

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



SUMMER 2026

Bulletin No 371



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

19 th March	Mr Allan Joyce
19 th March	Mr Sandy Gregory
8 th May	Mrs May Sneddon
13 th May	Mrs Isobel Campbell
26 th May	Mrs Sarah Leary

-----oOo-----

NEW MEMBERS

Mr Ian Skelly
Mr Alan Nicholson
Mr & Mrs Jamie Bowman
Mrs Helen Rae
Mrs Lorna Finnie



20th May 2026

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to write this introduction to our Summer Edition of St Mary's Parish Church Bulletin. As I write [20th May] it is late Spring and Summer [June 1st] is only two weeks. I'm hoping that the weather starts to improve and that we can have a lovely Summer here in Motherwell. For those of you, like me, old enough to remember the glorious Summer of 1976, a little reprise would be greatly appreciated.

Over the Summer months, some congregational Members will be going on holiday - whether in Scotland, the UK or abroad. If so, I hope you have a lovely and restful time. Helen and I will be visiting the Greek Island of Rhodes and its smaller neighbour Symi. Others in the congregation may be staying at home over the Summer, I wish you, too, all God's peace and blessings.

Recent weeks have been busy at St Mary's. On Sunday 26th April, the congregation had a visit from the Scottish Eco-Congregation Chaplain, Rev David Coleman, who officially presented our Silver Eco Congregation Award. Sunday 10th of May, saw the final Sunday of our Student Minister, Lesley Ewing. We were able to thank Lesley for her time at St Mary's. Lesley is leading Sunday Worship when I am on Annual Leave so she will be back to St Mary's. We wish Lesley every blessing, though, as she moves on to her final Probationary Placement over the Summer and then

next year to Ordination to the role of OLM [Ordained Local Ministry]. On the night of Sunday 10th May, Lesley led an Evening Praise Service - which was well attended and greatly enjoyed. The Praise Band have agreed that they would be happy to repeat such services, and the Kirk Session gave the go-ahead at their meeting on Monday past. Other congregational Members have suggested to me Theme for other special services, and I am going to take them all into consideration as we move forward in new and innovative ways.

Last Sunday, 17th May, saw our second ever All-Age Communion [the first being Advent Sunday 2025]. As Minister, I was spiritually moved as we were served bread, wine and fruit juice by members of Junior Church and their families. What moved me most was that out of the small group of young folks from Junior Church who were serving Communion, I had Baptised five. This June marks the 9th Anniversary of my time at St Mary's.

This year, I was a Commissioner at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It was the first Assembly in its new condensed format. I didn't find that the condensed format worked well as too many reports were rushed through without proper scrutiny. On the last afternoon two Proposed Acts of Assembly were forwarded to next year's Assembly. One significant part of the General Assembly [which made the National media] was the Church of Scotland's Apology for its involvement in the Chattel Slavery.

The wording of the Apology is as below, and a new Committee of the General Assembly has been tasked with looking at ways of righting some of the many wrongs confessed:

We, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, acknowledging our corporate and continuing identity with those who have gone before us, and acknowledging responsibility for the actions and failures of some of our past members and office-holders, confess the following: That theological justification was offered for race-based slavery. That race-based slavery was defended on moral grounds. That, even when we were not attempting to justify it, we - individually and collectively - treated slavery as normal, which, as we know now (and should have known then), helps to perpetuate injustice. That, after slavery was outlawed in Scotland, some members of the Church of Scotland, including some of our office-holders, continued to own slaves overseas. That, after the abolition of the slave trade in the British colonies, some of our office-holders and other members lobbied against the emancipation of persons already enslaved or for delaying their emancipation. That for years many of our office-holders and other members derived their income directly or indirectly from slave labour. Some of our members travelled to the British and American colonies to work as foremen who enforced enslavement, punished those who objected to their enslavement, and made possible the day-to-day extraction of uncompensated labour from unwilling hands. Some owned or worked in tobacco distribution or textile manufacture that depended on crops planted and picked by slaves. Some owned or worked in sugar sheds, refining and distributing sugar grown by slaves in the colonies. Some owned or worked in shipyards that provided the vessels required for shipping goods and people across the Atlantic. That office-holders

and members of the Church of Scotland inherited wealth from relatives who owned slaves, and this money contributed to the building of the universities that trained our ministers and the churches in which we gathered to worship. Some of those buildings are still in use and still contain plaques or windows dedicated to the memory of benefactors that profited from slavery. That, when slaves were finally emancipated in the Caribbean, some of our officer-holders and other members received government compensation for the 'property' they had 'lost.' That we did not return the money that had been extracted from the labour of the enslaved. Nor did we build the infrastructure or provide the opportunities emancipated slaves would need to flourish. That, after enslavement was outlawed and the enslaved were set free, too many of our office-holders and members acted as though the wrongs of slavery were a thing of the past, ignoring the ongoing harms suffered daily by the descendants of those whose labour was stolen, whose lives were ruined, whose cultures and languages were trampled, whose identities as children of God were denied. That the racism which was manifested in trans-Atlantic slavery is not yet a thing of the past in either our society or in the Church of Scotland. We, the Church of Scotland, are sorry for the ways in which the Church of Scotland, collectively and individually, contributed to and benefitted from the enslavement of people of African descent. We are grieved beyond telling by the extraordinary suffering we have inflicted - through our actions and our inaction - on our brothers and sisters. As bearers of God's image loved by God, they should have been loved by us. Not

only did we fail to love them, we failed to treat them with basic human respect. We repent, committing ourselves to changing course and bearing fruit worthy of repentance.

As I mentioned in last year's Summer Newsletter, under Charity Law, it is now the responsibility of the Eldership [titled 'Trustees' for official charity business] to approve the Annual Church Accounts and Report to OSCAR [the Scottish Charity Regulator] and the National Church. Our Accounts have been approved and sent to Presbytery. Later in the year, they will be sent to OSCAR. The Congregation still have an opportunity to examine the accounts to make sure that they are happy with the work being carried out by our 'Trustees' on behalf of St Mary's Parish Church. An Annual General Meeting must be held before the 30th June each year. This year, our Annual General Meeting will be held at the end of our Communion Service on Sunday 7th June. It would be wonderful if worshippers could stay for this meeting. The Annual Accounts will be available two weeks before the meeting to read and examine. This means that the meeting itself should be relatively short.

On Sunday 21st June, we will celebrate the children and young people of our Junior Church and Y-Zone in a special service. Thereafter, The Short Summer Services begin from the first Sunday 28th July until mid-August.

As I end this letter, I wish you all a very blessed Summer.

Your Friend and Minister, *Rev Bryce Calder*



WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

COFFEE, TEA, TREAT AND CHAT FROM 10 - 12 NOON

Our Wednesday mornings continue to be busy with new people popping in to join us. It is a most sociable morning. We are taking our usual break over the Summer. Our last coffee and tea will be served on 24th June and we will restart on 12th August.

We would be grateful to have new volunteers to serve teas and coffees on a Wednesday morning. This can be once a month or on a more random basis. Speak to Isabel Johnstone, Margaret Watson or Christine Clark if you would like to help.

Working Party

In some ways, the Work Party has become a victim of its own success. Since it was formed it has met every Monday morning, starting in late Spring and finishing in early Autumn. This year, with both our numbers and task diminishing, we have agreed to meet on the first Monday of each month. There are a number of tasks planned, some obvious, others less so, both external and internal, which should keep us busy this year.

Howard Rennie
29th May 2026

SUMMER BLESSING

The THEME of General Assembly 2026 was taken from Deuteronomy 10:12:

"WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS"

THE SUMMER BLESSING BELOW IS BASED ON THAT THEME:

May we walk with God
This summer
In whatever we do
Wherever we go

Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty
And with courage
Walking with love
And respect
And concern for the feelings of other

May we talk to God
This summer
And every day and
In every situation

Talking with God means...
Praying words of praise for the beauty of creation
Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times
Asking God's help in all our sad times and worries
Asking God for direction where we have decisions to make
Expressing sorrow when we have failed God and others

May we walk with God and talk with God everyday: AMEN



6th Motherwell Brownies

With this session nearly coming to a close, the Girls have enjoyed a busy time since returning from Brownie Camp!

Easter celebrations came first with an "Easter Egg" hunt, Easter craft activities, baking Easter cakes in the kitchen, and of course enjoying some Easter egg chocolate!

The craft evenings have continued being a firm favourite following on from their Craft badge. Amongst quite a few, were the very popular beaded bracelets, and beaded flowers! A lot of sweeping up afterwards for the leaders!



The Girls have also been working on a "Skills Builder Badge" "Innovate". This involves building skills in problem-solving, science and technology, and everyone, including the Leaders, have been showing a lot of promise with this one! A work-in-progress, we will continue working on this into the next session!



The last couple of weeks, were very exciting with experiments galore! Everyone was super excited to make ice-cream, yes who knew..... ice cream in less than an hour, and it tasted very nice indeed! With very serious listening and concentration the Girls made lovely Vanilla ice-cream....look at those smiles below! Watch out Equis!





And most recently, at time of writing, Tuesday evening involved making "Oobleck"!?

Quick description, a fascinating fluid made by mixing roughly x2 parts cornstarch to x1 part water, it acts like a solid when you press it, but oozes like a liquid when you let it rest! Yes.... perhaps, you need to try it to believe!



Thank you for reading, and hopefully we have shared some of our fun this session! We hope you all have a lovely Summer!

Brownies and Leaders of the 6th Motherwell Brownies



6B Brownies

The Monday Brownies have been very busy this year.

5 Brownies will reach their Gold Award by the end of this session and another 5 by December.

6 Brownies are doing their Silver Award.

9 Brownies are doing their Bronze Award.

4 Brownies are doing their Pre-Promise.

5 are moving up to the Guides and there are 4 on the waiting list.

The Young Leaders are aiming to complete their leadership qualifications by the end of the session. Part of the qualifications is planning events for the Brownies such as a Beach Party and an Easter Party. They are given a budget to spend and have to produce receipts and photographs as evidence of their spending.

6th Guides

The Guides enjoyed taking part in the St Mary's Got Talent show and the majority gained their Entertainer Badge.

Over the Easter break the Guides had a fundraising challenge for Gowanpark. This was called the Climb Higher Coin Challenge. The girls decorated a jar which they had to fill with coins over the holiday period by doing jobs or just collecting coins. £220 was raised and awards were given:

Heaviest Jar: Sophie Townsend,
Greatest Effort: Ava Fulton, Best Decorated: Sophie Connor.
Well done girls.

Nature has been a focus in recent meetings. The life cycle of the Butterfly was investigated and Butterfly houses were built and decorated. Bird feeders were also created and hung on trees in the Duchess Park. There are also 2 nature pictures on view in the Avon Hall.



On our second last night before Summer break the girls created Bee gardens.

The closing night of Guides saw the girls enjoy a night bowling at M&Ds.





Christian Aid

Over the past few months, our congregation has been supporting the work of Christian Aid.

This year the theme during Christian Aid Week (10 - 16 May) focused on supporting families in Nairobi, Kenya, by funding and encouraging urban farming projects - including both physical resources and also specialist training to combat food insecurity and poverty.

In May, we hosted a concert organised by Motherwell Christian Aid Committee which saw young people from many of the schools in the area performing. The concert was really well supported and raised the sum of £698.

The children in our Junior Church also learned about the work of Christian Aid and how we can support others across the world.

Our congregation also collected retiring offerings at a number of services which contributed a further £400, with some money still to be added.

Christian Aid have recently launched an emergency appeal to raise funds to support the developing Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. There is no vaccine or no specific treatment for this new Ebola strain. Prevention is the only way to stop it. Donations can be given by following the link:

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk>

**Loving God, You see us and You know us.
You are present with us in times of suffering.**

We pray to You for all people affected by the Ebola outbreak.

Comfort those who are ill,

Sustain those who grieve,

Watch over those who deliver care.

We pray for the health and safety of our partners and medical

staff as they treat those affected.

We pray for strength for communities and families in the

Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

We pray that breakthroughs will come swiftly as new vaccines

and treatments are developed.

We pray that the world would unite to take action and to

support our global neighbours.

Loving God, we ask this in Jesus' name

Amen



GUILD

The Guild end of season was marked by the AGM when a number of Long Service Awards were presented by Bryce Calder.



On Holy Week Monday the theme for the evening was an Easter Reflection.

The Choir provided entertainment and Howard Rennie, the Men's Fellowship President, conducted proceedings. The Rev David Dayle spoke about his visit to Bethlehem a number of years ago.

The ladies of the Guild and their guests participated in singing some Easter hymns during the evening and everyone enjoyed tea/coffee and Easter treats at the end of a great evening.

On Monday 11 May members of the Guild and friends enjoyed an outing to Holyrood Palace. Dobbie's at Livingston was the venue for a stop for a light lunch before travelling onwards to Edinburgh. The tour was most interesting as was a visit to the Holyrood shop. The day concluded with a lovely meal at the Radstone Hotel. Many thanks to Jean Mitchell and Isobel Stewart for organizing this outing.

AFTERNOON TEA DANCE

Another successful Afternoon Tea Dance was organized by Mrs Renee Turner in March. The home baking, as well as dancing, is worth coming for.



Y- Zone

It's been a busy time with school exams for many of our Y-Zone members but we have still managed to have a little fun.

Our weekly sessions have included mornings at the park completing a litter survey, fun games outside, quizzes and a Bible treasure hunt

We also enjoyed a night out at Ten Pin Bowling with a group of 18 who enjoyed a healthy competition and some tasty snacks.



And more recently we had a pizza and games night for 15, where we enjoyed sharing time together and a lot of laughs ! Thanks to those who donated the pizza - it was VERY much appreciated !

Looking forward to the remainder of our session we have lots to look forward to and wish our young people well as they complete their last exams.



Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care team are delighted to being kept busy with visits to members in their own homes and Care Homes. We really enjoy these visits as we see what enjoyment our members get from contact with the Church and we in the Pastoral Care team are finding this most rewarding.

It has brought challenges with increasing numbers for a very small team of amazing ladies. We wish to extend an invitation to anybody in the Congregation who would like to be part of the team. Please feel free to speak to any of the team:

Christine Brown, Margaret Watson, Christine Clark, Kirsteen Kick, Helen Calder, Helen McKenna, Carole Anderson, Edith Sharpe & Jacqueline Westwood



Junior Church

God's Wonderful World

This session we have been exploring God's wonderful world and learning how we can care for and protect it. Through our activities, the children have discovered the importance of taking action, helping things to grow, and recognising that everyone matters.

We have enjoyed a variety of fun activities, games, and stories. The

children have made bird feeders and bug hotels and have been busy planting flowers and plants around the church grounds.

We have had lots of fun throughout the session and finished with a special Bike Week (and scooter's too) at church. This gave us the opportunity to discuss the positive impact that cycling can have on both the environment and our own health and wellbeing.





Christian Aid Sunday

Once again, we wore red for Christian Aid on Sunday 10th May and entered church carrying Christian Aid flags to raise awareness of this worthy charity. The children then headed to the halls to take part in many Christian Aid activities at their messy morning.

End of session

On Sunday 21st June we will, our Junior Church, celebrate the end of another busy and successful session. During the service a number of children will be promoted as they move on to the next stage of their Junior Church journey. We are proud of all that they have achieved and look forward to supporting them as they continue to grow in faith and friendship.

Every Junior Church member will receive a certificate and a book in recognition of their participation and commitment throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming families, friends, and members of the congregation to this special service as we come together to celebrate the children, our volunteers, and all that has been accomplished during the session.

Our Junior Church team

Following another successful and busy session, the leaders and helpers are looking forward to a well-earned Summer break. We are very fortunate to have a large team of willing and energetic people who, week by week, prepare, organise and deliver engaging and creative lessons for our children. Our sincere thanks go to each and every one of them for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. We would also like to thank Lynn Kelly and Lisa Mossman, our Treasurer and Secretary, who provide invaluable support to the Junior Church behind the scenes each week.

Summer Club

Summer club is back and a 'Save the Date' has been circulated as below, with booking information being released soon.

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to Junior Church on the 16th August 2026.



Thank you....

The Pupils of Knowetop Primary School would like to thank the Wednesday Coffee Morning patrons for supporting their craft stall enterprise:



St Mary's Outreach Team

Showing faith by action

The team arranged for a number of retiral offerings after the church service to support our work helping others.

Thank you to the congregation for your support which has generated significant funds.

Street Project

We previously reported donations received of £545 for our Street Project. This has now been matched by a Presbytery grant, ensuring the amazing work done by the team continues in the year ahead. It's not just the drinks and food that the team offer. The regular engagement, listening and encouragement are the true benefit to our friends as they encounter bereavement, health issues and homelessness.

Motherwell Food Bank

The retiral offering in March raised £555 in cash and an estimated £250 in food donations. This takes our total for 2026 to £1,070 in cash and £930 in food (including Easter Eggs!).

Andrew Ewart and the team at the Food Bank value greatly the support they receive from St Mary's

Scottish Bible Society

The retiral offering in April raised £270.

The Scottish Bible Society has been equipping churches and individuals with the resources to share the Bible for over 200 years. The Bible is meant to

be shared because the Bible changes lives.

Providing the truth of God's word in clear, understandable and accessible formats is vital. The Society works so that all people can have the Bible in a language they understand, a form they can access and at an affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God.

The resources are available as bibles, foreign language translations, story books, bible studies, podcasts, and videos.

We have a plan to use one of those resources - Bibles for Bairns

Once a child has been signed up, they'll receive a Story Bible on their 1st birthday, then a card and a story on each birthday until their 5th birthday, when they'll be given a children's Bible to start to read themselves and to explore with the adults in the family.

We will do this with babies baptised in St Mary's but you are all invited to put forward names of babies born in 2026 to the Outreach team.

You can also support the work of the Scottish Bible Society directly through its website.

Avondale Care Home Services

The twice-monthly services continue. It was lovely to share the story of Easter - the worshippers feel like part of our congregation. Our team who lead the worship all received personalised Easter cards and Easter eggs.

Community lunches

We are putting together a plan to offer lunches served in the Church premises on a Monday each week. A key part of the plans is to put together four teams to operate on a rota. If you can help

please speak to Bryce Calder, Alan Brown or contact the Outreach Team through the church email.
office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

Deuteronomy 10 v12

James 2 v17



ECO COMMITTEE

Eco Congregation

We were delighted to welcome Rev David Coleman to lead a special service at St Mary's, where we received our official Eco Congregation Silver Award.

The Eco Committee

We're a small committee at the moment and we'd love to welcome more people to join us in our work, to make a difference in St Mary's and our communities. We're planning to have an open and informal catch up on Sunday 23rd August straight after Church. If you'd like to get involved, or even just find out more about what we're doing, please do come along!

Initiatives

We're planning on arranging a litter-picking event after the Summer holidays, so please keep your eyes peeled for more information. We'll also be collecting towels and blankets for the local animal centre over the Summer. We'll share more information about both of these (and more) via St Mary's Facebook page and the weekly family news.



There was a presentation of gifts to Isabel Johnstone at the church service on 7th June, as she retires after 14 years as editor of the church magazine.

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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

CHAMPIONSHIP FLAG RUNNERS UP !

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 **Joshua Graham** and our Senior Sports Champion was **Jamie Reid**.

We also present two awards in recognition of boys who have made a particular contribution during the session or set an example to the other boys. These awards are voted on by the officer team. This year the Officers' Endeavour award was presented to **Calum Blackwood** and the Captain Mathie Commendation was presented to **Alistair Crombie**.

BATTALION REVIEW & FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP

The Annual Battalion Review took place on Friday 8th May in our own church here in St Mary's and boys, officers, parents and friends of the Battalion enjoyed an evening of BB company profiles and presentations of individual awards and battalion competition trophies.

At 13th we have had a very successful year in the competitions - three first places (Squad Drill, Bible Knowledge and Swimming Gala) and two runners up places (Senior Football and Cross Country) out of a total of 10 competitions!

This all resulted in us coming out runners up in the Battalion Flag Championship.

Congratulations to 2nd/4th Motherwell from Motherwell Kirk at the Cross Church on Winning the Championship Flag!

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 four of our senior boys achieve their President's Badge this year: **Adam Bradshaw, Scott Campbell, Connor Fleck and Mitchell McClair**.

This is the second highest award in the BB and involves completing all elements of the badge programme.

KING'S BADGES

The King'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.

Euan Cargill, Alistair Crombie, Zack Fleming and Kyle Rankin are all worthy recipients of the King's Badge. All 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 developed through the process and have had an impact in each of the areas where they have worked.

Completing the King'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 Euan, Alistair, Zack and Kyle 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 Saturday 27th June to Wednesday 1st July.

20 boys are currently signed up to go supported by 8 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

27th June - 1st July - BB Summer Camp

Fri 2nd October - First night back for Company Section.





FLOWER LIST

JULY

5th Mrs E Blackwood
Miss J Graham
12th Miss L Clarkson
Mrs F Shearer
19th Mrs E Galloway
Mrs J McInnes
26th Mrs F MacFarlane
Mrs M Tracey

AUGUST

2nd Miss A Gibson
9th Mrs L O'Neill
Mrs J Hunter
16th Mrs J Crawford
23rd Mrs J Paterson

SEPTEMBER

6th Miss J Graham
13th Friends of Irene Nimmo
20th Mrs J Loughbridge
27th Mrs J Findlay

Useful Contacts

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



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



St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

Website:

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

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street,
Motherwell, ML1 3AB