

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



EASTER 2015

Bulletin No 320

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

March 1 Finlay James Percy

-----oOo-----

MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

February 20 Natalie McCallum and Martin Keenan

March 6 Lynsey McDougall and David Bolton

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

Jan 8 Ellen Collins

Jan 23 Anne Dunn

Feb 4 Mungo Gillon

Feb 11 Margaret Beattie

Feb 11 Alexander Martin

Feb 13 Ishbel Thomson

Mar 13 Elizabeth Gallacher



Manse of St Mary's

18 March 2015

Dear Friends,

When the local press was informed of my impending retirement, the first headline read "sad farewell", which sounded a little like an obituary, the next read "fond farewell" which had a little more warmth about it; I'm wondering what the headline might be next week..... glad..... timeous..... thankful..... happy..... or what?

My last Sunday in the pulpit was charged with emotion; it was great for Alison and me to share in a service of worship which expressed the nature of the lively, hopeful, generous, faithful and committed congregation which is St Mary's; tonight's farewell social was a most touching event. We are immensely grateful for the generous words of Howard Rennie and the Rev Stuart Dunn, offered on behalf of the congregation and the Christian community; we are immensely grateful for the overwhelming generosity of the congregation expressed in the gift presented to us. Thanks also to the Kirk Session and the Choirs for their part in the evening, and to Allan Joyce for insisting that the event should take place and for chairing it.

My own words were really an expression of thanks for the privilege of serving as your minister over these 27 years, and I can do no more than sincerely echo them in this letter - thanks to so many individuals, leaders and office-bearers and to you all as a worshipping, praying, giving and serving community, to which you and I must be proud to belong, a community which sustains and advances the on-going purposes of Christ's Kingdom.

And on-going it is: that's a word I over-use. For though ministers come and go, the life and work of the church goes on. And it is my conviction that St Mary's has a great deal to do and to achieve in the future, in maintaining its high tradition and in looking ahead, with faith and trust in the enabling power of Christ.

We shall be remaining in Motherwell: we have been here as a family for 27 years, myself for nearly 40 years. We look forward in retirement to crossing your paths, in a rather different capacity, in the days to come, to sustaining friendships happily formed in the church and in the town.

You look forward now to a period of vacancy and in time (not too long, I hope!) to the appointment of a new minister. You will be well served by the experienced Arthur Barrie, as Interim

Moderator, and the team he has assembling. I wish you well during the coming months when it is all the more important that the fellowship of the congregation should be vigorously sustained.

I end with words from Paul's letter to the Philippian Church, his favourite church, which I quoted this evening: "I thank my God for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion."

So, my farewell to you, as minister of St Mary's is a happy and a deeply grateful one. May God grant you his richest blessing in all the days to come. May you know his power enabling you and his love surrounding you as you look, in faith and trust, to the future.

Yours aye

David W Doyle



END OF AN ERA

The end of an era came on Sunday 15th March 2015, when after just over 27 years service The Rev David W Doyle led the worship and preached his last sermon as our Minister. The church was almost at capacity as members, former members and friends gathered to join in this, his last act of public worship before starting his well earned retiral. The spontaneous and sustained round of applause as he went to greet worshippers leaving the service was evidence of the high regard and esteem in which he is held.

The Gathering on Wednesday 18th March 2015 to celebrate his Ministry in St Mary's was an evening of music and reminiscences. The evening started with an Organ Recital by the Organist, Mr Ronald Mackie. The Chairman for the evening, Mr Allan Joyce, after welcoming the congregation and friends, introduced the speakers and the musical items provided by the Senior Choir and the Inbetweeners. The entertainment concluded when both groups came together ending an excellent evening's entertainment singing, How Great Thou Art and I'm Gonna Sing. The choir were led and accompanied by Mr Ronald Mackie Choirmaster and Organist and the Inbetweeners were led by Mrs Karen Maxwell and accompanied by Mrs Lesley Niven.

The Rev Stuart Dunn former Minister of Crosshill Parish Church and colleague of Mr Doyle's spoke of the close relationship which existed between them and the 2 congregations. As Interim Moderator during the last vacancy he was conscious of the fact that he was not only helping St Mary's to find a Minister but he was also looking for a good neighbour as the manses were adjoining, looking for that special someone who would be the kind of Minister who would meet the needs of the Congregation and keep the grass cut. Stuart was delighted that in both of these aims he was more than successful having discovered an excellent colleague and firm family friend.

Mr Howard Rennie in his remarks on behalf of the congregation highlighted the many landmarks which had been reached and aims achieved during Mr Doyle's long and fruitful Ministry. Howard in his usual comfortable and humorous manner, he offered advice on how to approach retirement and avoid the pit falls associated by over stepping the instructions given by the lady of the house, especially when dispatched to the supermarket. In his conclusion he offered thanks and best wishes to David and congratulated him on having had the gracious and ever reliable support of Alison and the family.

Session Clerk Mr Allan Joyce presented a gift to Mr Doyle from all in the Congregation expressing thanks to him for his unstinting service and on

the Congregation's behalf expressed best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Margaret Joyce presented Mrs Doyle with a floral basket.

Mr Doyle spoke of his time in St Mary's expressing thanks to the Clerks to Board and Session and particularly to Sheila Sinclair and Margaret McCloy for their work and ready assistance as church secretaries. He concluded by thanking Mr Joyce for organising the evening, for his kind remarks and the Congregation for their generous gift.

Interim Moderator Rev Arthur Barrie expressed a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the evening, which was closed in a short act of worship after which light refreshments were served in the Avon Hall.

My thanks to Miss June Graham for the Floral Decorations in the church and Mrs Sheila Brown and her team of lady helpers for the excellent and abundant refreshments.

Allan PW Joyce
Session Clerk





THE GUILD

As we come to the end of the session we look back on what has been an interesting and enjoyable few months. Highlights included our Scottish Night, Craft Night and AGM when we welcomed our minister Rev David W Doyle. We enjoyed hearing something of his life and experiences, and how he was led into full time ministry. Over the years Mr Doyle has been supportive of all the Guild stands for and his wife Alison has served faithfully. As a token of our gratitude to her she was presented with a gift which we trust will remind her of her involvement and the friendships shared over the years.

As I come to the end of my time as President I am conscious of the support I have received from many people, in particular Myra Philip, who has been a most efficient secretary, and I am most grateful to them all.

The office bearers for next session are Myra Philip President, Valerie Craig Vice President, Isabel Johnstone Secretary and Helen McKenna Treasurer. I am sure that they will enhance the life of the Guild and am grateful to them for accepting the challenge and wish them every blessing.

If you are interested in joining us on a Monday evening you will be most welcome.

The Guild meets each Monday evening October till Easter at 7.30 pm in the Avon Hall and a varied programme will be arranged. Our session ends with the annual outing and it is hoped that this will prove to be an enjoyable time spent with friends.

Eleanor Simpson

ST MARY'S WOMAN'S GUILD

It began in nineteen hundred and four
St Mary's Woman's Guild.
So many souls have come and gone
And still the seats are filled.

People haven't changed that much,
In all the passing years,
Bringing with them week by week
Their joys, their hopes, their fears.

Willing hearts and helpful hands
Have shaped the Woman's Guild,
Making it the corner stone
On which their lives are built.

Members have shared in laughter,
In prayers, fund raising too,
Caring for one another
Moving on to pastures new.

It's no longer a female bastion;
Now men can join in too.
But they seem very reluctant
This pathway to pursue.

The numbers are very healthy;
Ladies turn up rain or snow,
Due to the kindly helpers
Who ferry them to and fro.

So let us keep on going
Forging ahead with verve,
With our Motto ever before us
"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Flora Miller

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The first meeting of the New Year saw a good attendance when members were given insight into the daily workings of a detective, when one of our Elders Mr Stuart Greenhorn, told of a day in his working life. A talk enlivened by video and a deal of humour.

Mr Alex Baird made a welcome return to the Fellowship in a celebration of Robert Burns and all things Scottish. He among other things reminisced on early life in the manse, finding and sharing a great deal of fun and excitement in his many stories.

Mr Malcolm McIntyre told of his world wide travels in his "Ramblings of a Safety Man" looking at how safety could be improved and commenting on accident investigations.

The first meeting in February we were joined with the Guild and had a pleasant evening in their company, when the Captain and a group of officers and boys told of the work of The Boys' Brigade.

Margaret Anderson a regular speaker at the Fellowship widened our knowledge of Scottish history as she recounted the exodus of the population in the "Clearances Revisited" both in the Highlands and lesser known Lowlands.

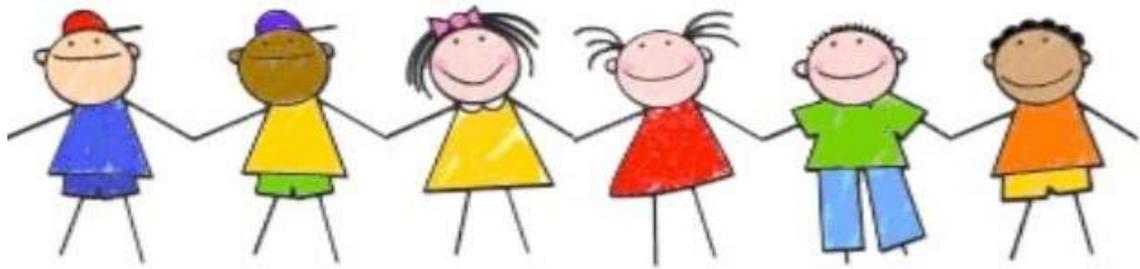
David Carson's exploration, of the reputation and work of the Barber, in his talk "Hair Today - Gone Tomorrow" from the earliest times through to the Surgeon Barber and now specialist hairdresser awakened memories of the many bad hair cuts of days gone by.

Mr Russell Clark in an informative talk told of the caring work undertaken by the group which week by week produces Talking Newspapers for the visually impaired.

The work of "Hawkeye Aerial Photograph" was explained and demonstrated in excellent photographs by Edward Smith. He had been engaged by various companies to record the progress through building projects such as the new Southern General Hospital in Glasgow and Edinburgh's Waverly Station.

The Fellowship has been well attended throughout the year and I thank members for their loyal support.

Allan Joyce
President



THE TODDLER GROUP

The toddler group has enjoyed a fun-packed and busy start to the new session. We have welcomed many new members taking our current numbers up to full capacity!

In December we waved a fond farewell to Joanne Hamilton after 8 years of service and leadership and welcomed Emma Mitchell to the role. Emma has been attending with her son Joseph since October 2014 and we are delighted that she has accepted the position. Louise Thom, Karyn Davies and Rosaline Ward will support Emma as leaders and secretary. We also have many talented mums on the committee who assist weekly with singing, crafts and with kitchen and toy duties.

Our first committee meeting of the year was held in January when we agreed dates for the forthcoming session.

So far this year we have enjoyed delicious homemade pancakes, by June Graham, on Shrove Tuesday. June brought along her frying pan so that the children could take a turn at "tossing the pancakes"- the children were more successful than our new chairperson Emma!

June and her team of "aunties" have transformed our session spoiling us with cakes and treats on a weekly basis and setting up and co-ordinating all the catering for the parties! The mum's are now dieting every other day so that we can enjoy our Tuesday and Friday treats!

The children had a great time making cards for Mother's Day - there was glitter and stickers everywhere and they were disappointed for the first time that they had to tidy up for toast! The adults (and some children) enjoyed some delicious pink, sparkly cupcakes made by Eleanor Simpson - yum, and each day we raffled a beautiful flower arrangement made by Rosaline's dad.

We are now looking forward to our Easter parties and Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 27th and Tuesday 31st March and then after a long Easter holiday we will have our annual Health Day on Tuesday 12th and Friday 15th May.

We will end the Spring/Summer session with a Summer trip to McKinnon Mill's soft play on Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th June, then our mums will relax and enjoy a well earned night out at the Bentley Hotel. Dads get the date in your diaries!



After the Thinking Day Service in the church many of the St Mary's leaders joined other guiders from Motherwell Division at the Bentley Hotel for lunch. After a pleasant lunch and much chatter, as you can imagine, our AGM was held at which a number of our leaders were presented with long service awards. We are very lucky in St Mary's to have a large number of dedicated leaders. Stacey Dougall, Jennifer Gardiner, Sarah Reilly, Alison Stewart, and Hazel Graham were presented with their 20 years brooch. Laura Westwood received her 5 years award, Denise Andrew 30 years award, and Doreen Barclay her 40 years award. Jill Morrison, has also completed 10 years and Suzanne Milne 5 years as guiders. These and the rest of our guiders currently provide 30 Rainbows, 49 Brownies and 47 Guides with a truly memorable guiding experience.

6th Motherwell Rainbows

At the start of the new session it was necessary for both units to have meetings together due to shortages of leaders. Separate meetings have now resumed and the Avon Hall is quieter on Wednesday evenings although the Cameron Hall is noisier as the Squirrels enjoy meeting on their own again.

The girls enjoyed their joint Halloween and Christmas parties where they played much loved party games and enjoyed a sweetie when they were eliminated from a game. This proved to be very popular with the leaders too, as everyone enjoys a Haribo.

The girls all looked lovely at the Christmas party when they had their special party outfits on. They enjoyed singing for Santa and were delighted with their gifts from him.



This year Rainbow roundabout was started and the girls picked which activities they would like to do from the areas of Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. They have one thing left to do and the Rainbows will then get a Rainbow Roundabout Badge. It has taken longer than planned, but the girls have been busy doing other things during the meetings.

Crafts are very popular and we hope that all the mums appreciated their Mother's Day gift as the Rainbows worked on these for an entire meeting. Hopefully, the permanent ink will have come off the hands of those girls who were very enthusiastic with colouring their gift boxes.

We are saving our Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers which have provided us with equipment to keep fit. It was surprising how well the Rainbows could skip using our new skipping ropes.

This year was the first year that we only had one Thinking Day Service and it was so good to see most of our Rainbows in church.

Both Rainbow units are in need of new leaders due to changes in personal circumstances and if anyone is interested in helping out then please contact any of the Rainbow Leaders or our Division Commissioner, Doreen Barclay .

6th A Motherwell Brownies



The Brownies have been working on the new challenge badge, they have made bird feeders, decorated gingerbread people to look like police, lollipop men, etc who help us in the community, learned sign language and played some new games. They had a Thinking Day party with food and games from 3 different countries which the Brownies planned. Two new girls made their promise and most exciting of all Tawny Owl Fiona has had a baby boy!

6th A Guides

A number of the Guides continue to work enthusiastically on the Baden Powell Challenge Award. Claire Scobbie and Lynne Smellie completed this award before Christmas and 4 more girls are due to attend the residential section of the award in April.

Unit nights are very busy with the girls involved in planning themed nights from now until the end of the session. The unit has already had a 70s night and one in planning stage is a games show night which should prove to be a fun experience.

BASICS FOOD BANK (LANARKSHIRE)

Basics Food Bank (Lanarkshire) which was founded in 2010 gives out food parcels, hygiene packs and a Gospel to every new referral to the Charity. There are now distribution outlets in Motherwell, Bellshill and Airdrie.

Donations can be left in the box in the vestibule of the church or in the cupboard in the church kitchen.

basicsfood@hotmail.co.uk

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



The New Year to Easter block of our BB session is always a busy one....this article will hopefully give you a flavour of this busy time...

BATTALION COMPETITIONS

Since the last article we have taken part in 4 Battalion competitions - the Quiz, Bible Knowledge, Physical Challenge and Squad Drill. A great mix of competitions with something to cater for everyone in the company.

The battalion quiz is always a fun but closely fought night and this year was no different and our team finished runners up behind the awesome team from 20th (North Motherwell).

We used the Penny Bible for our Bible Knowledge materials this year and the stories of Luke provided some great material for the team to learn about Jesus life. We will have to wait until the Review to find out if we improved on last year's performance!

The Senior 5-a-side football was unfortunately cancelled due to a fixture clash (with the Old Firm!) but will hopefully be re-scheduled towards the end of the session.

The physical challenge competition is a good test for the athletes in the company and a strong performance from our team will hopefully bring a good result at the Review.

Our squad drill team have just delivered a solid performance in the drill paper but again the result remains a secret until the Review in May.

A great set of results but more importantly excellent participation from the boys all taking part to the best of their ability and in the spirit of the BB. A big thank you to the parents also for all your support and for chauffeuring the boys to and from the competitions!

The first aid and Junior 5-a-side football competition will take place before the school Easter holidays and the athletics will be the last competition later in April when the nights are a bit lighter!

QUEENS BADGE

This year we have 5 boys who are in the final stages of their work towards the Queens Badge and will be heading off to Scottish Headquarters at Carronvale house in Larbert at the end of April to complete this work in time to be presented with their award at the Battalion Review in May.

BATTALION REVIEW

The Battalion Review will take place this year in Dalziel St Andrews Church on Friday 9 May. Parents and friends of the Battalion are more than welcome to come along.

SUMMER CAMP

We are returning to our favourite campsite at Badaguish outside Aviemore.

Captain Stewart Maxwell

Dates for the Diary

Fri 3 April - No BB (Good Friday)

Fri 10 April - No BB (School Holidays)

Fri 17 April - No BB (school holidays)

Fri 24 April - BB BACK! (Seniors to Karting)

Friday 8 May - Battalion Review



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY

At this time each year, Christian Aid draws our attention to the plight of real individuals in desperate need of help so that we can see 'those in need' more clearly as individuals as we take part in our fundraising.

This year, Christian Aid tells us of a woman called Loko.

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask Him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

This year, St Mary's is continuing its long tradition of generous support for Christian Aid.

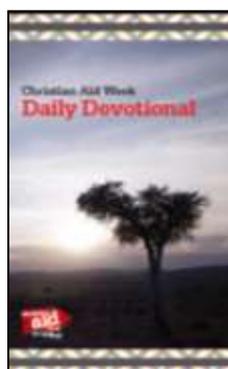
To do this, we need volunteers for the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) to join our existing band of dedicated collectors. Every year, throughout the country, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid.

Please consider giving one evening during Christian Aid Week to St. Mary's part in this important task.

On Christian Aid Sunday, 10th May, there will be a Christian Aid lunch in the Avon Hall after the morning service. Tickets will be available for several Sundays before Christian Aid Week.

Margaret MacGregor

visit www.christianaid.org.uk



A Daily Devotional booklet is available to download free.

Junior Church

Sunday 15th March

The children of the Junior Church were all present for the final service of Mr Doyle. Following the children's address they headed to the hall to make some very pretty Mother's Day gifts and crafts, before returning to join the congregation for the final hymn and blessing.



Easter celebrations

The children are already preparing for the Palm Sunday activities at Junior Church. All our zones will be taking part during the service and preparations are well under way! We look forward to sharing in this special family service led by the Session.

On Easter Sunday the Y Zone invite you to join them for breakfast in the Avon hall following the Dawn service.



During the morning service the zones will share in an Easter Picnic. A reminder that the Junior Church will meet as usual during the April school holidays.



Christian Aid

Our CAST team have been very busy at their monthly lunch meetings planning and organising the Christian Aid events within St Mary's. This year they will be hosting the annual messy morning one Sunday in May. Children are invited to attend from 10 am. There will also be an opportunity for the congregation to support the work of Christian Aid at the lunch on Sunday 10 May. More details to follow.



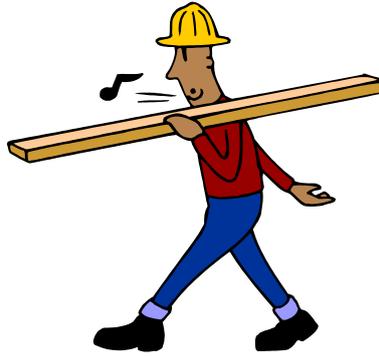
New team members

The Mini Zone have welcomed Linzi Dodds to the team of helpers. She will be working with our nursery aged children and has already enjoyed lots of activity mornings with her little group of girls.

The Y Zone are delighted that Karyn Davies had agreed to join the team at Junior Church, to support the work with our teenage members.

We are very fortunate in St Marys to have so many willing members in our congregation who give of their time and talents.

WORK PARTY



The Work Party will resume their activities on Monday 13th April.

We meet each Monday around 9 am, finishing around 12 noon.

As well as the general tidying of the grounds around the church and halls, we are undertaking some redecoration, and joiner work.

This year we will also be undertaking some gardening and maintenance works in and around the manse, during the vacancy.

If you would like to join us, you will be made most welcome. All you need is enthusiasm!!

Even if you are not able to attend every week, your help when available will still be valued.

Howard Rennie

St Mary's Summer Club is back!

The ever popular summer club will be held every morning from **Monday 27th** until **Friday 31st July**.

The usual mix of games, crafts, music and drama will entertain children of 3 years and upwards.

We are looking for adult and teenage helpers to help and share in the fun. If you are available to come along on any of these dates please contact:

Hazel Graham or
Jennifer Bradshaw

Start planning your summer holidays now!



St.Mary's Parish Church



Team



101

Monday 27th April 2015

Avon Hall at 7.30pm

Team of 4 - £10

FLOWER LIST

APRIL

5th -
12th Mrs A Anderson
Mrs Murray
Mrs H Graham
19th Mrs E Currie
26th Mrs E Simpson

MAY

3rd Mrs A Johnstone
Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson
10th Mrs A Craig
17th Mrs S Brown
Mrs E Ross
24th Mrs A Pearce
31st -

JUNE

7th Mrs E M Barr
14th Mrs L Thain
21st Mrs M Bimbi
28th Mrs M Jarvie
Mrs F Hannah
Mrs E Blackwood



June Graham - Flower Convener

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



March	29	11.00 am	Palm Sunday Service of Lessons and Carols
April	5	7.00 am 11.00 am	Easter Sunday Dawn Service Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev Arthur Barrie
May	10		Christian Aid Sunday Rev Bob Kent

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March April	30 - 3	Mon - Fri at 7.00 pm	United Holy Week Services: St Margaret's Parish Church Muirhouse
April	27	Monday 7.30 pm	Team Quiz 101