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

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

We continue to be busy on a Wednesday morning and look forward to some Christmas entertainment provided by Ladywell Primary School Choir on 18 December, our last day before the Christmas and New Year holidays. We will start back on 8 January 2025.



FINANCIAL APPEAL

This appeal was launched in the middle of June of this year. At the beginning donations were slow to arrive and I put that down to the beginning of the holiday period. Donations have now steadily increased and at our last count at the middle of October we had raised well over £20,000. This figure has been boosted by a number of fund raising activities over the last few months.

I would like to thank you all for your support in this matter and hope that we can reach our target within a reasonable timescale so that we can move on to improving our property and our heating system.

Kind regards

Leslie Innes

Finance and Stewardship Convenor

THANK YOU

A card has been received from Jean Stevenson on behalf of the volunteers at Reach Out thanking us for the donations of tins of food and money from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.



At present 25-30 guests per week, (including children), are provided with a 2-course hot meal and a bag of groceries. All donations are very welcome.



Last December, my daughter Laura organised a concert at St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell in aid of Beatson Cancer Charity and raised almost £2500.

She is organising another concert this year and hopes it will be just as successful. The concert is on Saturday 14 December at 7 pm in St Mary's Parish Church, Motherwell.

Once again, musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will freely give of their time and talents and Laura is thrilled that the RCS choir has agreed to perform this year. My wife Anne's school Choir will also be taking part.

Tickets for the concert are available from me.

There is no charge for tickets but donations to Beatson Cancer Charity can be made on the night if you wish.

Ronald Mackie (Organist)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Session started on 9 September, with Bryce Calder speaking about his many trips over the years to the Greek island of Santorini. His illustrated talk delved in to the history of the island, which is a popular holiday destination for tourists. It also attracts many visitors from cruise ships.

On the 23 September we were closer to home. Ian Wotherspoon gave a very informative talk about the Shopfronts of Glasgow. Perhaps a title that suggests a "dry talk." Not so. Again, using illustrations, he talked us through the history of the evolution of Shopfronts over the years, from the last century, until the present.

At our first meeting in October, we found ourselves transported to Strathaven aboard the mini railway, that still operates in Strathaven Park. Ian Samson illustrated his talk showing the history of the railway since beginning in the early 1950's, to the present day where it appears to be as popular as ever. Although the cost for a ride on the train today is a bit more than the original 3d.

Blood Groups was the subject at our last meeting in October. Hugh Graham spoke about how his work in this field has developed, since his time as a Biomedical Scientist, working initially at Bellshill Maternity Hospital, up to a point where he set up his own company Inverclyde Biologicals. A company which he then sold in 2011, allowing him to retire. There are in excess of 300 Blood Groups. He is a man of many talents. He has had 2 books published. One, not surprisingly, about Blood. The other, a novel. As we move towards the end of the first half of our session, we will hear about the work of the "**General Trustees**". Be taken on a walk from "**Wishaw to somewhere**" Concluding the session with our "**Christmas Quiz**". The prizes to be won would leave you speechless!

So, what can we look forward to at some of the 6 meetings we have planned in the second half of the session, which starts on **Monday 6 January**. Two of the titles are "**Then the Phone Rang**" and "**Organ meets Films**". If these spark an interest in you, then please feel free to come along to any or all of the meetings.

Howard Rennie

GUILD



We began our session earlier than usual this year with our opening social on 23 September. The entertainment was provided by Roland Russell who delighted us with a number of songs from the 50s, 60s, etc. We discovered that we could remember the singers and the words for most of the songs.

Our Minister Rev Bryce Calder spoke to us about the Guild Theme "Sure Foundations" and then we had Jonny from Hillhouse Honey Bees who told us all about his Bee Hives and we also had the opportunity to buy some of his honey.

Our dedication Service was on Sunday 27 October it was a very meaningful Service and well attended by Guild Members.

On 2 November the Guild are organising a Celebration Concert with Bothwell Philharmonic Choir and Dalziel High School Choir taking part. A lot of hard work has gone in to the organising of the concert by the committee and guild members with the sale of tickets going very well and we are all looking forward to a very entertaining evening.

An afternoon visit to Motherwell Library has been arranged for Monday 11 November.

Leading up to Christmas we have our Christmas Lunch at the Moorings to look forward to and also a Christmas Movie Night.

Meetings for 2025 start on Monday 6 January when we can again look forward to some interesting speakers.

Thank you to the Committee and Guild Members for your support during the session and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Myra Philip
Guild President

GUILD SYLLABUS - 2025

6 Jan	The Food Bank
20 Jan	A Hats Extravaganza
3 Feb	Organ meets film - Aaron Hawthorne with the Men's Fellowship
17 Feb	Project Night - Bibles for Bairns
3 Mar	AGM - Dream Duo
17 Mar	Club Canada - Lauren
31 Mar	Closing Social



News from the start of the new session...

START OF NEW SESSION

Our numbers have grown from last year and we now have a very healthy 40 boys on the role in the company section with average attendance in the mid thirties.

Our first block of our session until Christmas is following our regular programme. Our parade night currently has 2 main sections to it which are then topped and tailed with opening and closing devotions. We have continued with the first part of the night after our opening formalities and devotions where we are focusing on preparations for First Aid, Drill and Bible Knowledge competitions as well as providing an induction programme for the new recruits. For the second half of the night the boys are then split into junior (P7-S3) and senior (S4-S6) age groups for games and activities.

**COMPETITIONS -
BATTALION & NATIONAL**

We are in a busy period for competitions! We have entered the National competitions for Masterteam, FIFA and Senior 5-a-side football this year and at the time of writing we have unfortunately gone out at the first round of the FIFA but are looking forward to the first round of the Masterteam. We are hosting the first round of the National Senior 5s at Ravenscraig on Sunday 24 November. The Battalion competitions calendar is also in full flow this year with the Swimming, Senior 5s, and Restricted Drill all taking place before Christmas.

PARADES & SERVICES

We are looking forward to being on parade in St Mary's with the other uniformed organisations for Remembrance Sunday.

COFFEE MORNING

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 7 December and will get everyone in the mood for Christmas with its usual mix of good coffee, home baking, entertainment and good chat among friends! We look forward to welcoming you along.

Our next update will be in the New Year.....have a fantastic festive season from the BB!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

The Events Action Team:

Kristeen Kennedy	Fraser Joyce
Karen Maxwell	Jennifer Bradshaw
Joanne Morrison	Hazel Graham
Diane Connor	Robert Neilson
Alan Joyce	

The Events Action Team were delighted with a hugely successful fayre and family fun day in August which raised over £2200.

It was lovely to see so many people from the local community supporting us.

The Church is 110 years old and we are looking forward to celebrating with a lunch immediately after the service on 24 November.

We look forward to planning new and exciting events for the future and to your continuing support.

On behalf of the Events Action Team we wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas.



13TH MOTHERWELL BOYS' BRIGADE
CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
& Christmas Tree Festival

Tea, Coffee, Home Baking, Entertainment, Stalls
Hot Rolls available to purchase

Saturday 7th December 2024, 10-12
St Mary's Parish Church, Avon St, Motherwell

TICKETS £2 AVAILABLE FROM BOYS & OFFICERS



UPDATE

As we enter the month of November our thoughts are focused on Remembrance Day and all the wars and conflicts that have taken place over the years. But right now, the conflict in the Middle East is taking a devastating toll on the lives of thousands of innocent civilians. As the conflict in Gaza continues, a new disaster is unfolding in Lebanon. Air strikes are heaping misery on a country already enduring multiple crises. In excess of a thousand people have been killed in Lebanon. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed. More than a million people have fled their homes in search of safety. It's a painful reality that echoes the suffering we've witnessed in Gaza. While the death, destruction, and displacement in the region are overwhelming, there is still hope. With your support, our partners can provide lifesaving supplies to civilians caught up in this conflict.

Pray for Peace

God hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.

May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease, replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.

God in your name

Amen

Hazel Graham





Thanks to all who supported the Guiding Units' Coffee Morning. What a wonderful morning, the hall was full, the girls singing was delightful, tea, coffee and goodies plentiful. We also made a substantial amount of money to enable us to make a donation to the boiler fund and support a special event for our girls.

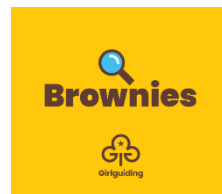
A special thanks to those who provided baking and kept the kitchen running.



6th Motherwell Guides

The Guides have been busy this session completing sections of the new programme. From the Unit Meeting Activities they have been working on Stage 3 - Make Change, and from Skill Builder Stage 3 - Network.

They also had great fun taking part in the Come Dine with Me Challenge. Probably ate too many cakes! They have had lots of Halloween fun, making it last over 2 evenings, with crafts and a film and of course dressing up.



6th B Brownies



This session has been busy with the girls completing the Local History Badge, celebrating Fireworks with hot chocolate and marshmallows and of course Halloween. Ten girls will soon be making their Promise and the Young Leaders are working through their training programme.



Fun at Gowanpark -
Pack Holiday in September



Junior Church

We have enjoyed our first term of 2024 at Junior Church. The team have planned and resourced lots of exciting weeks and the children have learned about: Joseph and his brothers, Noah and his ark, Daniel in the lion's den and Jonah and the whale.

Last week the children made a special pumpkin and took home a copy of the pumpkin prayer to remember the relevance of each part of the carving.



We have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks and months. Details of each event will be sent to our families on the WhatsApp group or via X or Facebook. Our next special day is on Sunday 3 November when our children will take part in our Bible themed party. Lots of costumes, games treats and prizes.



Dates for the Junior church diary ...

3 Nov	Songs of Praise morning worship 6-7 pm Bible themed party
10 Nov	Remembrance Service 10.45 am start
17 Nov	Nativity sing a long in the hall 11 am -12 noon
24 Nov	Church anniversary service followed by lunch Nativity launch! 4-5 pm in church
1 Dec	Nativity sing a long in the hall 11 am - 12 noon
8 Dec	Presents, party and practice! 10.30 am - 12.30 pm.
15 Dec	Nativity sing a long in the hall 11 am -12 noon 3-30 pm - 6.30 pm Nativity practice and dinner! 6.30 pm Candle light carols in the church grounds
22 Dec	Nativity Sunday 9.30 am sing a long in the hall and breakfast!





Wrap Up Lanarkshire

This is the fourth year that the Rotary Club of Motherwell and Wishaw, has participated in the 'Wrap Up' project.

The project's aim is to provide warm coats/jackets for the homeless or people in need.

Once again, over 6 weeks in September/October, donations of quality coats and outdoor jackets were collected from special boxes placed in churches, chapels, schools and workplaces. Rotarians engaged in a sorting out and bagging process, that took place every Monday and Thursday morning, in an area of the stadium generously supplied by Hamilton Accies Football Club.

This year over 1600 coats/jackets as well as hats, scarves, and body warmers are in the process of being distributed to charities, churches and organisations that support those in need. Local places include Wishaw South Recovery Hub; Blantyre Congregational Church; Gilmour, Whitehill & Hillhouse Parish Church; Loaves and Fishes, East Kilbride; Bellshill YMCA; Blue Triangle Housing Association; Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Centre; Forgewood Community Centre. Other places in West Lothian and Glasgow are also receiving coats/jackets for distribution.

The generosity and concern for those in need was again very evident in our own church of St Mary's, where the members donated the very impressive total of 180 quality coats/jackets as well as other warm items. As in past years, Members of St Mary's Reach Out Team are distributing warm jackets, as well as hot drinks and food to those in need in our town centre. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Motherwell and Wishaw, a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported 'Wrap Up Lanarkshire'.

Ian Carrol

"Poor persons will never disappear from the earth. That's why I'm giving you this command: you must open your hand generously to the needy among you, and to the poor who live with you in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

JUNIOR CHURCH & Y-ZONE COME DINE WITH ME CHALLENGE





The Y-Zone

The members of the Y-Zone have enjoyed a busy session. Each week our activity is linked to a verse in the Bible and the details of our meetings shared on 'x' you can follow us on @YZone46361882

We have enjoyed a number of mornings where we have focused encouraging each other and building each other up with team building challenges and games led by some of the senior boys in the BB.

We have also spent some time in the kitchen making pizza and soup. Lots of creative ideas shared and 'interesting' recipes created.

Another of our activities was going on a prayer walk where we all had a packet of 'smarties'. Each coloured sweet represented something for us to be grateful for and as we walked we took time to think about all we have in life to be thankful for.

We also enjoyed a morning of music and praise and were delighted to be joined by William Simpson, Howard Rennie and Ian Struthers along with Ross Carroll who shared their talents and love of music.

More recently we had a super morning of 'emergency training' and 'CPR' which was led by Tracy Dodd and Michelle Graham. Both have a wealth of knowledge following careers in emergency care and shared details on what we can do in times of emergency, including being made aware of the Defib that sits outside the office. Further training in this area is being planned and anyone wishing to be part of this should speak to Diane or Elaine.

We have also shared in a number of special services - harvest, songs of praise and remembrance, and have offered our help to Hazel and her team for the beautiful work they do decorating the church for these special services.

And finally, we are delighted to share that our 'Come Dine With Me' challenge has been concluded. The amount raised will be announced soon! Thank you to everyone who took part.

Looking forward now to all the fun of Christmas - BB Christmas trees challenge, nativity and panto to name but a few, and before all that we have our Scottish Night which we look forward to immensely.

A busy time indeed and we are forever thankful for our young people who make all this fun possible.



Eco Committee ♻️

Our efforts toward making the church more ECO friendly also continue and we await feedback from Eco-Congregation for our application for the bronze award within their award scheme (Eco-congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith)

Meanwhile we continue to include thanks and prayer for our environment in our worship, support local and national campaigns, make changes to our energy use within the church and encourage reuse, recycling and reduce of items within our organisations and day to day church life.

FLOWER LIST FOR 2025



JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
		2nd	Miss C Kelly	2nd	Mrs M Carrol
5th	Mr H Rennie	9th	Mrs D Livingstone Mrs C Brownlie	9th	Mrs M Watson
12th	Mrs M McArdle	16th	Mr & Mrs Malcolm	16th	Miss I Johnstone
19th	Miss J Graham Mrs M Wilson	23rd	Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	23rd	Mrs J Findlay
26th	Church Choir Mrs J Munro			30th	-
APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
6th	Mrs E Calder Mr A Craig	4th	Mr & Mrs Malcolm Mrs J McPherson	1st	Mrs W Burrell
13th	Mrs H Graham Mrs E Currie	11th	Mrs J Conquer Mrs C Allan	8th	Mrs C Anderson
20th	Mrs E Taylor/ Mrs J Findlay Mrs E Simpson Mrs E Scott	18th	Mrs S Brown Mrs J Westwood	15th	Mrs I Scott
27th	Mrs L Kelly Mrs Anne Johnstone Mrs J Knox	25th	Mrs A Pearce	22nd	Mrs F Hannah
				29th	-
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
6th	Mrs E Blackwood Miss J Graham	43rd	Mrs G Neill/ Miss A Gibson		
13th	Miss L Clarkson Mrs F Shearer	10th	Mrs L O'Neill Mrs J Hunter	7th	Miss J Graham
20th	Mrs E Galloway Mrs J McInnes	17th	Mrs J Crawford	14th	Friends of Irene Nimmo
27th	Mrs F MacFarlane Mrs M Tracey	24th	Mrs J Paterson	21st	Mrs J Loughbridge
		31st	-	28th	Mrs M Joyce Mrs J Findlay
OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
5th	Mr A Joyce (Jnr) Mrs B Aitkenhead	2nd	Mrs M Tracey		
12th	Mrs S Forrest	9th	Mrs S Sinclair	7th	Mrs I Scott
19th	Mrs I Dougal Miss V Craig	16th	Mrs A Corbett	14th	
26th	Rev & Mrs J Thomson	23rd	Mrs M McCloy Mrs D Livingstone Miss J Graham	21nd	Mrs F Renwick
		30th	Mr S McCue-Dick The Guild	28th	Mrs D Connor

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

This is a valuable part of our church ministry reaching out to those ill, bereaved or unable to attend church and can be contributed to by all ages of our congregation.

June would like to thank all who passed on concerns and good wishes to her after her accident at the hall entrance in October. She especially thanks those who helped her and provided first aid.



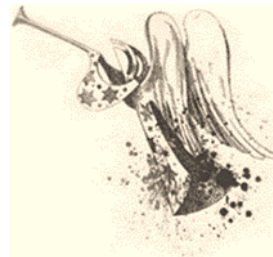
FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	24 November	11 am	Anniversary Service
Sunday	1 December	11 am	Advent - Sacrament of Communion
Sunday	8 December	11 am	Christmas Gift Service
Sunday	15 December	11 am 6.30 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols Carols in church grounds
Sunday	22 December	11 am	Nativity Service
Tuesday	24 December	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
Wednesday	25 December	10.30 am	Christmas Day Service

FLOWER LIST

DECEMBER 2024

3rd Mr S McCue-Dick
The Guild
10th Mrs I Scott
17th Mrs M Wilkie
Mrs C Dewar
24th Mrs F Renwick
Mrs D Connor
Mrs A Brown



Useful Contacts

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



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



St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

Website:

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

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