

# ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



## CHRISTMAS 2019

Bulletin No 343

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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## **BAPTISM**

**"Go therefore .... and baptise"**

13 October

Emily Sarah Maxwell

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## **FUNERALS**

**"I am the resurrection and the life"**

30 August

Jean Kennie

13 September

David Colquhoun

10 October

Marion Dickson

5 November

June Alves

6 November

William Cunningham



### **Vestry Hour**

Having held open Vestry Hours on Thursday Evenings over the past 2 years, I have found that on many evenings there is no one needing to see me. Other evenings are very busy [lasting over an hour] and folks have to wait for a long time to see me.

As an experiment, over the next year I intend to make Vestry Hours on Thursday evenings by appointment only. If you would like to see me, just contact in advance and we can arrange an appropriate date and time. My contact is: 01698 328665 or [BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk)





Dear Friends:

### Remembrance

As I write, Remembrance Day is just a week away. Last year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of World War II. When the Armistice was signed at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, it would have been inconceivable to many that only twenty-one years later the world would be in the grip of an even deadlier conflict.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, when I was growing up, some commentators predicted that Remembrance Day would become increasingly irrelevant as the World War Generations died out. This was certainly something that the British Legion feared in wake of 1995's 50th Anniversary Celebrations of VE & VJ Day

101 years after the end of World War I and 80 years after the beginning World War II, however, the call to remember is still a major part of our National Consciousness. The reasons for this are painfully obvious. The 1914-18 War to End Wars and the devastation of the World War II may be, arguably, fading Memories, but war as a fact of life is sadly as real as ever it was.

### Prince Of Peace

One of my favourite Christmas Readings is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah Chapter 9. In this reading, Isaiah describes the rule of the coming Messiah as one of peace.

*"The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined...  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon His shoulders;  
and He is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually  
and there will be endless peace  
for the throne of David and His kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore."*

**[Isaiah 9:2 & 6-7]**

The Angels' Song in Luke Chapter 2 proclaims the fulfilment of this prophecy in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem that first Christmas: *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favours!"* [Luke 2:14]. In Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem, true peace has entered the world.

The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom. It is a word that means much more than the absence of war or conflict. Rather, it conveys a sense of wholeness, harmony, completeness. It is the kind of peace that we desperately need in our world and in our individual lives this Advent, Christmas and indeed every day in the coming New Year ahead. As Paul says in his Second Letter to the Thessalonians: *"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you."* [II Thessalonians 3:16]. And as we receive that Shalom peace may Jesus, in turn, enable us to be what He Himself called: *"Peacemakers."* [Matthew 5:9].



## Christmas Services

There will be many wonderful services at St Mary's Parish Church over Advent and Christmas Seasons. We begin Advent on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December [11:00 am] with a Service of Communion and a proclamation of hope. The following Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December [11:00 am], will be our Annual Christmas Gift Service. This is followed on the 15<sup>th</sup> December [11:00 am] by a Service of Lessons and Carols at which all 3 of our Church Choirs will participate. In the evening of that day we will hold our Evening Outdoor Carol Service [6:30 pm] followed by the Y-Zone Panto in the Avon Hall.

The Sunday before Christmas Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> December [11:00 am], will see our Junior Church perform their Nativity - always a highlight of the church year! There will an opportunity to welcome in Christmas Day at our Watchnight Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> [11:15 pm]. If you are coming along to the Short Christmas Day Family Service on 25<sup>th</sup> December [10:30 am] please feel free to bring along one of your presents to show! Everyone is most welcome to any or all these services. If you're coming you are also very welcome to bring family, friends and neighbours.

**NB** The Services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December [11:00 am] and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020 [11:00 am] are both Shorter Services [45 Minutes] with an All-Age Theme. On the 29<sup>th</sup> December we will say goodbye to 2019 and look forward to a New Year and new decade in 2020. And on the 5<sup>th</sup> January we will celebrate Epiphany [the end of the Christmas Season] by recalling the story of the Wise Men.

On behalf of myself, my wife Helen, and our family, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a happy and fulfilling New Year ahead.

May the love, peace and joy of Jesus be with you all:

Your Friend & Pastor:

**Rev Bryce Calder**



Peace is not a topic to teach...  
**but a way of teaching.**

Peace is not a theory to learn...  
**Obut a way of learning.**

Peace is not an opinion to hold...  
**but a way of holding.**

Peace is not a resolution of strife...  
**but a way of striving.**

Peace is not a creed to preach...  
**but a way of preaching.**

Peace is not God to serve...  
**but a way of serving.**

Peace is not a question to ask...  
**but a way of asking.**

Peace is not an answer to seek...  
**but a way of seeking.**

Peace is not a journey's end...  
**but a way of journeying.**

**[By Richard Skinner - 'adapted' by Bryce]**





## GUILD

The Guild session is now well on its way. This session our theme is Companions on the Road and features in a number of our evenings.

We had a most enjoyable Opening Social when we were entertained by Arietta from Bothwell. We listened to the most beautiful singing from the choir and their soloist. The following week we heard of the work of Jane Fucella and her husband in Thailand, working for more than 22 years as missionary partners of the Church of Scotland. This talk was most inspirational giving us an insight into their work looking after cattle and goats, making fuel available in small quantities, introducing money making crafts, as well as growing a Christian church.

We had a most entertaining evening provided by Sheilah Bond as she sang, gave us snippets about her life and informed us about Berta Hummel who was the artist behind Hummel figures. Our speaker on the last evening of October was our minister, Bryce Calder. This was another most interesting evening when we heard of his visits to Peru. Firstly, with the Vine Trust, the Scottish based charity who run 3 medical/dental ships in the Peruvian Amazon and secondly on study leave. On his study leave just before joining us in St Mary's he saw the work of Scripture Union with the children living on the streets and then had the pleasure of officiating at the wedding of a former member of his congregation in Kirkintilloch.

We started off November with grateful thanks to Tom McPherson who stepped in to cover when a speaker was unable to attend. The rest of the session gives us variety and we welcome the Y Zone to provide us with entertainment on our Christmas night. For our Christmas meal this year we are going to the Civic Centre where we will also attend the Pantomime.

Isabel Johnstone - Guild President

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Monday 7 October saw the start of this year's session and it was good to welcome a large turnout at the Fellowship, our first speaker of the year was our Minister Bryce, whose talk "The Language that God Spoke" took us through the language of the Hebrew Nation.

Glasgow Central Hotel its history and refurbishment presented by Jill Scott and Bill Hicks, evoked memories of the many celebrities from stage and screen who used the hotel as their base in Glasgow.

Superintendent Alan Cunningham of Police Scotland opened our eyes to the extent and development of Organised Crime, touching on drug and people smuggling, money laundering, the supply and distribution of counterfeit goods and the increasing internet fraud.

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity was the theme of Ms Kirsten Sinclair, Kirsten told of the requirements of the hospital of care and equipment that was out with the scope of the NHS. The charity was able to provide care and support not only for the children but also for their parents and family members.

The month of October provided an interesting and challenging start to our session.

The forthcoming programme has a wide and varied range of topics from Motherwell Football Club to life on Submarines, notice of which can as usual be found in each week's church intimation sheet.

The Fellowship breaks for Christmas on Monday 7 December with Bill's Quiz and resumes on Monday 13 January 2020, when Rev John Thomson will talk on a subject of his choice.

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

## ***News from the start of the new session...***

### **START OF NEW SESSION**

We currently have a very healthy 42 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 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. As part of the seniors programme we are also making use of the facilities at Dalziel High School for part of the night in order to give the big guys some space to burn off some energy!

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 3 senior boys working on the final year of their Queen's Badge programme and should complete their programme for the May 2020 review presentations and we have a further 8 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 an excellent 1st 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 cross country, swimming, Battalion Senior 5-a-side football and BB National Junior & Senior 5-a-side football and National Masterteam quiz competitions that are coming up before Christmas. Very busy!!

### **PARADES & SERVICES**

We joined the other companies in the Battalion for the Founder's Day Parade to St Margaret's Parish Church where our new Battalion President Mr Alan Anderson led a meaningful service alongside Mr Robert Park the Captain of the host company and his team where they reminded us what it is to be members of the BB.

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.

### **FOLLOW US**

Remember that you can follow our hectic schedule of week-by-week activities by following us on twitter at @captainmaxi

### **COFFEE MORNING**

Our annual coffee morning will take place on Saturday 7 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 2019-2020 session of the Junior Section kicked off on 18 September with a memorable launch night which saw a whopping 37 boys sign up for the session ahead - a truly incredible number of boys keen to don our blue jumpers and get involved in the life of the Boys' Brigade.

We have also been very fortunate in the last few weeks to welcome back 2 of our old boys as fully fledged members of our officer team. We are delighted to have Mr Ben DiMambro and Mr Jack Thomson join our ranks. They have already proven themselves to be huge assets in helping manage the mayhem of a Wednesday night!

Our session nights throughout September and October have mainly consisted of team building activities, sharpening up the boys' marching and drill skills and lots of games!

We also had our annual Halloween Party on 30 October (see photos) which included all our usual favourite Halloween games (the mummy game, story telling relay races, the spider web challenge and of course dooking for apples).

We have a busy November ahead with some fantastic Guest Member November speakers lined up; plenty of Christmas coffee morning preparation; the Remembrance Sunday service and the battalion General Knowledge competition.

The boys will definitely be deserving of their Christmas party and Christmas movie night when December rolls round!

Stephanie Laing - Officer in charge





The 6A Rainbows have been very busy working towards badges as part of the new Rainbow Programme. As part of one of our badges the girls had to find out about the history of Guiding. Special guests Mrs Clare Mackenzie of the Trefoil Guild and her grand-daughter Charlotte who came along to help. The Rainbows loved learning about Guiding through the ages and loved trying on old uniforms and singing songs.

6<sup>th</sup> Rainbows had fun at the end of last session when they spent time on the Drawing badge.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Brownies

Once again, much fun was had at the Tuesday Brownies Halloween Party. This year was a bit scary, no princesses in sight!



At a recent joint meeting the girls got into the Halloween spirit by making pumpkin lanterns.



We have had lots of fun with the new programme but still enjoy all of our old favourite games and songs and most importantly having fun with our Rainbow friends.





## 6thA Brownies

A mum of one of the Thursday Brownies, Lucy and her colleague from the Nationwide told the Brownies about saving money. The girls played some fun games to help learn and painted piggy banks to get started!



The Brownies went to see Shine perform The Addams Family at the Civic Centre and had lots of fun.

We have welcomed 6 new Brownies this session who have all settled in and made new friends. We have had a joint Halloween party with the Guides and will join them in December for a Christmas party.



## UPDATE

Our church is represented on the Motherwell and District Christian Aid Committee. Usually, funds raised by the committee go to Christian Aid to help in any way the charity decides. Between this year and next year, however, the committee has the privilege of assigning £5000 of its fundraising to a particular project, and getting feedback from its progress.

The project chosen is called a Community Partnership and it supports those in Lebanon and Iraq affected by displacement. In the last few months, Christian Aid's partner, Mouvement Social Lebanon (MSL), has opened 6 new centres across Lebanon which host 493 children and give them help with education as well as providing holistic services such as grief counselling and advice.

In Iraq, nearly 300 young people have completed a business skills course, giving them the skills they need to thrive.

The Motherwell Committee's contribution to this work depends on the continuing generosity of church members in our own and other Motherwell churches. Between now and Christmas there will be opportunities to show support for this important work with children. Please continue to help.

Margaret Macgregor

## 6<sup>th</sup> B Brownies

The Monday Brownies have been working on the new syllabus completing new interest badges: Woodland Theme: Grow your own and Mindfulness as they work towards the Feel Good Skills Builder.

Back in September the Brownies and leaders enjoyed a fun weekend at Gowanpark when the theme was Camp Rock. The leaders enjoy themselves too, they don't really spend all their time in the kitchen.



## THE EVENTS ACTION TEAM

The Events Action Team were delighted to host the Harvest Lunch on the 6 October after the Harvest Service. It was a great occasion for the congregation to meet and catch up over hot soup, crusty bread and lovely home baking. Our thanks go to the Y Zone who worked so hard setting up the hall and decorating the Church on Saturday night then enjoying pizza afterwards. The Chancel display is a real focal point of the service. Our thanks to the home bakers and soup makers, and those who served and cleared up. The event raised £400 which I know will go to good use for the Church and Congregation.

As we move forward into the Festive season, our Christmas trees and decorations will be installed from Thursday 28 November and we are always looking for helpers to decorate the Church for our Christmas services. We have a beautiful sanctuary which is further ornamented by the trees and decorations which have been lovingly made for Christmas. If free, we would love to see you.



### CrossReach and Social Care Sunday 2019

Save the date - Sunday 17 November at 4 pm

CrossReach invites you to a thanksgiving service in celebration of social care initiatives across Scotland, held in Dunfermline Abbey. Holding your own CrossReach and Social Care Sunday service?

The service will be live streamed from Dunfermline Abbey. For more information visit: <https://www.crossreach.org.uk/events/crossreach-and-social-care-sunday>

By way of starting our Christmas events we are again having a:

### **"Christmas Film Night"** on Saturday 7 December at 6 pm

Over the last 3 years this event has been a relaxing break from the Christmas hustle and bustle where we can sit back and relax with friends.

Hotdogs, Popcorn, mince pies and refreshments will be served. Tickets priced £5 per group of friends/family will be available in the Avon Hall after the morning services during November or by contacting the Events Action Team.

Our thanks must go to the congregation for their support at the Church events over the year and look forward together to next year's events.

The Events Action Team

### CLEANING TEAM



The Christmas cleaning team will meet on **Monday 2 December at 9.30 am**. We will end the morning with a festive coffee break. Please bring your marigolds and feel free to add a touch of Christmas sparkle .. (or t shirt or jumper or apron or tinsel!)





# Junior Church News!

## **Harvest...**

It was good to have the children in the Junior Church Zones taking part in our morning worship for Harvest. Kids Zone performed their new Harvest songs ~ our favourite was We thank the Lord for living ~ to the tune of the Addams Family theme tune! This was very much enjoyed by the congregation. We also enjoyed a performance from our Junior Choir ... super singing and groovy moves!

The Junior Church Team wish to thank the parents and friends in the congregation for donating food gifts to be used by the Loaves and Fishes trust and the local food bank. 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 beautiful window displays and flowers. Their display added greatly to our Harvest service.

The Y Zone were also busy making decorations for the Harvest Lunch tables, setting tables and napkin folding - what a lot of hard work on the Saturday night. This was rewarded with pizza! It was lovely that the autumnal window decorations were on display for a few weeks to remind us all of the changing of the seasons.

Our harvest bread this year, was again made by June Graham. We are delighted to report that this was the 46th time that June has made the brea, using an original recipe from the Woman's Weekly Magazine from 1976! Our sincere thanks to June for sharing her creative talents with us all.

## **Zone news...**

The Autumn session will be rounded off with an All Saints Party hosted by the Kids Zone. The hall is sure to be filled with many amazing costumes. Having asked the children about their ideas we know that a life size bible, angels and shepherds, kings, rainbows, an Egyptian Princess, Mr Noah, a number of animals, a stained glass window and a jelly bean prayer will be joining the costume parade! Following a costume parade they will have great fun with lots of messy team games followed by dancing and snacks.

## **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 -**

<b>Tots Zone</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14th 2-4 pm</b>
<b>Kids Zone</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14th 2-4 pm</b>
<b>Mini Zone</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14th 2-4 pm</b>

**Santa will visit at the end of the party.**

**Family Movie Night - Saturday 7th**

**Carol Singing**

**By torch light and festive supper and panto!**

**Sunday 15th early evening**

**Nativity Play                      Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 am.**

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



# **13<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Boys' Brigade**

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell

**Saturday 7 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 - £1.50 each**





Summer has now gone and the temperature drop in Autumn has transformed the colour of leaves on trees and shrubs to glorious shades of burnt-orange, gold and red. It makes us wonder if there is anywhere on earth more beautiful. I go on holiday shortly and know that when I return these coloured leaves will have fallen and nature will sleep once more until Spring arrives and new life returns.

I would like to convey my thanks for the support given to me for the Sponsored Walk in September. The project 'Cambodia/Laos - Supporting Christians under Persecution' benefitted from this. The total amount of £1,451 (£400) from St Mary's has been sent to SBS's Head Office in Edinburgh.

The Motherwell Action Group's next fund-raising plan is in support of the project 'The Bread of Life - Children at Risk'. The Bible Society of Peru has an exemplary programme unique in its scope, methodology and experience. We will support this project and its aim is to contribute to the integral development (nutritional and spiritual) of poor children who live in rural communities of Peru. Nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches will be provided and scriptures and teaching of the Bible will be given to these children in their own language.

A concert has been arranged to take place in Crosshill Church on Saturday, 1 February, 2020 at 7 pm. 'Studio 32 Theatre Company' will provide music and drama for our entertainment. Tickets will be on sale from December. Please give us your support.

Again, I would like to say 'thank you' for handing in used stamps to the office. This has brought in the sum of £25 and thanks also for your prayers and continued support for the Scottish Bible Society.

With Christian Love and blessings,

Margaret Carrol  
Motherwell Action Group

*A date for your diary:*

*Saturday, 1 February, 2020 at 7 pm in Crosshill Parish Church  
Concert in support of 'The Bread of Life - Children at Risk'  
Entertainment by 'Studio 32 Theatre Company'*

FLOWER LIST	
NOVEMBER	
3rd	Mrs M Graham Mrs L Huggins Mrs J Weir
10th	Mrs S Sinclair Mrs A Corbett
17th	Mrs M McCloy Mrs D Livingstone
24th	Miss J Graham Mrs R Milligan
DECEMBER	
1st	Mr S McCue-Dick
8th	Mrs S Carswell The Guild
15th	Mr W Wotherspoon Mrs E Williams Mrs I Scott
22nd	Mrs Wilkie
29th	Mrs F Renwick Mrs D Connor Mrs A Brown
JANUARY	
5th	Mrs M Hardie Mrs J Weir
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Rennie Mr & Mrs W McNair Mrs E Williams
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M McCardle Miss J Graham
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs N McMillan Mrs M Wilson
FEBRUARY	
2nd	Church Choir Mrs I Gardiner
9 <sup>th</sup>	Miss C Kelly
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs D Livingstone Mrs C Brownlie
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rainbow, Brownies & Guides Mr & Mrs Malcolm

June Graham - Flower Convener



### 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.







## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

December	1	11.00 am	Anniversary Service with Communion
	8	11.00 am	Gift Service
	15	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas Carol Singing by torchlight
	22	11.00 am 11.15 pm	Nativity Play Christmas Eve Service
	25	10.30 am	Christmas Family Service

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 6 6.00 pm	Christmas Film Night
Sunday December 15 6.30 pm	Carols by Torchlight (Soup and festive fare in the hall Entertainment provided by Y Zone Pantomime)
Saturday 14 December 2-4 pm	All Zones Christmas Parties

