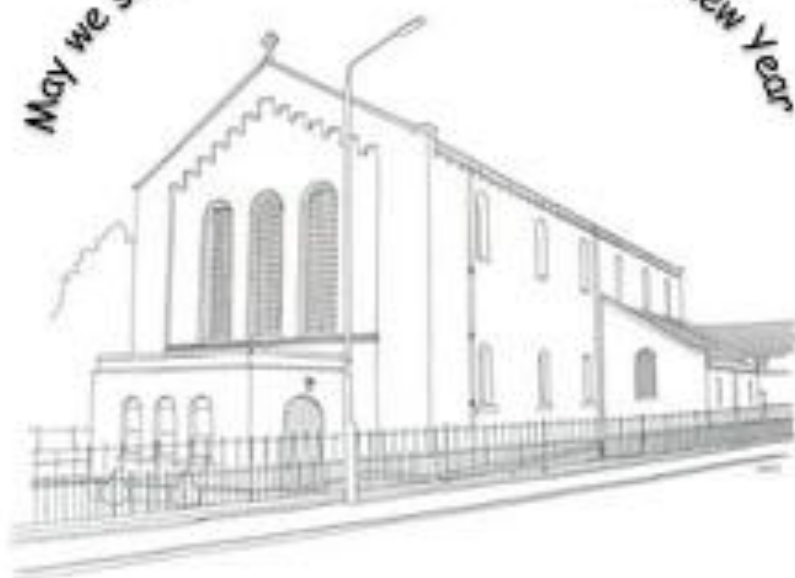


ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SCD12233



May we shine the light of Christ in the New Year



FEBRUARY 2018

Bulletin No 354



Manse of St Mary's

Dear Friends:

I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year in 2018.

On behalf of the Manse Family, a big thank you for all your lovely cards and good wishes over the festive season. Our first Christmas in *St Mary's Parish Church* was very special. We feel blessed indeed to be part of such a loving, caring, gifted and generous Church Family.

At my first Baptism Service, on Christmas Eve, I quoted Jesus' famous last words - as recorded in Matthew's Gospel [**Matthew 28:19-20**]:

"GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And REMEMBER I am with you always, to the end of the age."

At the Hogmanay Service, I claimed the very last sentence of these words as God's promise to us, as a congregation, for 2018: ***"REMEMBER I am with you always, to the end of the age..."***

As we journey onwards, throughout 2018, may these words sustain and encourage us in all that we do together as a congregation. May their daily reality guide us forward in faith, hope and love.

2018 has been designated, by the Scottish Government as: ***The Year of Young People*** [YOYP 2018]. A global first, the YOYP 2018 will provide a platform to showcase the

personalities, talents and achievements of Scotland's young people. It will give young people, aged 8 to 26 years of age, new opportunities to influence decision making on issues affecting their lives and to be involved in special events across the country. For more details about YOYP 2018, a dedicated website can be found at: <http://yoyp2018.scot>

The Church of Scotland have encouraged every congregation to support and promote YOYP 2018 and *St. Mary's Parish Church* have gladly signed up to this important and significant challenge.

As a congregation, we are blessed to have so many wonderful children and young people in our Junior Church and Youth Organisations. At a special YOYP 2018 Service, to be held on 28th January, representatives from the congregation will sign the following Church Charter, underlining our commitment to our children and young people.

We promise to: GET TO KNOW YOU
LISTEN TO YOU SHARE FAITH WITH
YOU PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU INVOLVE
YOU HELP KEEP YOU SAFE HELP DEVELOP
YOUR GIFTS ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Throughout 2018, and always, may God help us to be faithful to this charter as we value and care for the children and young people in our midst and encourage and enable them to realise their potential as vital part of our congregation.

Your Friend & Pastor:
Rev Bryce Calder



GUILD

It hardly seems no time at all since the last Church magazine was published. The session recommenced on Monday 8 January, after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The attendance was exceptional considering how cold it had been that day and all the ladies enjoyed listening to our guest speaker Andrew Livingstone, on how he became the author of children's books.

Due to our Secretary Isabel Johnstone who has worked tirelessly ensuring our syllabus runs smoothly, we can look forward each week to an array of guest speakers as well as entertainers as in: The Singing Birdies with Linda Ormiston, Scottish night with the Junior Choir and a joint evening with the Men's Fellowship consisting of a quiz, to name but a few.

There is an open invitation to one and all to attend the Guild, where you will find at the door a very warm welcome from Jean Hunter. If you come unaccompanied and don't know anyone, Jean will be only too happy to introduce you to some of the ladies with whom you can sit throughout the evening. After the meeting there is tea and biscuits and everyone likes to get together and have a chat.

I'm looking forward to each week and I hope you are too.

Valerie T Craig
President

Pictures below from the Guild mini Christmas Market evening in December.



BASICS FOOD BANK (LANARKSHIRE)

Please continue to donate to this Christian Project which offers support to those who are at a crisis point in their life. It provides family and single packs of food items, non-perishables and a hygiene pack over a two-week period. All packs are given out on a referral basis to people living in our local area.

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



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 8 January and the New Year got off to a great start when members at the well attended meeting, were treated to an excellent insight into the Life and Times of our National Bard - Robert Burns. The talk was presented by Bob Dalziel, one of the foremost and sought after speakers on the Bard.

Meetings in November and December had continued to be very well attended.

November and the Rev Bob Kent presided at the clavinova taking us on a journey through music in its many forms and styles, (he even managed demonstrate the singing style of some of his favourites from the world of jazz) A veritable extravaganza much enjoyed by all.

Road Crash investigation was explained to us by Constable Alan Stewart of Police Scotland Traffic Department.

Mrs Janet Haugh explained the history and work of the charity "Mary's Meals" which aims to provide school children in various countries with a meal at school.

Launch and Recovery Systems for underwater vehicles was the subject of Graham Currie, whose illustrated talk gave a wide ranging insight into the design and installation of the systems.

December and Douglas Keith gave us another of his tours around Britain, as ever filled with anecdotes and humour.

Our last meeting of the year was our usual lively and hotly contested quiz, organised and presented by our own Bill Taylor, Thanks to Bill for another great night.

We look forward to future meetings.

January		
15	School	Mrs Jen DiMambro
22	Scottish Night	Inbetweeners Men
29	TV	Mr Chris Scott
February		
5	Covering the Troubles	Mr Bill Clark
12	Guild Joint Night	Panel Night
19	Quotations	Mr Cameron Dick
26	Crossreach	Mrs Liann Weir
March		
5	Football the Golden Years	Mr Tom Purdie
12	Scottish Circles	Mr Peter Ferguson
19	AGM	Junior Choir

As always a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may be free to attend, meetings start at 7.30 pm and finish at 9.00 pm.

Allan Joyce
President

The Cleaning Team New Year dates



The church cleaning team has been busy over the past months. As we head into the winter period our next meeting for 2018 will be on Monday 5 February. We are a cheerful band of workers and undertake all sorts of jobs - from light dusting to cooker cleaning, pew cushion hoovering to floor polishing. There is a job for everyone! At each meeting we also enjoy a much needed coffee break with baking...and the opportunity to catch up and share fellowship together. It is so encouraging to have a team of 32 willing helpers, and a warm invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join us. Our new year challenge is to recruit a new member each month ... and we're already on target for January! (Please bring your own marigolds!)

EVENTS ACTION TEAM

Happy New Year to everyone.

I am happy to report that a very successful Family Film night was held in the Avon Hall on Saturday 9 December. There were over 60 attending, who enjoyed traditional Cinema food, hotdogs and popcorn, with some Christmas pies thrown in at the end, then we all settled down and enjoyed the film Elf.

Thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who attended, approx. £70 was raised.

We had hoped to hold a film night in November aimed at a slightly more mature audience, but due to poor numbers we decided to cancel this event.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas, which again was lovely, and also to everyone who helped tidy up.

The Events Action Team were happy to help the Junior Church and Cast group with the evening carol singing service, thanks again to all who made soup, supplied baking and helped serve which led to a fantastic Christmas fellowship event. As always it was standing room only in the Avon Hall for the brilliant panto performed by the youngsters.

Future Events

Fellowship Annual Quiz Night

Monday 23 April - 7 pm - Avon Hall

Teams of Four - Still at the 2012 prices of £10 per team.

Individual quizzers are very welcome to attend, and make up a team of "All-stars" or be added into existing teams to enjoy a great laugh and maybe win fantastic prizes. Tickets on sale in the Avon Hall very soon, or speak to any Elder or Events Action Team Member to secure a place.

Shine Music Theatre Concert

Friday 1 June - 7.30 pm - Church

We are very excited to announce that we have managed to secure Shine Youth Theatre from Carlisle to perform in our church, the group perform an extensive range of songs from Musicals. They are an amazing group who perform to an astoundingly high standard. They recently sold out every show in Motherwell Concert Hall, for the musical "Sister Act", if you have never seen one of their shows, please come along and be amazed.

Tickets are only £5 and will include Tea, Coffee and baking after the show. Tickets will go on sale after Easter from the Avon Hall or by contacting any elder or member of the Events Action team. Please get your ticket early, as only 500 tickets will be available and it's expected to sell out very quickly.

Thanks

Alan Joyce (Jnr)

CROSSREACH
providing a caring future

Be part of Scotland's BIGGEST running festival. The Edinburgh Marathon Festival is now in its 16th year and takes place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2018. This ever-growing festival of running is now a major event in the Scottish sporting calendar. Starting in Edinburgh, the course heads out through East Lothian offering stunning views and an unforgettable running experience. The full weekend of events attracts around 30,000 runners, with thousands more lining the course to support. There are 9 races on offer over 2 days including the marathon, half marathon, team relay, 10k, 5k and junior races. There really is something for everyone, so why not make the most of the Bank Holiday weekend and support CrossReach at the same time? CrossReach has a limited number of free places for all races over the weekend.

To run for CrossReach, apply now at:
<https://tinyurl.com/CrossReach-Marathon>



6th A Guides

The Thursday Guides are working hard on their "Go for It" challenges, and have also received a new activity pack called "Unit Meeting Activities", it has practical tasks covering, history, camping skills and self-defence. This is in preparation for the introduction of a new programme across the Guiding sections. Four of the girls are currently working towards the Baden Powell Challenge Award.

Christmas was celebrated with an outing to the cinema in Hamilton to see "Wonder", a film based on a book telling the story of a little boy born with a disfigurement who is home schooled for years and then goes to mainstream school. The film explores people's acceptance/ignorance of disabilities.

6th Guides

Prior to Christmas the Tuesday Guides joined with the Tuesday Brownies for a Christmas craft evening which was greatly enjoyed by all.



6th Brownies



Two Badges completed by the Tuesday Brownies are Designer and Disability Awareness. The Designer Badge ideas cover designing a holiday outfit, making an item from recycled materials, creating an advert, web page or badge for a special event. They can also choose to create a gadget or garden item and find out about a famous designer.

The Disability Awareness badge enables the girls to be aware of mobility, deaf and sight disabilities. They identified items by touch, smell and taste and played the traditional game of lighthouses, whereby a blind-folded player relies on instructions from team members. The girls also learnt how to use the finger-spelling alphabet.



6th A Brownies

The Thursday Brownies have been working on the Season's Badge which introduces the girls to various aspects of nature during Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Birds, flowers, fruit, vegetables and the constellations are all researched as well as personal safety out of doors.



They celebrated once again at the end of the Session with a Christmas Party and are planning evenings celebrating Robert Burns and Chinese New Year.

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



Company section

Since our last article our main activities as a Company have been.....Battalion competitions, the coffee morning and a trip to Stirling for a challenge game of football which led us into our Christmas break.

BATTALION COMPETITIONS

The Battalion Swimming Gala took place in November and our outstanding team managed a convincing win. The team are shown in the photo below and are (left to right): Lewis Danskin, Josh Greenhorn, Callum Warnock, Evan Pattison, Finlay Holtz, Adam Blair, Andrew Gardiner, Scott Rankin.



The first of the 2 drill competitions, the restricted drill, took place in December and by all accounts our squad gave a great performance. The first aid competition was also moved into December this year and the team responded well to the various tests but the result of both these competitions as usual will not be known until the Review in May.

COFFEE MORNING

In December we hosted another successful coffee morning. The recipe of festive music (including the Junior Section!), excellent coffee, creamy cakes and Christmas gifts was popular once again and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise a fantastic total of **£2200** for company funds.

This money is used in the running of the Company over the course of the session, to help with our BB subscriptions (£2000!!), badges, training, activities, class materials, subsidising trips and competitions etc.

Without this money we wouldn't be able to do half the things we do! A big thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported the event and to all those friends of the company (visible and invisible) who helped in the kitchen, staffed the cake stalls and mucked in for the clearing up - the coffee morning would not be such a success without you.

COMING UP....

We are only just into the New Year but we are continuing our preparation for the squad drill and Bible Knowledge competitions, the Queen's Badge guys are busy working away to complete their programmes and we have 10 busy Fridays and 6 Battalion competitions before the Easter holidays!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

Junior Church News!

Christmas Celebrations ..

It was good to have the children of the Junior Church involved in our Christmas services. We had a wonderful response to our gift service and would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and friends for supporting the work of the Basic Food Bank supporting families in our town. The gifts were collected by David Shaw from the Food Bank and distributed before Christmas. He too expresses his thanks.



Our Nativity Sunday, on Christmas Eve saw the chancel filled with shepherds, wise men, Roman soldiers. lots of singing angels, inn keepers, a choir, a bright shining star, Mary and Joseph and a narrator! The Kids Zone told the Christmas story this year performing The Nativity - Ring out the Bells. The narrator, Euan Blackwood told the story of the very first Christmas as the actors and chorus acted and performed. With talented actors, soloists and a full chorus from the Kids Zone and Y Zone the children impressed the congregation with their talents at this special service.

With solos from Ava DiMambro, Katie Fleming, Ellie Maxwell and Alex Smith, a lively performance from the wise men and

beautiful singing from the angels, shepherds and choir - these added to the whole cast items. It was a super Nativity Sunday enjoyed by all.



Our thanks to Hazel and Ian Graham and the staff (costume makers, choreographers and set builders) of the Kids Zone along with the willing team of stage crew, production experts, and set designers! (The Y Zone). As always the Nativity was enhanced by the musical team - Karen Maxwell, Chris Mitchell, Fraser Hamilton and Paul Bradshaw.

It was also great to have the children in the Mini Zone adding to the nativity as they performed their Christmas songs to set the scene at this special family service.

At the end of this very special play the children were given great praise from Mr Calder as he congratulated them on a **fantastic** performance, his first nativity play in St Mary's.

Christmas Parties ..

Our party season was the usual mix of games, laughter, hot dogs, ice cream, treats and Santa! Each Zone leader hosted a party for the children and everyone had a fun filled time. The children were delighted that Santa was able to visit the parties and we do hope that he enjoyed our singing and mince pies! The Mini Zone and Kids Zone filled the afternoon with traditional games, crafts and unusual and messy relay races! A big thank you to the staff who helped to make the parties a success. All who attended would want me to make special mention to June Graham who again catered for all the Christmas festivities.... cakes, scones with cream, homemade meat pie and hand made mallow snowmen just a few of the treats on offer! A big thank you to June from all in the Junior Church.



Candles and carol singing ..

After a busy afternoon rehearsing the nativity play the Junior church staff along with the events team prepared for another festive event on the December calendar.

Over 220 friends in the congregation and some 60 children enjoyed a wonderful festive evening hosted by the Kidz Zone and Y Zone. Carol singing in the church grounds by torchlight was followed by hot soup, crusty bread, mince pies and cakes

before ending the evening with a performance of the pantomime produced and performed by our Y Zone.

As always the panto was a huge success and we were glad to see that Santa was the best candidate to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve . With cameo visits from Jack Frost, the elves, the jolly green giant, the oompa loompas.. and St Nick ... there was much laughter to be heard in the hall! It was a super evening enjoyed by all and one which we all hope will be repeated again next year. Next time with even more chairs in the hall !....That's what we said last year too.....



New Year ..

The 2018 session has already started and the Zones are busy preparing for the term ahead. We all look forward to sharing in the many Family Services. 2018 is a special year.. Year of the Young People...and we look forward to many youth events and services in the coming year.

2018

Year of Young People



YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

JAN	FEB	MAR
One Church/ one body	Health and Wellbeing	Community

On Sunday 28 January the Charter recognising the commitment of the St Mary's Congregation to the Year of Young People will be signed during the Church Service.

Year of Young People Prayer

Welcoming God,

You welcome all of us with your open arms. Inspire and guide us, that we may we never hinder Your children from coming to You; and remember that we are all part of Your family. Bring us together as a loving community for all, that we may learn from each other as we walk side by side in faith.

Loving God,

We pray for those who have come to know You, whether that relationship is new or if they have made a commitment to You and stepped out in faith; we pray that they would grow in grace and knowledge as they continue their walk with You. We pray for those far away from you. Meet them where they are and give them the courage and strength to make the right decisions, that they may come to know and experience Your gracious love.

Caring and Compassionate God,

We pray and ask You to guide and protect children and young people from that which may restrict them on their journey in life and faith. We pray for the day when all children in the world can be just that: children. Be with them as they experience the dangers and injustices that are ever present in our world today.

Nurturing God,

We pray for all those who work with and support children and young people - for those of all ages who give their time, talents and love to create a place in churches and communities that can be the foundation of growth, confidence and a relationship with You.

Calling God,

You call us to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share. We come now to answer Your call, to lift our minds and voices to You, and to thank and praise You for all the children and young people in our churches, communities, country and world. We ask that You would walk alongside them and grant them courage, strength and wisdom as they face the challenges of life.

Guiding God,

As we travel through this Year of Young People and beyond, help us to come alongside children and young people to draw closer to You, to answer Your call to follow, to serve, to welcome and to share together, through the Holy Spirit,

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord:

AMEN

The Church of Scotland

CHARTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN

Church

WE PROMISE TO:

GET TO KNOW YOU
LISTEN TO YOU
SHARE FAITH WITH YOU
PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU
INVOLVE YOU
HELP KEEP YOU SAFE
HELP DEVELOP YOUR GIFTS
ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Date _____ 2018

A Charter sends a clear message to everyone in your church that children and young people are important and valued as part of your church family.

Toolkit Church Toolkit: 2017/18

www.churchofscotland.org.uk



The Church of Scotland

PLEDGE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

- We will explore ways to **engage** with under 25's
- We will increase **participation** of our young people
- We will **celebrate** all that they are and bring
- We will **pray** for children and young people in our church and community

Sign the pledge online www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp or complete the slip below and return to: Mission and Discipleship Council, Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.

We will then send you the Year of Young People 2018 Church Toolkit to give you lots of ideas of ways to be involved.

Toolkit Church Toolkit: 2017/18

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp

#CoSyoYP2018

We pledge to support the Year of Young People with children and young people in 2018



UPDATE

At the beginning of a new year we all tend to look back on the events of the year before and we look forward to identify the goals that are most important to us in the immediate future.

Christian Aid has done that in its annual report for 2016/17 (in detail on the website www.christianaid.org.uk)

In 2016/17 the organisation responded to 44 emergencies in 26 countries, reaching an estimated 1.2 million people affected by disasters.

Being based in countries affected by disasters, staff can be there before, during and after an emergency to save lives and support people long term. Through their work with local organisations in these countries, they can talk directly to the people affected to provide the most useful emergency response. Christian Aid is also a founding member of **ACT Alliance**, a coalition of 146 churches and faith-based organisations working together in more than 100 countries.

St Mary's contribution to Christian Aid's work last year included contributions from our choirs at the concert in April, our collectors in the house-to-house collection, our walkers in the long march, our young CAST group in the Christian Aid Week lunch, Messy Day and Sunday morning coffee, and the entire congregation in retiring offerings. There was plenty to look back on with gratitude. Now we're looking forward to renewed effort and continued generosity in 2018.

The retiring offerings over the Christmas period provided £779.58 which got the new year off to a good start. Our next event will be the 'Pancake Day' coffee morning in Crosshill Parish Church on Tuesday, 13 February at 10 am.

Many thanks to everyone who supported Christian Aid in 2017. Please continue to do so in 2018.

Margaret MacGregor

HAMILTON PASSION PLAY

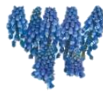
Please put Saturday 31st March, 2 pm in your diary to come along to watch this year's Passion Play. The setting is outdoors in Hamilton (near Asda, The Vue cinema, Frankie and Benny's, etc), so please pray for the weather to be kind!

There are still opportunities to participate in the Passion Play, even if you can't make the regular January/February rehearsals. There are small parts available, such as the Roman soldiers or the 'hecklers' in the crowd and of course, helpers are needed to support the cast (similar to backstage in the theatre). As long as you can manage the weekend of 23rd March for the technical and dress rehearsals, Liz Blackman the director will be happy to slot you into the performance. If you are interested, please email liz1b@ymail.com or see myself, Helen Calder.

The Passion Play will be a great opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to experience the wonderful Easter story in a unique and powerful way. Please do come along if you can - there are some amazing talent in the cast, especially the trained actor, Nicholas Elliott who plays Jesus.

Helen Calder

FLOWER LIST



FEBRUARY

4th Church Choir
Mrs I Gardiner
11th Miss Kelly
18th R Mackenzie
25th Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
Mr & Mrs Malcolm

MARCH

4th Mrs M Graham
Mrs M Skimming
Mrs M Carrol
11th Mrs M Watson
Mrs E Fraser
18th Mrs M Johnstone
25th Mrs I Craig

APRIL

1st Mrs H Wilson
Mrs B Neilson
Mrs J Findlay
8th Mrs A Anderson
Mrs Murray
Mrs H Graham
15th Mrs E Currie
Mrs E Taylor & Mrs J Findlay
22nd Mrs E Simpson
Mrs E Scott
Mrs S Forrest
Mrs L Kelly
29th Mrs A Johnstone
Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson



June Graham - Flower Convener



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Jan	28	11 am	Service for the Year of Young People
Feb	11	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Feb	25	11 am	Thinking Day Service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb	14	7.30 pm	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Apr	23	7 pm	Annual Quiz Night

Grateful thanks are due to the small band of collators who meet on 5 Fridays during the year to staple the many pages together to create and package this bulletin ready for distribution by the elders.