

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC002222



CHRISTMAS 2017

Ballot No 222

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined "

9 September	Alison Brownlie and John Goldie
14 October	Lesley Martin and David Houston
28 October	Lesley O'Rourke and Stephen Reilly
3 November	Ellen Burns and Ian Whitaker

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

8 September	Margaret Roebuck
11 September	Elizabeth Black
3 October	Molly Smith
5 October	Donald Rennie
9 October	Elizabeth Cairns
9 October	Elijah Porte
10 October	James Simpson
27 October	Moreen Russell



Manse of St Mary's

November 2017

Dear Friends:

One of my favourite Christmas books is Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol". I usually read it every December.

One of the 3 ghosts to visit Ebenezer Scrooge is the "Ghost of Christmas Past". The Ghost takes Scrooge on a journey into the past and allows him to revisit some of his Christmases gone by.

When I look back over my own life, to Christmases gone by, the lasting memories I have are not of presents and parties, but memories of the sheer WONDER of Christmas.

I remember singing in school nativity plays - being so excited by the Christmas message: by angels and shepherds, wise men and stars, Mary, Joseph and the baby born in the manger.

I remember, in my teenage years, carol singing on Christmas Eve with the stars literally twinkling in the clear night sky. Funnily enough, my selective memory doesn't seem to contain any cloudy Christmas nights.

And I remember attending Watchnight Services in the beautiful surroundings of my Home church, Bo'ness Old Kirk; feeling my spine tingle with excitement just through being there and singing the old carols and hearing the Christmas story being read aloud.

Christmas is a time of great WONDER because the events of the first Christmas in Bethlehem were so momentous; so momentous that they changed the world for ever. Jesus, speaking in John's Gospel, sums

up the Christmas message in one powerful sentence: "**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but have eternal life.**" [John 3:16]

The WONDER of Christmas is this: that on that first Christmas the LOVE of God for us became a human-being; the Son of God became a baby - Jesus Christ our Lord. As the great Christmas Carol Proclaims: "LOVE came down at Christmas". What an incredible, mysterious, wonderful, life-changing event the birth of Jesus was and is and always will be.

Advent, the 4-week period leading up to Christmas, is often fraught with stress; not least the stress of shopping and trying to get everything exactly right for the big day. Amidst the stress of the festive season, my hope and prayer are that the WONDER of Christmas might light up each of our lives in a special and precious way in these days ahead.

Helen and I are very much looking forward to spending our first Christmas in Motherwell with our new church family.

This Advent and Christmas time, and into the New Year to come [2018], may the LOVE of God fill your hearts with hope, joy and peace.

Your Friend & Pastor: Rev Bryce Calder



An Advent and Christmas Prayer



Almighty God,
This Advent and Christmas time,
We pray for Your Peace on this earth [as it is on heaven].
Where war rages...may the Peace of Christ prevail...
Where violence threatens...may the Peace of Christ pacify...
Where hatred and intolerance rear their ugly head...may the Peace of Christ bring love and reconciliation...
Where injustice crushes...may the Peace of Christ lift-up...
Where fear lurks in the shadows...may the Peace of Christ shine forth with hope...
Where grief threatens to overwhelm...may the Peace of Christ bring comfort...
Where pain seems too much to bear...may the Peace of Christ strengthen and heal...
Where we lack courage to follow in the Way...may the Peace of Christ guide us forward in faith...
All these prayers we make in the Name of Jesus - the Prince of Peace:

AMEN

Sleep in the Park is organised by the charity Social Bite and its mission is to help erase homelessness in Scotland within a 5-year period.

Social Bite are confident that 9,000 members of the Scottish public will take part in Sleep in the Park and are labelling it as the "World's Largest Ever Sleepout".

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has encouraged members of the Church to take part and hopes that 900 members will respond to this call.

I have registered to take part in the Sleep in the Park on behalf of the congregation: St Mary's Parish Church. It is my aim to raise as much money as possible for this important cause. If you would like to learn more about Sleep in the Park visit the website www.sleepinthepark.co.uk. Check out who is entertaining, reading bedtime stories and serving bacon rolls at 7 am.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can find my fundraising page on <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/brycecalder>.

A Sponsor Sheet will also be made available in the church.

Rev Bryce Calder





GUILD

The new session of the Guild opened with the Women's Institute Choir. There were a variety of songs in the programme, ranging from religious, Scottish and some well-known favourites from Hollywood musicals. A small group of the ladies also recited some poetry, after which everyone sat down to supper, which ended a most enjoyable evening, had by all. To date, we've had our very own, the Rev Bryce Calder giving a most in depth and enjoyable talk on our theme, *Go in Love*. A duo of amateur photographers and historians entertained us with a film and history of some of the well-known parks in Glasgow. Mrs Maureen Kelly, dressed in period costume, gave a most interesting talk on the life and works of Jane Austen. We have also heard from Mrs Marleen Mular who gave a talk on the rearing of Alpacas and sold some goods made from Alpaca wool.

In the weeks running up to Christmas we will be entertained by CAST directed by Mrs Hazel Graham, and Steven Kidd from UNICEF will share with us the work involved in the charity which benefits children. We will also hear about the Playlist for Life, the charity founded by Sally Magnusson. There will be a mini Christmas Market on 27 November at which all hand-made fancy goods will be on sale, in plenty of time for Christmas.

Our Guild Dinner is on Monday 11 December and will be held in the Bentley Hotel.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Valerie T Craig
President

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 2nd October saw the start of this year's session and it was good to welcome several new members to a large turnout of the Fellowship, our first speaker of the year was our Minister and Honorary President, The Rev Bryce Calder who gave an interesting insight into his life in his talk "from Met to Ministry" in which he told of his experiences as a police officer before being called to be a minister in the Church of Scotland.

The work of the Windmills Café was highlighted by church elder George Andrew, the café supports people with various disabilities, widening their range of experience and in some cases preparing them for future employment.

Mr Stuart Robertson, who was brought up in St Mary's spoke of the difficulties in raising a child with Autism in his talk "Whose Disability is it Anyway - a Father's Tale" he talked of the various levels in the Autism Spectrum and the need for a wider understanding of the problem. Stuart is involved in the work of charitable organisations supporting people and families concerned with Autism.

Church member Mrs Hilary Kidd spoke of her early years and schooling when she was motivated to become involved in politics and the Scottish Youth Parliament, following her graduation and despite serious health issues she subsequently qualified as a Solicitor. Hilary is at present a director of the "Young Scot" project of which she is an ardent supporter, promoting the welfare, needs and aspirations of all young people.

Mrs Yvonne Waring provided a most entertaining and enlightening one woman show on the life of Joyce Grenfell, interspersed with poetry and song.

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.

The Fellowship will resume after the Christmas break on Monday 8th January 2018, when we will be pleased to welcome back to the Fellowship Mr Bob Dalziel who will give us his slant on our National Bard.

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

**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.



THE EVENTS ACTION TEAM

The Events Action team are happy to report that the Harvest Lunch was its usual great success, sold out, and a great afternoon of soup, cakes and chat. Many thanks to everyone who prepared the soup, cakes and helped on the day. Special thanks to the older members of the Junior Church who prepared the hall and helped serve the food on the day. The lunch raised approximately £500.

The Events team are also excited announce 2 future events.

A Friendship, Food and Film night on 25th November, doors open at 7 pm. It is a fantastic opportunity to come have some traditional Scottish food, a laugh, a chat, relax and enjoy the film classic, "Chariots of Fire". A bargain at only £5 a ticket.

There will also be a Family Film night on 9th December. Doors open at 6 pm, enjoy some film food and a chance to sit and watch the film, "Elf". Tickets are priced at £10 per family.

There is limited availability for the 2 film nights, so please buy your tickets early, available from the Avon Hall Box office after every service, or from any elder.

We look forward to the hustle and bustle of Christmas, if anyone would like to help decorate the church please contact any elder or member of the Events Action Team.

Merry Christmas to everyone

Allan Joyce
Events Action Team Convenor



The Cleaning Team - Christmas Clean

The church cleaning team has been busy over the past months. As we head into the winter period our final meeting for 2017 will be on November 28th. We are a cheerful band of workers and undertake all sorts of jobs - from light dusting to cooker cleaning, pew 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 28 willing helpers, and a warm invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join us. Our challenge is to recruit a new member each month ... and we're on target for 2017!! (Please bring your own marigolds!)

Sincere thanks to all have been involved this year.



A huge thank you from the Junior church. We collected over 120 bin bags of clothes and we raised £268 for our Junior Church funds. This will be used to resource our Christmas activities, purchase our Christmas crafts and help us to replace some of our nativity play costumes. Thank you to all who supported us.



Extract from November
Crossreach newsletter

Social Care Mission Officer

October was a busy month with new resources added to the Social Care Forum, the meeting of the Dementia Network in Aberdeen and the launch of the Children & Families Network in Glasgow! If you're looking for the latest reports and resources to help you with some of the services you're providing within your communities, do visit the "Inform" section of the Social Care Forum:
www.socialcareforum.scot

The Dementia Network met earlier in the month in Aberdeen and heard about the great work happening with Living Well Cafes.

The Children & Families Network met at the end of the month in Glasgow and heard about the work of Whiteinch Transformation, part of Whiteinch Parish Church. The group then spent some time looking at the 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC) approach. We also met our new wellbeing Octopus - a tool developed by Tanya Anderson, GIRFEC Development Advisor for CrossReach. The group had fun using it to help them reflect on what the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators might mean for the children they support in their church role. The next meetings of both networks take place in January 2018 - if you'd like to be involved, please e-mail me direct: liann.weir@crossreach.org.uk

This year the ladies of our Guild supported Crossreach by buying £266 worth of Christmas Cards and Calendars.

Wellhall Care Home in Hamilton are currently wishing to add members to their Friends of Wellhall Group. If you wish to be part of this group see Isabel Johnstone for contact details.



6thA Motherwell Rainbows

The Rainbows have had a busy session so far, welcoming new rainbows and having lots of fun. We recently enjoyed a joint Hallowe'en party where we played spooky games and enjoyed lots of party treats. We are enjoying joining together to work as a larger group some weeks as this means we have so many rainbow friends. We continue to work towards our Rainbow badges and are looking forward to our Christmas party when we hope a very special guest might make an appearance!!



6th Motherwell Rainbows

We have said goodbye to one of our leaders this session and we will really miss her.

Lynsey Reid known as Cinderella has left us due to work commitments but we hope that she will be able to come back in a year or 2.

We have also said goodbye to our young leader Lynn Smillie. Lynn has been with us since she came to help when she was in the Guides. Lynn came almost every week and was always the first to arrive. The Rainbows enjoyed the games that she taught them and the Leaders appreciated all the effort that she put in. Nothing was a problem to her and we wish her well at University.

This has meant that we now start Rainbows with the 6th A Rainbows and then separate in to our 2 units for most of the meeting. This is to allow time for all the Leaders to arrive from work. It can be very loud but it gives the girls time to make new friends and they all enjoy running around together.

So far, this term we have painted Rainbows with cotton buds instead of paint brushes. We have enjoyed a musical evening singing songs and making our own instruments and Mr Calder popped in to listen to the singing. He seemed to enjoy it.



Our Hallowe'en party was great fun and we also made some Halloween crafts.

We made edible sparklers with chocolate finger biscuits and Catherine wheels with digestive biscuits.



The next few weeks will be busy with Christmas Crafts and trying to finish our Rainbow Roundabout Badge.

Our last event of the year will be our Christmas Party when we enjoy our visit from Santa and he gets to listen to our lovely singing.

6th Motherwell Guides

A Jigsaw theme was the focus of activities at the beginning of the session with the girls creating jewellery, sandwiches and playing games. This was followed by a woolly sheep theme. Wool was used to make friendship bracelets, and pictures. The girls then created and decorated biscuits in the shape of sheep.

At the end of October a visit took place to Pets at Home in Hamilton. As well as viewing some animals the girls also visited the grooming room. Upstairs from the shop is Vets4Pets, a new veterinary concept bringing care for pets in a well-equipped practice with a lab, pharmacy and digital x-rays.

A visit to McDonalds for an ice cream completed the evening.



6th Motherwell Brownies

Hallowe'en continues to be enjoyed enthusiastically and much imagination in creating costumes can be seen in the pictures.



13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



News from the start of the new session...

START OF NEW SESSION

We currently have a very healthy 40 boys on the role in the company section with average attendance in the high thirties.

Our first block of our session until Christmas is following our regular programme. Our parade night currently has 2 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. For the second half of the night the boys are then split into junior (P7-S3) and senior (S4-S6) age groups for games and activities. So far the highlights have included 'no rules' football tennis, G-Ball and homemade pizza making!

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 7 senior boys working on the final year of their Queen's Badge programme and should complete their programme for the May 2018 review presentations and we have a further 6 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 strong 4th 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 First Aid and Bible Knowledge competitions 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.

PARADES & SERVICES

We joined the other Companies of the Battalion on Sunday 29th October at Motherwell South Parish Church for Founder Day where Rev Gibson's very interesting theme of 'passing the baton' caught all our attention.

We will be on parade in St Mary's with the other uniformed organisations on Remembrance Sunday and are looking forward to playing our part in this important service.

Our annual dedication service in St Mary's will take place in the New Year when we are able to negotiate an available Sunday!

COFFEE MORNING

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 2nd 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

junior section update

The Junior Section 2017/2018 session started on 13 September and we were delighted to both welcome back our 2nd and 3rd years and induct our new first years into the games and traditions of the Junior Section.

The September to December part of the session is always a hectic one for us and this year has been no exception. We have already had our first battalion competition, which was the General Knowledge competition. The boys that were chosen to represent the company spent a few weeks brushing up on their knowledge of many things BB, current affairs and general knowledge related before the competition; this hard work clearly paid off, because they went on to win 1st place. A fantastic start to our battalion competitions!

We have also had our annual Hallowe'en party where once again this year there was plenty of fun to be had as the boys wrapped officers up in toilet paper, went doking for apples, climbed through a spider's web and took part in some spooky relays.



We are now in the midst of preparation for the next 2 battalion competitions (Bible Knowledge and Safety) and the BB Christmas Coffee Morning and we are also once again running Guest Member November.



General Knowledge Team - Tyler Weir, Luka Kinnear, Alex Hamilton, Charlie Fleck



Guest Member November - Opening Night with Jordan Curry, Ambulance Technician

For those of you who are avid readers of these articles, (hi Gran) you may remember that we started Guest Member November last year and because it was so well received by the boys, we decided to make it a new 13th Junior Section tradition. The premise is basically that every Wednesday in November we invite a guest speaker to provide our opening talk and take part in a Q&A with the boys. This session's Guest Member November got off to a fantastic start last Wednesday when we heard from Jordan Curry, an Ambulance Technician about what it is like to respond to 999 calls throughout Lanarkshire.

Stephanie Laing - Officer in charge



13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell

Saturday 2 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

Junior Church

Harvest

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church departments taking part in our morning worship for Harvest. The theme of our service was Sharing. The Mini Zone and Kids Zone both performed their new Harvest songs and this was very much enjoyed by the congregation.

Our Y Zone performed a playthis was very well done and was well delivered by our budding performers! (Farmers, TV news presenters and narrator!) Once again their sketch was very popular with our children, and shared the important message of taking time to thank God for all we have.

The teachers and helpers wish to thank the parents and friends for donating food gifts to be used by the Loaves and Fishes Trust. It was a wonderful sight to see so many children process into the church with their gifts.

Harvest Preparations

Well done to our Y Zone for helping to decorate the church for Harvest. I'm sure you all noticed the Fishing nets in the chancel...surrounded by fish and the displays of foods and vegetable characters. Their display added greatly to our Harvest service! The window and wall displays were beautiful - what a lot of hard work on the Saturday night. This was rewarded with pizza! Our harvest bread this year was again made by "Auntie June" We are most grateful to June Graham for giving of her time and talents to St Mary's.

Zone news

I am delighted to report that our Junior Church is moving from strength to strength...not only in numbers but in enthusiasm and commitment from the teachers, helpers and especially the children. Week by week the children look forward to new and exciting activities and are already busy preparing for Christmas. I'm sure the congregation will continue to give our young people their prayerful support in the coming weeks.

Junior Church

Christmas dates...

December is a busy month for us all. We do hope that you will be able to join us at our special family services and at our Christmas parties. The children of the Junior Choir and Junior Church departments will be taking part in a number of services and we look forward to sharing our worship with them.

Parties

Tots Zone }
Kids Zone } **Saturday 16th December**
Mini Zone } **2-4 pm**



Gift Service Sunday 10th at 11 am
Lessons and carols Sunday 17th at 11 am

Carol Singing by torch light and festive supper
Sunday 17th early evening followed by Y Zone Panto

Nativity Sunday 24th at 11 am

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas from all in the Junior Church.



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



I have pleasure in writing this report, highlighting the successful fundraising events that have taken place during the past year in aid of 2 worthy causes supported by the Motherwell Action Group of the Scottish Bible Society.

Our concert last March, held in St Mary's, in aid of 'Haiti - New Words: New Life' raised £980. We were delighted with the turnout of people. Brats & Callets entertained us and the evening was enjoyed by all. Again many thanks to those who contributed baking, helped to set out tables and last, but not least, cleared up at the end.

Our annual Sponsored Walk round Strathclyde Country Park in August proved to be a successful day. The sun shone and with bottles of water and crisps, we set off for our 4 mile trek. An excellent sum of £1,817 was raised in support of the project 'Peru: Bread of Life'. The project goal was to contribute to the overall development (nutritional and spiritual) of 400 poor children who live in rural communities in Cusco and neglected areas in Pachacutec in Lima by providing nutritious breakfasts, Scriptures and Bible teaching. Through daily contact with the children, two specific needs are met:

Spiritual: that the children should meet God in the person of Jesus through the teaching of Bible stories and the age-appropriate materials provided.

Physical: to contribute to improving the children's nutrition, reduce childhood diseases and raise their learning potential through a daily breakfast.

I'm sure you will agree with us that this is a worthy cause.

During the month of September, St Mary's had a retiral offering at the end of our Sunday services. This raised the grand total of £639.23 and this amount was included in the sum of £1,000 sent to Bible House by the Motherwell Action Group in support of 'Bread and Bread' a project which provides relief packages, Scriptures and emotional support to refugees in Jordan. Here is Salma's story:

'Salma and her husband ran a local shop in Syria. They lived a comfortable life with their seven children. But then the bombs were dropped. Salma and her family left everything they had and fled for the safety of Jordan. They didn't think it would be for long. However, 3 years later, Salma's home town has been all but destroyed. The family has lost everything - their home, the shop, the life they used to know.

In the midst of all this, the Bible Society in Jordan has found the family an apartment - basic, but a home nevertheless. They have introduced Salma to a local church, where she has been attending a weekly women's group. That was where the biggest change happened. There, Salma shared her worries and received prayer. She was given a Bible and through reading it she met Jesus - the Jesus she now puts her faith in.'

"Jesus makes life worth living, even though I own nothing," she said. "The Bible is everything in my life. I've changed. I believe God brought me here from Syria, to go from dark to light."

A story told by one, but one that so many others might share.

I'm delighted to say that Christine Brown has joined our Action Group and I have no doubt that she will be a great asset to us in the future.

With Christian love and blessings
Margaret Carrol

Footnote: A date for your diary - Charity Concert to be held in Crosshill Parish Church on Saturday, 24th February, 2018.

Scottish Bible Society Sponsored Walk in Strathclyde Park



In St Mary's we are lucky to have so many young people in our church and organisations. Next year is the Year of Young People and we are challenged by the Church of Scotland to Engage, Participate, Celebrate and Pray with and for the young people in our church and community.

Visit the Year of Young People website and see how it is to be an opportunity to celebrate the amazing young personalities, talents and achievers that make up Scotland. We can all be inspired by our young people's ideas, attitudes and ambitions.

<http://yoyp2018.scot>

FLOWER LIST	
DECEMBER	
3rd	Mr S McCue-Dick Mrs S Carswell The Guild
10th	Mr W Wotherspoon Mrs Williamson Mrs I Scott
17th	Mrs M Jarvie Mrs M Wilkie Mrs E Scott
24th	Mrs F Renwick
31st	Mrs A Brown
JANUARY	
7 th	Mrs Hardie Mrs Munro Mrs D Connor Mrs J Weir
14th	Mrs J Rennie Mr J Williams Mr & Mrs W McNair
21st	Mrs M McArdle Miss J Graham
28th	Mrs N McMillan Mrs M Wilson
FEBRUARY	
4th	Church Choir Mrs I Gardiner
11th	Miss Kelly
18th	R Mackenzie
25th	Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Mr & Mrs Malcolm



June Graham - Flower Convener

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



Nov	12	10.45 am	Remembrance Service
Dec	3	11.00 am	Anniversary Service
	10	11.00 am	Gift Service Guest Speaker - Elaine Duncan from the Scottish Bible Society
	17	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas Carol Singing by torchlight
	24	11.00 am 11.15 pm	Nativity Play Christmas Eve Service
	25	10.30 am	Christmas Family Service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday Dec 9 6.00 pm	Family Film night "Elf"
Sunday Dec 17 at 6.30 pm	Carols by Torchlight (Soup and festive fare in the hall Entertainment provided by Y Zone Pantomime)
Saturday Dec 16 2-4 pm	All Zones Christmas Parties