

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



AUTUMN 2026



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

16 th August	Charlotte Lynch
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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

5 th June	Mrs Jeanette Swinton
22 nd July	Mrs Millie Clemenson
27 th July	Mr Robert Grant Neilson
6 th August	Mrs Edith Horn
29 th August	Mrs Maureen Dick
10 th September	Mrs Euphemia King



August 2026

Dear Friends,

It feels slightly unusual to be writing the opening letter for our Autumn magazine. This is, of course, a space which would normally be filled by Bryce. As most of you will know, Bryce continues to be absent from his duties at St Mary's on medical advice, and his period of absence has recently been extended. We continue to keep Bryce and Helen very much in our thoughts and prayers, and hope that this time away from the responsibilities of ministry will give him the rest and space that he needs.

In Bryce's absence, I have been asked, as one of our Session Clerks, to write a few words as we begin another church session.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer months. For some, summer may have meant holidays further afield; for others, days out closer to home; and for some perhaps simply enjoying the sunshine in the garden when the Scottish weather allowed! Whatever your summer has looked like, I hope there have been opportunities for rest, for time with family and friends, and perhaps a chance to enjoy a slightly different pace of life.

It certainly hasn't been a quiet summer at St Mary's!

One of the real highlights was our 'Game On' Summer Club, based around this summer's wonderful variety of sport. More than 80 children took part, supported by a fantastic team of over 20 leaders and helpers. Across the week there were crafts, games,

sporting challenges and lots of fun, but running through everything was an important message about teamwork - encouraging one another, playing our part and recognising that everyone has something to contribute.

The children also heard video messages from athletes and people from the world of sport, and on the Sunday following the club we were able to share some of the highlights of a very busy week with the congregation. A huge thank you must go to everyone who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to make 'Game On' such a success.

Our Summer Challenges have also kept people busy. It has been great to see photographs of lighthouses arriving from various travels and days out, while our sunflower challenge has brought a steady stream of photographs showing how everyone's plants have been progressing. I suspect there may have been just a little healthy competition involved as well!

Summer has also brought some particularly joyful news as we have welcomed three new babies into our wider church family. It is always special to see our church family growing, and we send our love and congratulations to all three families.

And now, as summer begins to give way to autumn, St Mary's starts to become a little busier again.

Our organisations and groups are returning for a new session and Wednesday Coffee is already back. It continues to provide not only tea, coffee and a blether, but a valuable place for friendship and fellowship. It has become an important part of St Mary's outreach into our local

community, with new people regularly coming through our doors - something Bryce also highlighted in the last magazine.

There is much more to look forward to over the coming weeks and months. Rather than try to list everything here, please keep an eye on the weekly intimation sheets and other church communications for details.

Of course, the past few months have been different for St Mary's without our Minister. One thing they have perhaps reminded us though, is that the Church is all of us. Each person brings something different: those who lead worship, those who work with our children and young people, those who serve coffee, visit members, look after our buildings, play music, arrange flowers, welcome people at the door - and those who simply come along and become part of the fellowship.

That idea of everyone having a part to play seems particularly appropriate as we begin a new session. Just as our children discovered during 'Game On', a team is strongest when people encourage one another, support one another and use the gifts they have been given. The same is true of our church family.

We have also been extremely grateful for the support we have received with Sunday worship and pastoral care during Bryce's absence. In particular, I would like to record our sincere thanks to Rev John Thomson and Rev Arthur Barrie for the services they have led and for the support they have given the St Mary's family. Their willingness to help has been greatly appreciated.

As we move into this new session, perhaps there is an invitation here for all of us. If you have not been at St

Mary's for a little while, we would love to see you. There is no need for an explanation and no need to wait for a special Sunday - just come along. There will be a warm welcome waiting for you. And for those of us who are here regularly, perhaps our challenge is equally simple: to notice the person beside us, to welcome someone we do not know, to encourage one another and to remember that each of us has a part to play in the life of St Mary's. There is much to be thankful for, much to look forward to, and - even in a period that is a little different from what we had expected - much that God continues to do among us. I look forward to sharing this new session with you all. Every blessing,

Stewart Maxwell
Co-Session Clerk



WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

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

The new session is up and running, with everyone sharing tales from holiday destinations.

We would still like 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. You can even just add your name to the rota on the notice board in the Avon Hall.

Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

With the closure of the Motherwell branch of RBS on 10 September 2026, the church will no longer be able to bank weekly offerings via the nightsafe facility straight after the service. This means we will need to take any cash to the RBS branch in Hamilton during the week.

In advance of issuing new WFO envelopes later in the year, I am asking those who still contribute via this method to consider switching to standing order to help reduce the amount of cash we are required to bank.

If you would like to make the switch, please speak to me on a Sunday morning. I can usually be found at the technical desk, or drop me an email - stuart.dick@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk and I can provide you with the necessary bank details.

Stuart McCue-Dick
WFO Convenor

Work Party + A Challenge

In my last report I said "*the Work Party has become a victim of its own success*". This year as a result, we have had fewer meetings, in keeping with that fact, we have had fewer tasks to undertake. The most obvious task completed has been the repainting of the cupboard doors in the Cameron Hall. Although there have been a number of smaller, less obvious, but essential tasks completed.

The Challenge - What lies behind the locked doors of the **31** cupboards in the Avon and Cameron Halls? It is a mystery! We have more cupboards in these two halls combined, than we have organisations, who are the main beneficiaries of cupboards. I would ask the leaders of organisations to have a look in their cupboard(s)
Ask yourselves:

- 1 Do you still need all that is in there? If not, remove what you do not need.
- 2 Could you downsize to a smaller half height, **or** do you need a full height cupboard?
- 3 Do you need a cupboard at all?

If you have a cupboard, I hope you will take up this challenge. It should be to the benefit of all church organisations within St Mary's.

Howard Rennie
26th August 2026



The Guild

Dear ladies,

I can hardly believe that I'm composing a report for the Church's Autumn Magazine. I do hope you all had a most enjoyable summer break and especially with the beautiful weather which we have experienced.

I'd like to take this opportunity of not only welcoming our current members, but hopefully, we can increase a number of new ladies into our organisation.

The Guild is an excellent way of meeting new people and builds good strong friendships and is very much a blessing, which binds us together in sharing God's love. Thus, making us sisters in Christ, by means of supporting each other through times of trouble.

We have an excellent syllabus for the year 26/27 and the session opens with several soloists from Our Lady's Choral Society. We have various speakers throughout the year and have some demonstrations organised for instance, floral art. The session will close with our very own Inbetweeners, who never fail to give a great entertaining performance.

The Guild commences on Monday, 5th October at 7:30pm and again, I reiterate to looking forward to meeting both current and prospective members. If in doubt, give it a try as you will be made most welcome.

May God bless you all. Your sister in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Valerie Craig
President

Pastoral Care Team

The Team have been extremely busy over the summer months visiting members in their homes, in hospital or care home. This is very rewarding work as we see the benefits to those members who are unable to attend church or church groups.

We are a very committed, enthusiastic group of ladies and it is a pleasure to be part of this group. We also provide support to each other as at times the work has a very real impact on us.

We recently had Kirsteen Dick and Helen Calder step back from their involvement but we wish to say thank you to them and you will be missed. We have however recruited three new ladies - Caroline Allan, Marie Maxwell and Valerie Craig. We are delighted to have them join us, particularly as we are receiving an increasing number of referrals. This is good as it means we are connecting with our members.

We meet regularly to review who we visit and in doing so, enjoy each others company. There is usually tea, cake and laughter during our meetings. It is indeed a pleasure to lead this group.

Christine Brown

Men's Fellowship
1965 - 2026
61 Years of Fellowship

The new session of the Fellowship starts on **Monday 5th October**. We meet in the Conference Room at 7.30pm. Apart from the Covid period, we have met, as a Fellowship every year since 1965. To help us continue meeting, we need your support. Even if you are only able to attend on occasions, you will be made most welcome at our meetings.

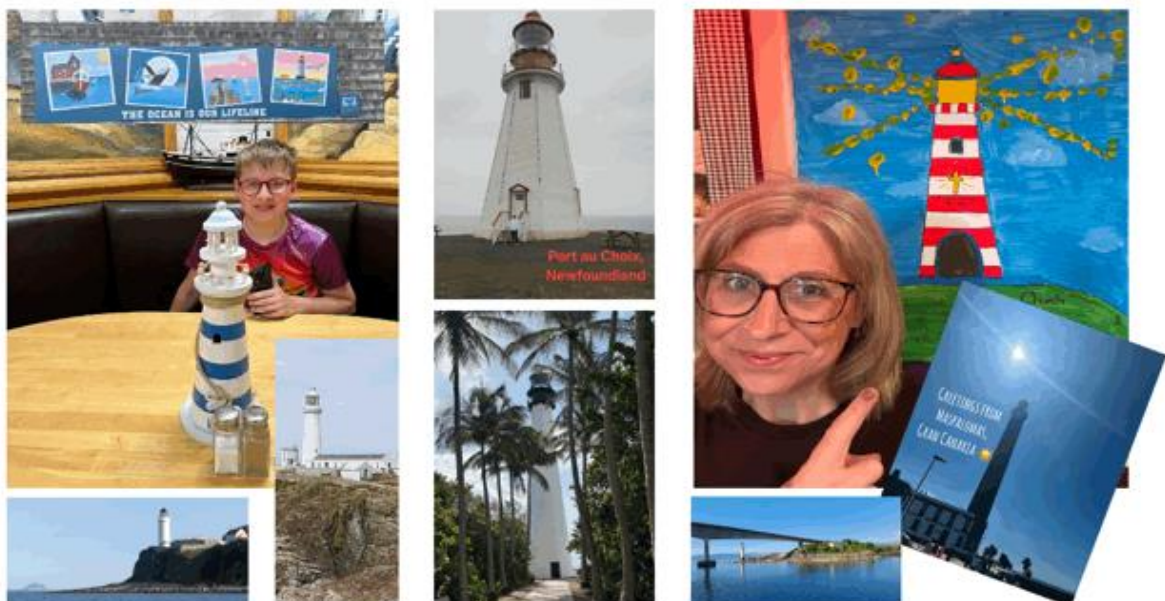
Syllabus
2026

Month	Date	Speaker	Subject
October	5 th	John Thomson	Life in the Manse
	19 th	Robert Neilson	Walking the St Cuthbert Way
November	2 nd	Alan Joyce	Games Night
	16 th	Robert Nimmo	Edukashon !
December	7 th	Arthur Barrie	"Spy & Traitor"
	21 st	Alan Joyce	Quiz Night + 1

Howard Rennie
President

Junior Church Summer Challenges

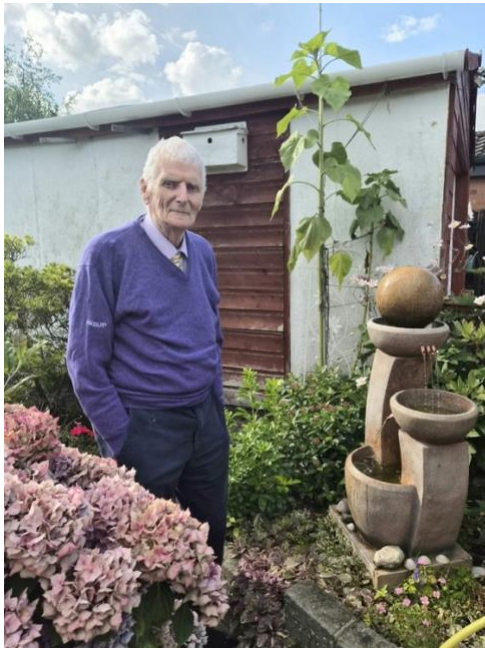
Lighthouse Challenge - Thank you for all the entries from your travels all around the world.



Junior Church Summer Challenges

Sunflower Challenge - Better late flowering than never !

Winners will be announced soon !!





St Mary's Girlguiding

Girlguiding New Uniform Launch

July 2026 saw Girlguiding launch, its first "full" uniform redesign in over 30 years!

This was a joint project, co-created with Hemingway Design, and most importantly input from nearly 55,000 members from Girlguiding. Many of the girls in St Mary's took the opportunity over the last few years, when requested, to share their ideas and thoughts!

Girlguiding, listening to its members, realised there was a need now for redesign. More needed to be done to let the public know who Girlguiding is and what we do, it was shown that Brownies and Guides are well recognised by the public, but fewer people knew about Rainbows, Rangers or Girlguiding as a whole. Girls also commented that the uniform didn't work for them. Girlguiding therefore set out to redesign the uniform making sure it would work for all, showing Girlguiding identity and values, and helping to reduce environmental impact, all things important to the Girls!

A 45-piece collection has been created, including garments for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Volunteer Leaders, designed to be more flexible, inclusive and sustainable.

Members only need to wear an official section top (a T-shirt, long sleeve top or hoodie) and this can be paired with the Girls own bottoms (her own jeans, leggings, shorts or skirt). Girlguiding would like all members to wear "because they want to, and not because they need to" and would very much like everyone to "style" how they would like!

We even made the news, BBC covered the launch on various news and morning programmes, and online articles!



You will see below some of the new collection:

- Rainbows with their bright and bold colours!
- Brownies with their 'nod' to the bees with their stripes!
- Guides with their ultra-modern tops, with thumb holes!
- Volunteers can wear a 'snugby', a **snug** sweatshirt with a **rugby** shirt-style collar! and
- There's even a gilet that doubles as a pillow!



Thank you for reading, and hopefully you will see these new, colourful, and exciting uniforms very soon as new girls arrive and others move on to new sections.



6th Guides

The Guides are looking forward to starting back in September. Before the Summer holidays the girls enjoyed getting outside and following a nature trail, exploring our surroundings looking at the plants, trees and wildlife. It will be interesting to hear how our Nature programme developed over the summer and if the butterfly boxes and bird feeders have been used. The girls had also enjoyed making flower pots and planting.

Our church Elder Margaret Watson enjoyed attending the Girlguiding Celebrates event at the Odeon Luxe in Leicester Square in London with her guiding friend from Hamilton. This event celebrates those nominated for making incredible contributions and achieving special awards.

QUEEN'S GUIDE AWARD

This year Girlguiding is celebrating the Queen's Guide Award 80th Anniversary. It was launched in 1946 and stayed in the Guide Section until 1983 when the Baden Powell Award was introduced. It is now available to the 16-30 year age group and is still the highest award in Girlguiding.

St Mary's Guiding units had many Queen's Guides over the years, mainly in the 70s and 80s. Were you one of them? Can you identify your Queen's Badge from the pictures below.



ECO

COMMITTEE

The Eco Committee continues to work hard to build a more sustainable future, here at St Mary's and in our wider communities. We are delighted to reach Silver in the Eco Congregation Awards, and at this stage we're prioritizing, ensuring that we are genuinely and meaningfully living up to the high standards at the silver level across the Church.

We continue to do this by ensuring that decisions made by the Church consider the environment, supporting biodiversity and wildlife, and combating environmental damage.

It was a pleasure to speak to many people within the congregation at our recent stall after Church, where we shared our work and managed to recruit a few new members to the committee! The Eco committee would also like to thank everyone who donated blankets, towels etc. for the local animal trusts.



Hope is growing and with the support of churches, we can support and help farming communities protect their land and strength their livelihoods.

Harvest of Hope

This harvest, Christian Aid is growing hope in countries across the world who have been affected by climate change. Countries like South Sudan have been struggling with the climate crisis and have encountered unpredictable seasons and flooding. This has lead to crops being destroyed and families struggling to feed their children.

Supper by Candlelight

Join the Motherwell and District Christian Aid Committee on Sunday 4th October at 6:30pm for Supper by Candlelight and support the fight against hunger and poverty.

Prayer of Hope

God resurrection

We turn from the cross of death towards the tree of life

And dare to imagine another possible world

Where violent conflict becomes peaceful reconciliation

Where hunger and thirst are filled and quenched

Where barriers of exclusion becomes bridges of opportunity

Where pain and tears are healed and tenderly wiped away

Where world weary hearts are strengthened and reenergised

Where the leaves of the tree heal all the nations

In a time of inequality and division we are united by hope

Anticipating the flourishing of creation and fullness of life for everyone

To the glory and praise of your Almighty name.

Amen

Y-Zone

It has been a busy and enjoyable time for our Y-Zone members, with plenty of opportunities for fellowship and getting involved in the life of St Mary's.

Before the summer break, we enjoyed a pizza and games night in the church, which was a great opportunity to spend time together. We also had a Bikeability session in the park, led by Alan Joyce, where our group had fun while developing their cycling skills. Alongside these special activities, our usual Sunday morning fellowship continued, with plenty of fun, friendship and time together.

It was wonderful to see several of our Y-Zone members helping at Summer

Club. It was fantastic to have the event return, and our young people were a great help in making it such a success.

After a well-deserved summer break, we have started our new session, and it has been encouraging to see such good numbers each week. It has been particularly lovely to welcome members moving up from Junior Church as they continue their journey at St Mary's. We look forward to getting to know them better and seeing them grow in faith and friendship.

So far this session, we have enjoyed a Bible-themed scavenger hunt around the church, as well as games and drawing challenges. We are looking forward to another year of fun and fellowship.



Summer Club

It was great to have St Mary's Summer Club back on this year, with more than 80 children and young people taking part in the two-day 'Game On' club. The event was all about celebrating sport and friendship, while encouraging the values of courage, teamwork, determination and respect.

The children and young people had the opportunity to take part in:

- Baking, to discover how different foods can give athletes energy and create their own 'power-up' snacks;
- Arts and crafts to celebrate sport and friendship, while encouraging creativity, teamwork and a sense of belonging within the church community; and
- Various sport sessions to learn from specialists and, for many, it provided an opportunity to try something new.

We were delighted to welcome sports' specialists in rugby, football, dance and

martial arts to provide a range of experiences for the children and young people participating. We were also privileged to hear from some brilliant athletes in videos created for the event, including: the 2026 Commonwealth Games Women's Scottish Artistic Gymnastics Team; Scottish professional swimmer and multi-medal winner at the Commonwealth Games and European Championships, Katie Shanahan; and Scottish Premiership footballer Blair Spittal.

The organisers would like to pass on our sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered and supported this event - it wouldn't have been possible without that support. In our online evaluation, completed by over 50% of parents, everyone gave the event top marks and said their children 'loved it!'. From an outreach perspective, it was also great to see that 20% had never been to an event at St Mary's before.

We're already thinking about themes for next year !



The Joyce Memorial Golf Competition

On the 23rd of August, 44 golfers met at Wishaw Golf Club to play in the first annual Allan PW Joyce Golf Competition. They were competing for the Margaret Joyce Salver and the Allan PW Joyce Trophy. The golfers were all linked to the 4 church of Scotland Churches in Motherwell, with 10 golfers playing 18 holes and 4 veterans from our Men's Fellowship playing 7 holes. The day was organised to honour the memory of Allan and Margaret Joyce by promoting fun, fellowship, bonding and friendly competition between the churches. On a day of fantastic weather the day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, particularly gratifying was the number of golfers from the same families taking part. Once the golf was complete, everyone met in the club house for a fantastic hot buffet meal, banter and tails of golfing success and golfing failure. The golfers were also joined by other family members to enjoy the food. After the meal was complete and the scores were checked, the following winners were announced:

The Allan PW Joyce Trophy:	Motherwell South for the best team
The Margaret Joyce Salver:	Hannah Riddell (Motherwell North and Craigneuk)
The Scratch:	Douglas Dickson (Motherwell North and Craigneuk)
The Handicap:	Scott Johnston (Motherwell South)
Best 4 Ball Prize:	Scott Johnston (Motherwell South), Alan Moore (Kirk at the Cross), Gordon Dickson (Motherwell North and Craigneuk), Alan Joyce (St Mary's)

Alan Joyce the main organiser said, " This was exactly the kind of event my mum and dad would have loved to have been part of, so we have got it right, I couldn't have done it without the help of Alistair and Gordon, but also a special mention the team captains from the other churches who organised their teams and made sure everyone was there on time. As this was the first year of the competition, we hope to make some adjustments for the next one and get even more people involved, watch for announcements. Congratulations to all the winners, especially Motherwell South winning the Allan PW Joyce Trophy and Hannah Riddell winning the Margaret Joyce Salver. Thanks to everyone who attended, thanks to all at Wishaw Golf Club and Paterson's Trophies."

Alan Joyce

The Events Action Team

The team were delighted with the response to family fun day. A fun filled afternoon was had by all. We had a human fruit machine which provided a lot of entertainment and now we all have arms like Popeye!



There was a vending machine, hoopla on the flamingos, giant Jenga, a bean bag toss and toss the poo into the toilet. A wheel of fortune, where sometimes you won a caramel wafer (but sometimes you had to do a push up), dart table tennis, assault course, a bouncy castle, an array of animals where our young people demonstrated they had no fear by

holding a giant millipede or petting the bearded dragon. Lastly our extremely talented Y-zone who drew everyone's portrait for a small fee. The Y-zone definitely caught all our good sides and we all looked a lot younger -thanks Y-zone!

We had a BBQ and a visit from a "couple of Roasters" coffee van and of course the ice cream van. It was a great afternoon enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next venture is the scarecrow challenge. Each organisation has to enter a scarecrow to represent their organisation. The entries need to be in for Friday the 2nd of October. We will have a viewing on the 3rd of October where you can come and join us for a wee cup of hot soup.

We look forward to seeing all the scarecrows.

The Events Action Tea



13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



Getting there....Day 1

With 20 boys and 10 officers (all resplendent in our new navy blue BB hoodies), the convoy of 2 minibuses and the Land Rover with Chapman's trailer, we managed to load up and ship out all our camping stuff and luggage for 5 days of adventure as we headed for Badaguish just outside Aviemore in the Cairngorms for our 2026 Summer Camp.

After a lunch stop in Aviemore we descended on Badaguish and began the process of making ourselves at home - 11 tents had to go up, the kitchen had to be organised, our travelling crockery, cutlery and utensils washed, the mammoth online shop had to be unpacked and the tuck shop retail outlet needed stocked and organised.

At Badaguish we have a great set-up that gives us best of both worlds - plenty of flat dry camping ground complemented by indoor cooking and dining facilities and a modern toilet/shower block.

The boys made an excellent job of setting up our tents under the careful guidance of Messrs Greenhorn Snr & Jnr (after several goes at alignment adjustment!) so after an afternoon of settling in we enjoyed our first meal together and then set off for a stroll down to Loch Morlich.

The Hillwalk....Day 2

Day 2 is the traditional camp hillwalk and this year we returned to a walk that

is always a favourite - the Meall a' Bhuachaille circular. This is a brilliant walk that starts and ends at the campsite and loops around the hills behind that campsite

It was a stunning 15 kilometre walk in very windy conditions at times - between two of the peaks we had a great view of the campsite!

Activity Days....Day 3 & 4

Monday and Tuesday were both days of organised activities where the main event of the day was provided by an outdoor activity company. For the second year in a row we made a hybrid arrangement - we partnered with Able2Adventure who laid on an excellent set of activities for us on the Monday and the Tuesday morning - paddleboarding has become a favourite activity as has the gorge walking/jumping on the River Feshie. This year the strong wind did play a bit of havoc with the Monday arrangements and paddleboarding was moved to the pond at Glenmore Lodge to prevent everyone getting blown across Loch Morlich at high speed!!

On the Tuesday afternoon we were looked after by the folks at Loch Insh water sports where we spent a few hours on their Jungle Float in the middle of the Loch. The Jungle Float is a floating platform equipped with slides, trampolines and diving platforms and best seen on the photo page! It was such a hit last year that it had to be repeated! It was another fun afternoon and the boys (and officers) had a ball

jumping, diving, sliding and bouncing off the Jungle Float into the Loch.

What else....?

In between all the planned activities the boys were kept entertained/busy by our staff team in football competitions, a quiz night and as we were at Camp during the height of the World Cup we managed to take in a few games on the big screen!!

Thank You

A big thank you to all the parents for the privilege of taking their boys to camp (and for providing us with cakes and biscuits for our suppers!).

Thanks to Mr Ian Beattie our camp chef for providing wonderful meals, doing all the dishes and putting up with all the cheek and nonsense chat!

Thanks are also due to our partners James Chapman Butchers for their continued support.

Summer Camp 2026 was another great camp in the perfect location, awesome activities with a wonderful group of boys who have all come home with memories that will last a lifetime.

Camp 2027 is already booked and we hope to create another memorable camp for everyone.....

Captain Stewart Maxwell

Summer Camp 2026 – some photos



This is a small selection of our BB camp photos – you can see more on our Instagram at [13th_motherwell_bb](#) or on Facebook at [13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company](#)



FLOWER LIST

OCTOBER

4th Mr A Joyce (Jnr)
Mrs B Aitkenhead
11th Mrs S Forrest
18th Mrs I Dougal
Miss V Craig
25th Rev & Mrs J Thomson

NOVEMBER

1st Mrs M Tracey
8th Mrs S Sinclair
15th Mrs A Corbett
22nd Mrs M McCloy
Mrs D Livingstone
Miss J Graham
29th Mr S McCue-Dick
The Guild

DECEMBER

6th Mrs I Scott
13th
20th Mrs F Renwick
27th Mrs D Connor

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

"Where Every Scarecrow Has a Story!"



Organisations along with local schools and community groups are invited to get creative and build a **scarecrow** for our **AUTUMN FESTIVAL**.

Submissions should be in place in the church grounds by **Friday 2nd October**.

Scarecrow TRAIL & COMPETITION

Saturday 3rd October

2.00 – 4.00pm

Hot soup will be served.