

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



CHRISTMAS 2016

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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BAPTISMS

"Go therefore and baptise"

October 23 Jacob Steven Bobby Gunn

MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

September 23 Steven Holtz and
Elizabeth Taylor

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

October 5 Helen Seaton
October 19 Martin Murray

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FOR INFORMATION DURING VACANCY

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

During the period before a new minister is appointed please contact the
Rev Arthur Barrie Tel: 01698 261147 for baptisms and marriages and
Rev John Stevenson Tel: 01698 817582 for funerals and hospital visits.

ILLNESS OR HOSPITALISATION

It is vitally important over the next few months to use the Yellow Cards
at the end of the pews if you know of anyone who requires a pastoral visit
due to illness or hospitalisation. These cards can be left in the church
office.



THE GUILD

The new session of the Guild got off to a good start on Monday 3 October with entertainment provided by Octave. The ladies of the guild enjoyed a variety of music from this very talented group and finished the evening with a light meal. The following week the Rev Alan Gibson, Motherwell South Parish Church, spoke on the Guild Theme: Be Bold Be Strong - Go in Joy, using 3 pictures reflecting joy being given to himself or others as the basis of his most enjoyable talk.

Our Dedication Service was held on Sunday 23 October when the Rev Arthur Barrie led the Guild in an act of re-dedication.

The session continued with speakers on a variety of themes: Cameron Merriweather showed his enthusiasm as a Guide at Glasgow Cathedral when he gave a most interesting illustrated talk; Rhona Weir spoke on her work at the Beatson Cancer Care Centre where she works as part of a team using her expertise in hair care and well-being in supporting cancer patients and their families; and Kevin Simpson from Malawi Fruits a Scottish charity based in Newmains which is committed to working with partners in Malawi to establish and grow sustainable community businesses.

We have also been delighted by our soloists at the beginning of our session. Iain MacPherson, Kirsten Dick, Fraser Hamilton and Chris Mitchell have provided us with musical contributions to enhance our evenings in their own particular styles.

Our session continues with visits from Stephanie Laing, Alistair Dinsmor from Glasgow Police Museum, Christine Jones Jewellery, Music from pupils of Dalziel High School before we enter the festive season with a Christmas at Home and a meal at the Bentley. Once again we invite ladies of the congregation to come along and enjoy our friendship and fellowship on a Monday evening.

Myra Philip
President

Report from Church of Scotland Guild Annual Gathering

Clare Mackenzie, Valerie Craig and Isabel Johnstone attended the Annual Gathering at the Caird Hall in Dundee on Saturday 3 September along with 2000 Guild members and special guests. This event was also available to many members nationwide via a live-stream on the Guild's web pages.

This was a most enjoyable and uplifting day. We were addressed by the Church of Scotland Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Barr in a most humorous way, entertained by the Heart and Soul Swing Band, the singer being the Rev Joanne Hood from Hamilton. This was absolutely fabulous. In the afternoon Sally Magnusson spoke about coping with her mother's battle with dementia and how music allowed her to bring back memories. She has set up "Playlist for Life". This is a project which the national Guild has decided to support, more information can be found on the following website:

www.playlistforlife.org.uk.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 3rd October saw the start of this year's session and Vice President Bill Taylor welcomed a large turnout of members, our first speaker of the year was church member the Rev John Thomson who gave an illustrated talk on his time as a chaplain in the Territorial Army and his overseas placement in the war torn area of Bosnia.

The work of St Andrew's Hospice and its future development plans were explained by fund raising coordinator Lorna McCafferty, her presentation showed recent photographs of the improved facilities at Airdrie. A lively question and answer session followed her talk. Mr John Patfield, fellowship member, offered members a free copy of a book of poems which is produced by a local poetry group in support of the Hospice, suggesting that although offered free a donation should be made to the Hospice.

In his talk entitled "It's Only an Hour a Week" Mr John Williams a Boy's Brigade Officer in 2/4th Company and a Battalion Training Officer spoke of the work of a modern BB company. The talk was enhanced by the use of video and photographic presentations produced by the boys. The theme only an hour a week showed what could be achieved by dedicated officers and boys who applied themselves to the aim of the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and in doing so reflected the involvement of young men in assisting and caring for the local community

A welcome return by Mr Tom Lawton expanded our knowledge of Canals; on his last visit Tom spoke on the Forth and Clyde Canal. This time he told of the highly successful Monklands Canal which made money shipping coal, iron and raw materials to the various works and foundries and

finished goods from these places into their markets. It was of interest to note that several areas of the canal are now open for leisure pursuits, with further areas planned to open in the future.

The forthcoming program once again makes use of the talents of a number of our church members, notice of which can as usual be found in each week's church intimation sheet.

We will resume after the Christmas break on Monday 9th January 2017, when one of our Elders Mr Alan Brown talks on "A Day in the Life".

Be assured that a warm welcome awaits you on any Monday evening you may find it convenient to join us. We meet in the Conference Room at 7.30 pm.

Allan Joyce
President

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU

There is a Gospel according to Matthew, to Mark, to Luke and John too,
But there is another that many are reading.
It's the Gospel according to you
Many read not the word of the Bible
I'll tell you what some of them do
They are reading the book you are writing
It's the Gospel according to you.

Every day you are writing your Gospel
For in life you never know who
may be helped or hindered by reading
the Gospel according to you.





The new session means the girls in our units are all busy following their relevant programmes.

The joint Rainbow Halloween party was a great success and all of the girls looked great in their costumes.

RAINBOWS

The 6A Rainbows are working towards their Roundabout Seasons badge and have had fun taking part in lots of activities such as making marshmallow igloos and enjoying fruit cocktails at their beach party.

The older girls are working through their Pot of Gold book, Getting Ready for Brownies and our new starts are just about ready to make their Rainbow Promise.

The girls had Italian visitors who were on an exchange with some of our young leaders. They came to tell the girls from both units about Italy and taught them some Italian words. The girls all enjoyed pizza and ice cream!!



6th Guides

At the beginning of the session Gowanpark was the venue for a Beach Party themed weekend. Arrival at Gowanpark was eventful as a tree from the neighbouring property had come down blocking the road, making access to Gowanpark difficult. Activities were related to the beach and the girls made a photo frame, beach globe, sand bottles and flip flop key rings. The Saturday night film was Finding Nemo. A special adventure was the outdoor climbing wall which was quite a challenge mainly enjoyed by the smallest Guides.



The unit also welcomed new girls from the Brownies at the beginning of the session.

Weekly activities have focussed on the theme of Superheroes, which involved creating a superhero, a logo and a drama. This was followed by work on a new pack called Flipping Magic. This is a challenge badge designed in such a way as a program of activities with girls of any age can be based on either gymnastics or another sport or active activity of their choice. It was inspired by the FIG 2015 World Gymnastics Championships which took place in Glasgow in October 2015 and has been written with acknowledgement of the event organisers. The challenge is made up of 5 parts:

- 1 Prepare for your games
- 2 Team work
- 3 Healthy Living
- 4 Money
- 5 Research.

6TH BROWNIES

We have welcomed 6 new girls into the pack and lost 5 to the Guides. We pop in every now and again to the Guides to see how they are doing. This session we have been working on our Number Fun Badge. We had a Beetle Drive which was good fun as the girls had never been to one before. Some girls were slow off the mark as they couldn't throw a '6' and the screams got louder as the beetles grew. We had a number search quiz, all the girls found this tricky and preferred doing word searches. Tuesday 1 November is the day of our Halloween party where there will be dooking for apples, dangling doughnuts, mummy and mars bars games and lots of other fun things. The girls put a great effort into their costumes which you will hopefully see in the next issue.

6thA BROWNIES

The Thursday night Brownies started the session with our usual mix of games and crafts. We welcomed 4 new girls who have now made their Promise. Our Halloween party was filled with games and music and we enjoyed decorating cupcakes. We are planning some Pudsey Bear baking and crafts for Children in Need.

SUPPORT CROSSREACH THIS CHRISTMAS

CrossReach is the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility which continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support.

Calendars and cards can be ordered online.



Motherwell Action Group of the Scottish Bible Society - Sponsored Walk in Strathclyde Park



News from the start of the new session...

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CENTENARY SESSION

With the 2015-16 Centenary Session over we have prepared a short video to celebrate all that we managed to pack into the wonderful celebratory session that was 2015-16.....from dinners and parades to obstacle courses and sumo suits.....our (now retired ☺) resident cinematographer Paul Bradshaw has captured it all on a video clip that will be coming to the Church Website soon (we will announce in the church intimations).

Thank you again to all the BB Officer Staff, the various committees and our supporters in the congregation, wider community and the rest of the world!

FRIDAY NIGHT REFRESH

We currently have a very healthy 44 boys on the role in the company section with average attendance in the high thirties.

The officers started to discuss a refresh of our Friday night programme while we were away at camp and Stuart Greenhorn took the challenge to have a look at how we could try something different for the October - December part of the session.

Our night has 3 main sections to it which are then topped and tailed with opening and closing devotions. We have continued with the first part of the night after our opening formalities and devotions where we are focusing on preparations for First Aid, Drill and Bible Knowledge competitions as well as providing an induction programme for the new recruits but for the second part of the night we have introduced 6 new activities for the boys to try - Survival Skills, Cookery, Bike Maintenance, Computing, Electronics and Health & Fitness.

The third section will then give the boys the chance to burn off some energy with some physical activities. The boys have responded well to what has been offered and I will report on how the pilot has gone in the next magazine!

We are very fortunate to have a strong committed and enthusiastic team of company section staff who manage to coordinate the organised chaos on a Friday night!

QUEEN'S BADGE

We currently have 2 senior boys working on the final year of their Queen's Badge programme and should complete their programme for the May 2017 review presentations and we have a further 7 boys in their first year of the QB programme.

COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing there has only been one Battalion competition. Our junior footballers achieved a fantastic first place in the Battalion Junior 7-a-side Battalion Football competition.

We are currently preparing for the first of the drill competitions, the restricted squad drill, and the Bible Knowledge competition in addition to entering 10 pin bowling, swimming, Battalion Senior 5-a-side football and BB National Senior 5-a-side football competitions that are coming up before Christmas.

COFFEE MORNING

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 3rd December and will get everyone in the mood for Christmas with its usual mix of good coffee, home baking, entertainment and good chat among friends! We look forward to welcoming you along.

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

Captain Stewart Maxwell



13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell

Saturday 3 December, 10-12

Christmas Coffee Morning

**Tea, Coffee, Home Baking,
Entertainment, Stalls**

**Tickets £1 available from any boy or officer
(under 12's free)**

Back by popular demand - Hot Breakfast Rolls!

Roll & Sausage, Roll & Bacon - £1.30 each



UPDATE

Christian Aid, with your help, continues to respond to humanitarian emergencies as well as carrying out its ongoing development work.

Sometimes, both types of work overlap. This happened recently in Haiti, where Hurricane Matthew left a trail of devastation in its wake. Christian Aid has been working in Haiti for nearly 20 years and was there before, during and after the hurricane. This enabled the organization and its partners to help evacuate people to shelters and make sure the shelters were stocked with food. When people emerged from shelter after the hurricane, thousands had lost their homes, corn and banana crops had been flattened and livestock had been swept away. Christian Aid, through its local partner, distributed hygiene kits, shelter kits, food kits and roofing materials.

In South Sudan, where conflict has disrupted harvests and caused food and fuel prices to rise, over 4 million people are in urgent need of food.

The ongoing conflict in Syria has seen hundreds of thousands killed, half of the population forced out of their homes and more than 4 million people seeking refuge outside their country. Christian Aid is working with churches and other agencies to provide basic essentials for refugees who continue to make exhausting and dangerous journeys to Europe in search of sanctuary.

As we prepare for Christmas celebrations with our own families, there will be opportunities in the church to contribute to the work of Christian Aid. Please continue to do so with your customary generosity.

Margaret MacGregor

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.



Junior Church

The children were welcomed back to Junior Church after the summer break. Each Zone is busy looking at Old Testament stories and each week the children enjoy the story time followed by a craft session. Many of our children have been learning the Lord's Prayer, a real challenge for the Kids Zone children who are adding points for their teams each week! Our Autumn session began with our Harvest family service. Our thoughts now turn to Christmas. The children will be listening again to this very special story and will present it in song and drama at the nativity play. We thank you for your continued support.

Junior Church Dates:

Sunday 4 December - Gift Service

This year our gift service will support families in need in our own area, through local agencies. Wrapped gifts (small toys, hats, scarves, colouring books, pens, books, jigsaw and toiletries) labelled with boy/girl and age, would be most welcome.



Sunday 11 December Lessons and Carols Service

All Choirs will take part and we will also welcome a baptismal family at the service.

Carol Singing - 6.30 pm

Carol Singing by torchlight - around the bonfire, followed by supper, Panto from the Y-Zone and Christmas greetings in the Avon Hall.



Sunday 18 December Nativity Service

All Zones will be taking part in this service.

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Day Family worship at 10.30 am.

Christmas Parties



Tots Zone - to be confirmed

Mini Zone - Saturday 12 December 2-4 pm

Kidz Zone - Saturday 12 December 2-4 pm

Used Clothing Fundraiser



We want the things you don't!!

Let us help you clear out those wardrobes!!

The Junior Church is looking to raise cash through clothes donations.

A bag will be issued on Sunday 30th October, with the return date being Sunday 6th November.

We ask that all returned bags are placed on the Avon Hall stage. The Y Zone will be on hand to help carry bags from cars.

If you would like us to collect your bag, then please speak to a member of the Junior Church team and we will be happy to organise this for you.

All monies raised from this venture will support the work of the Junior Church during the festive period.

The Junior Church now have a newsletter produced by Lisa Mossman for the children's families.

IF YOU AREN'T ALREADY RECEIVING JUNIOR CHURCH CORRESPONDENCE BY EMAIL, THEN CAN WE PLEASE KINDLY ASK YOU TO SEND YOUR DETAILS TO:
stmarysjuniorchurch@hotmail.com

"Let the little children come to me," Matthew 19:14



The plane landed safely on our return from holiday. While we waited at the carousel for our luggage, I switched on my mobile 'phone and immediately a bleep, bleep sounded. A message was there to be read 'A reminder that the church cleaning work-party meet up again on Monday'. I couldn't help but smile as I thought how quickly I was brought back down to earth! On the Sunday at church I looked around at all the familiar and well-known faces in the congregation and it moved me at how I felt so fortunate to be part of a large Christian family in a safe environment.

Unfortunately, that isn't the case for all of us. Thousands upon thousands of Christians live their lives in fear. Aida lives in Iraq. She and her husband lost their young daughter who was snatched by the ISIS militants. It's difficult to imagine how it felt for Aida and her husband to have their daughter taken from them before their very eyes, unable to do anything. Unfortunately, stories like Aida are far too common as many Iraqi Christian families have suffered immense trauma and persecution at the hands of ISIS. Many have made perilous journeys with the hope of reaching Europe to start a new life free from persecution. Many more are living in refugee camps with nothing more than the clothes they were wearing when they fled their homes. In addition to having limited fresh water, adequate nutrition and medicine, many refugees are living with the debilitating effects of psychological and emotional trauma.

The Bible Society in Iraq is running a Bible-based trauma healing programme. Using trained volunteers, thousands of refugees are beginning to understand God's love and care for them. They discover that they can take their pain and suffering to the cross for healing from the trauma they are experiencing. Through God's Word, people are finding hope.

The Motherwell Action Group, as you may know, supported persecuted Christians in Iraq by a sponsored walk. Sponsorship from St Mary's raised £400 and I take this opportunity to thank those who sponsored me. The total amount raised was £1,707. It was a most enjoyable walk round the Strathclyde Country Park on a lovely Sunday afternoon.

A point of interest - did you know? The Rev Thomas Torrance, little known in Scotland, born into a farming family in North Lanarkshire in 1871, is respected in China for the unique cultural contribution he made there during his decades of missionary work. It is believed that he is only the second Christian missionary whose contribution to China has been officially recognised and highlighted by the authorities, following the dedication of a memorial to the famous Scottish runner Eric Liddell. At one point he was on the Communists' blacklist and was hunted by the authorities. Now things have gone the other way and he is being honoured. In 1910, Rev Torrance accepted an invitation to be the American Bible Society's superintendent for West China of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

With Christian love and blessings,
Margaret Carrol
Motherwell Action Group

A date for your diary: Saturday, 25th March, 2017. 'Brats and Callets' have agreed to sing at our Charity Concert to be held in St Mary's Church. Graham Taylor, Musical Director of City of Glasgow Chorus, manages and sings with this group.



FLOWER LIST

DECEMBER

4th	Mr S Dick The Guild
11th	Mr W Wotherspoon Mrs Williams Mrs I Scott
18th	Mrs M Jarvie Mrs M Wilkie Mrs E Scott
25th	Mrs F Renwick

JANUARY

1st	Mrs M Munro Mrs D Connor Mrs J Weir
8th	Mrs M Hardie Mrs J Rennie Mr J Williams Mr & Mrs W McNair
15th	Mrs M McArdle Miss J Graham
22th	Mrs N McMillan Mrs M Wilson
29th	Church Choir

FEBRUARY

5th	Mrs I Gardiner
12th	Miss C Kelly
19th	Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
26th	Mr & Mrs Malcolm



CHURCH FLOWERS

The Church Flowers displayed every Sunday are much appreciated by the sick, bereaved and elderly who receive them. The dates chosen are special to the contributors and I try to accommodate these into the list. Over the last 2 or 3 years we have lost a number of the contributors to the flower list and I have had kindly to ask some contributors if they would change dates so that we have someone for each Sunday. I would like to appeal to younger members of the congregation if they would consider adding their name to the list of contributors once a year. If you would like to contribute please contact me. We also give flowers to those celebrating 50th or 60th Wedding Anniversaries and 90th and 100th birthdays.

June Graham - Flower Convener

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



November	13	10.45 am	Remembrance Service
	20	11.00 am	Bible Sunday
	27	11.00 am	Anniversary Service
December	4	11.00 am	Gift Service
	11	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas Carol Singing by torchlight
	18	11.00 am	Nativity Play
	24	11.15 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	25	10.30 am	Christmas Family Service
January	1	11.00 am	New Year's Day

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 3 4-7 pm	Christmas Family Film Night including refreshments
Sunday December 11 at 6.30 pm	Carols by Torchlight (Soup and festive fare in the hall Entertainment provided by Y Zone Pantomime)

