

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



Forward in Faith

ChristianAid
Inbetweeners
Girlguiding **Guild** SeniorChoir JuniorChoir
Boys'Brigade **KirkSession**
CongregationalBoard Toddlers
TheScottishBibleSociety
JuniorChurch
Congregation
Men'sFellowship

FEBRUARY 2020

Bulletin No 344

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

-----oOo-----

MARRIAGE

"Whom God hath joined"

2019

16 November

Victoria Paterson and
David McCulloch

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

2019

21 November

Mrs Marion Bimbi

27 November

Mr Fred Plowman

30 November

Mrs Elspeth Ross

2020

14 January

Miss Catherine Black



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



Manse of St Mary's January 2020

Dear Friends:

A New Year

On behalf of the Manse Family, I would like to say a big 'thank you' for all your lovely cards and good wishes over the Festive Season. Our third Christmas at *St Mary's Parish Church* was just as special as the first two. Helen and I feel very blessed to be part of such a loving, caring, gifted and generous Church Family.

At the beginning of this New Year, on behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to take afresh the opportunity to invite everyone along to our Church activities in 2020. From our Sunday Morning Services and Junior Church, to weekly groups for adults and children alike, there is something for all at St Mary's Parish Church. Everyone is welcome along, as are your family, neighbours and friends. If you can't manage along to Church, or know of someone who can't, and would like to organise a pastoral visit - just give me a call or e-mail.

On Sunday 19 January we have the privilege of welcoming 5 New Members to the Congregation by Profession of Faith - all young men and women. If yourself, or anyone you know, would also like to join St Mary's Parish Church in the months ahead please contact me and I will be happy to organise this.

Vision 20:20+

Throughout 2019 the Kirk Session have been busy working on a Five-Year Plan for the Ministry and Mission of St Mary's Parish Church. This plan, **Vision 20:20+**, will be finalised at a Kirk Session Conference on 16 February and then launched to the whole congregation. Exciting times lie ahead for all of us at St Mary's Parish Church - both this year and in the new decade ahead.

Finance And Fabric

Ministry and Mission are vitally important to the future of St Mary's Parish Church. So, too, are Finance and Fabric. The Congregational Board continue to make sure that, as we go forward, our finances are robust and our Church buildings are maintained and developed to the highest possible standard.

To strengthen our finances, a Stewardship Campaign will take place in May 2020. There will be more information about this in the Easter Bulletin. We are also seeking to market our halls for rental by local groups and organisations - especially during midweek days when many of our halls are currently unused.

On the fabric front, you will soon find the Chancel Steps beautifully restored and, by spring, a new, disabled friendly, path laid in the Church grounds which will include level access to the Church Front Door.

One Good Friday

At the Family Service on Christmas Day we reflected that the baby born in the manger in Bethlehem was given the name JESUS - which means "Saviour". Even at Christmas, the journey to Easter is already underway.

This Easter Time, Drama Kirk [our local inter-church drama group] will be performing a very special Passion Play called "One Good Friday". Performances will be held on Good Friday [Hamilton] and Easter Saturday [East Kilbride]. If you would like to be involved please contact my wife Helen. Rehearsals are on Tuesday Evenings at Hamilton Old Parish Church. As well as actors, volunteers are sought to help with all the behind the scenes aspects of theatre. For more information see: www.facebook.com/DramaKirk or Twitter: @PlayLanarkshire

As your Friend and Minister, I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year in 2020.

Rev Bryce Calder

A Blessing For The New Year Ahead

The following Blessing was used at the end of the final service of 2019 at St Mary's Parish Church.

We stand to face the future:

God behind us in the past...

Christ before us, the way ahead...

Christ beside us, in this moment...

Christ beneath us, in our weakness...

Christ above us to shield us - beneath the shadow of His wings we are safe...

Christ between us to bind us in the unity of His love...

Christ in us, equipping us with His all-sufficient grace...

Thus armed, guided and protected we face the coming New Year.

Now we arise and go forth on the journey before us, knowing that, where Christ leads, life is a journey home.

Therefore, we travel in faith, in hope, and in love,

*May the Blessing of God,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us - today, in this coming year, new decade and forever:*

AMEN



GUILD

The Guild session ended with a night at the Civic Centre where we enjoyed a meal followed by the Pantomime Beauty and the Beast.

In November some of us had an opportunity to try our hand at decorating ceramics following a talk from Ceramic Joy, who is based at Clyde Valley Family Park in Crossford. We also had evenings of talks on lace featured on stamps, the Glasgow architecture of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson and the Cateran Trail in Perth and Kinross. We were also entertained by the Y Zone who presented a mini pantomime based on a Guild outing. I think we have had spies in our midst!

As we started the New Year we were entertained by Rev Bob Kent and look forward to evenings which contains the following:

A talk on financial security from staff of the Royal Bank of Scotland;
Memories of Lanarkshire from John Young;
Mary's Meals - Janet Haugh;
Project Night supporting "Journeying Together" which helps teenage mums in Kanyama, Zambia to build a life of promise for themselves and their children.

We will also have a talk on the Leprosy Mission, the Vine Trust and a visit from the girls of our Guiding units.

We end the session with a Fashion Show, a visit from the Rev Fiona Nicholson and a joint closing social with the Men's Fellowship when entertainment will be provided by Hamilton Operatic members.

We invite ladies of the congregation to join us on any evening for friendship and fellowship. Just check out the church notices to see what is on.

Isabel Johnstone - Guild President

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At time of writing the Fellowship has still to resume after the festive break.

The meetings in November and December were very well attended. Alen Slamin was an enthusiastic speaker on behalf of "Motherwell Football Community" telling of his involvement and responsibility for promoting fitness and exercise among the young and the older folk. Providing opportunities for all ages to be involved in games appropriate to their age and fitness, for example walking football competitions were now gaining popularity.

The season of Remembrance was marked with Tom Purdie's talk on "Hearts at War" the story of the Heart of Midlothian Team volunteering in the First World War.

The exploits of the Scottish Netball Team and their progression through the Commonwealth Games proved a most interesting subject, delivered with enthusiasm and humour by, serving police officer and multi-capped member of the team, Fiona Moore McGrath.

The following week Fiona's husband Joe McGrath gave us an insight into his life as a submariner, which involved being at sea for 3 months at a time.

December and the Rev Mark Johnstone, minister of Glasgow Cathedral gave an interesting and humorous account of his life as a minister and of a weekend spent at Balmoral Castle involving preaching at Crathie Kirk.

Bill Taylor's end of year Quiz was again a fun filled night taxing brains and promoting laughter.

We look forward to future meetings

January

13	Jack of all Trades, Master of Theology	Rev John Thomson
20	Organ Interest	Ronald Mackie
27	Burns	Alex Baird

February

3	Alcohol Related	Gillian Mayes
10	Singing Event	Jolly B'S
17	Film Night	Bill Taylor
24	Alan's Choice	Rev Alan Gibson

March

2	Street Pastors	Stuart Crawford
9	Motherwell FC Trust	Craig Hughes
16	AGM	Junior Choir
23	On Your Own	
30	Joint Closing Social	with Guild

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



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

On Saturday 7 December the Events Action Team hosted its annual film night in the Avon Hall. This year's movie was "Arthur Christmas" and was a popular choice for the kids and adults who came along.

Following some hotdogs, popcorn and mince pies we settled down to the movie with some parents enjoying a well-earned rest after the exertions of the BB coffee morning and other parents glad to relax away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

My thanks to everyone who helped setup, clear away and supported the event. It is our intention to investigate expanding the event to invite some of our more "young at heart" church goers to an afternoon before Christmas with maybe a different film choice.

Our next event will be;

St Mary's Quiz Night Monday 27 April at 7 pm

£10 per team of 4 players, however if you are short of a player, we can make up teams on the night.

Tickets will be available in February from our stand in the Avon Hall after the morning's service

My thanks to the congregation for supporting our events last year and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2020.

The Events Action Team



UPDATE

2020 begins with hardship for millions of families across our world. It also begins with the determined effort of many people in aid agencies, community projects, governments and churches to do something to alleviate the hardship. Christian Aid is our own pathway into this concerted effort to make the world's abundant resources available to everyone and to eradicate poverty.

Our fundraising continues, both in St Mary's Church and in the Motherwell and District Christian Aid Committee, as it has done for so many years. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the retiring offerings at Christmas and to the CAST coffee-and-cake morning at the beginning of December.

Our next local event will be the Pancakes-a-Plenty coffee morning in Crosshill Parish Church on Tuesday 25 February from 10 am - 12 noon. Please join us for coffee, tea, pancakes and a chat.

Margaret MacGregor

The Cleaning Team - New Year



The church cleaning team has been busy over the past months. As we head into the winter period our first meeting for 2020 will be on Monday 20 January. 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 31 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 2019!! (Please bring your own marigolds!) Sincere thanks to all have been involved this year.

13th Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

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



Session Update....

Since our last article our main activities as a Company have been.....Battalion and National competitions and the coffee morning which led us into our Christmas break.

COMPETITIONS

The Battalion Swimming Gala took place in November and our outstanding team were joint winners alongside 7/16th Motherwell Company. This was closely followed by the National Junior 5-a-sides where our young team gave an excellent account of themselves at the heat we hosted in Dalziel and finished second in the heat to progress to the second round in February. The same weekend we also had the Battalion Senior 5-a-sides and our enthusiastic team finished second behind 7/16th Company.

The senior boys then went on to play in the first round of the National competition in the last weekend of November but missed out on progressing to the next round on goal difference - next year guys!

The first of the 2 Battalion drill competitions, the restricted drill, took place in December and by all accounts our squad gave a great performance but the result will not be known until the Review in May.

For the first time in many years we also entered the National 'Masterteam' Quiz. The first round was at the start of November and was hosted by 19th Motherwell at St Margaret's Parish Church - the boys did exceptionally well and won the heat! The second round was held on the night of the coffee morning in Clarkston Parish Church and the boys had another impressive performance and finished second on the night but unfortunately just short of the points total to go through to the Scottish Final as a high scoring runner up but that is certainly something we will be targeting next year! Well done to our team of James MacIntosh, Cameron Gunn,

James Edwards and Charlie Fleck for doing so well.

CHRISTMAS 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 £2300** 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 (£2500+!!), 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.

(OTHER) CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Just prior to the coffee morning we were invited by our official partners, The Guild, to take a stall at their Christmas night where some of our boys sold some of our Christmas wares as a coffee morning preview and did very well as a result! Thank you to the ladies for your continuing support.

COMING UP....

We are only just into the New Year but we are continuing our preparation for the first aid, squad drill and Bible Knowledge competitions, the Queen's Badge guys are busy working away to complete their programmes and we have 13 busy Fridays and 7 Battalion competitions before the Easter holidays!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

6th Brownies

The last couple of months of 2019 saw the Brownies continuing to keep busy. They have been working on the 'Live Smart Skills' which has involved, amongst other things, having some fun on what job they might like to do in the future, these ranging from a 'teacher' to an 'astronaut' to a 'popstar'! Keep an eye out in the years to come! They designed a job advert for Santa Claus, and worked very carefully with the leaders trying their hand at hammering in a few nails and sawing a piece of wood!



The **Christmas Party** finished the session off on a high, everyone 'dressed to the nines', a lot of fun was had playing games and eating pizza and lots of cakes! The Brownies have also welcomed a new addition - Lucy Muir as a Young Leader and welcomed back Lynsey St John, as a Leader, who has returned from Oman. Great to have them both on board and the girls are keeping them on their toes already, looking forward to activities in 2020!



6thA Rainbows

The Rainbows have all been busy working towards badges as part of the new programme. They have achieved lots of different interest badges, including Family Tree, Drawing and Nature Badges. Some of our older Rainbows have achieved their first Theme Award.

The girls can be seen working towards their Agility Badge and then with their new badges.



The Rainbows from both units all had great fun at the Christmas Party where special guest Santa distributed Christmas gifts.



Junior Church News!



Christmas Celebrations....

It was good to have the children in 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. This year we also supported the Christmas appeal from the Glasgow Lodging house mission, to provide Christmas lunch. A huge thank you to all who supported this.



Our Nativity Sunday saw the chancel filled with our stable for Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, our choir, King Herod, innkeepers, angels, a star and a narrator. The Kids Zone told the Christmas story this year performing St Mary's Nativity. The narrator, Eva 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 the children impressed the congregation with their talents at this special service.

With solos from Zack as King Herod, Aimme as the choir leader, Eilidh as Mary and Alex as the angel Gabriel, a duet with Mary and Joseph (Euan) and Ellie the star - from the top of a ladder!! Supported by a lively performance from our shepherds, wise men, angels and choir - added to the full choral items from the cast - it was a super Nativity Sunday enjoyed by all.

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

The final song "Ring out the bells" had everyone smiling as the children reminded them of the true meaning of Christmas.

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 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 180 friends in the congregation enjoyed a wonderful festive evening hosted by the Kids Zone and Y Zone. Carol singing in the church grounds, under a dark starry sky, was followed by hot soup, 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 managed to raise the funds to pay the elves. We even had guest appearances from Lorraine Kelly and Elton John! 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!

New Year....New decade...

The 2020 session has already started and the teachers are busy preparing for the term ahead. We all look forward to sharing in the many Family Services. Please save your nativity cards for our craft box.

Thank you ...

Each Sunday in Advent, and at our festive services at the end of the year Bryce invited families from the congregation to lead the candle liturgy and call to worship. Our thanks to the Ward family, the Cargill family, the Hamilton family, the Blackwood family, the Mossman family, the Graham family, and the Maxwell family.

Thanks also to the many members of the Y Zone who also contributed to our Advent Services.



Crossreach have many fundraising events planned for 2020. Check out the following on the website.

2nd May 2020

The Zip Trek Challenge Aviemore takes in 14 fantastic zip wires totalling over 2km of zipping through the trees over a stunning gorge. Starting gently, the wires increase in length and height as you move through the course. The longest zip wire is 550 m long! Your experience will last approximately 2 1/2 hours (not including the tea and cake after your final zip!)

10 May 2020

The Forth Rail Bridge Abseil is the ultimate experience, combining stunning views of the Forth with a sensational and challenging descent from the Forth Rail Bridge from a height of 150 feet - come and be part of it!

Sunday 20th September 2020

The Scottish Half Marathon + 10K is the ultimate running experience combining fast, flat routes with stunning view of East Lothian's Golf Coast - come and be a part of it!

The route is seriously flat and rapid - if you want to set a personal best for a half marathon, then this is the event for you. Starting just outside Edinburgh, you run along the magnificent East Lothian Golf Coast before finishing in the final furlong at Musselburgh Racecourse, Scotland's oldest racecourse. The Scottish 10K is Scotland's newest 10K and a fantastic opportunity to grab that illusive PB and support CrossReach services at the same time.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Our joint choirs opened the service by performing *Way Down Yonder in Bethlehem*. Wonderful to have over 50 adult voices joining in praise.



Our Inbetweeners choir performed *Hallelujah Christmas* and *Midnight*. We were delighted to perform along with Lesley, Graeme and Bryce.



The stars of the morning were our very own Junior Choir. They sang enthusiastically showcasing their super singing and groovy moves!



Wonderful to have almost 80 voices in our massed choir, to end our service of Lessons and Carols. A real musical treat!



I hope you have had an enjoyable time over the festive season. As I write this report, it was only a week ago when we were celebrating the New Year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful time in 2020.

The Scottish Bible Society has had a very busy year. A project, held close to its members, was the setting up and leading a global initiative called **Bible 2020**. This is a major digital campaign and was launched on New Year's Day to encourage "everyone, everywhere" to read the Bible. The campaign was originally intended only for Scotland but has instead launched as a global campaign, with Bible Societies from more than 85 countries now involved in the movement. **Bible 2020's** aim is for Christians to take the words of the Bible off the pages and speak them out loud in their daily lives.

Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive Officer of the SBS said, "There's something about speaking words out loud that make them more real. The Bible traditionally was passed down orally, but both this tradition and deep confidence in Scripture have been lost over the generations. We hope this campaign will encourage Christians to rediscover confidence in the Bible and the power of speaking God's Word aloud. It may also stimulate people into starting a habit of reading the Bible daily through this year."

There are 366 days of short inspirational readings in **Bible 2020**. The reading programme is available for download by visiting www.bible2020.org. Through prayer and the reading of God's Word, people's lives might be transformed and the world changed significantly by the power of His Word.

The Motherwell Action Group of the SBS is holding a concert in Crosshill Parish Church on Saturday, 1st February at 7 pm. Studio 32 Theatre Company will be our entertainment. They are a very talented group of singers and they will also perform a short act from 'The Steamie'. It should prove to be a great night to be enjoyed by all. Tickets are priced at £6 which includes refreshments and can be bought from Margaret Carrol or from the church office.

The project we are supporting from the proceeds of the concert is "The Bread of Life - Children at Risk in Lima, Peru". The aim of the project is to contribute to the integral development (nutritional and spiritual) of 1186 poor children who live in rural communities. A supply of nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches in addition to Scriptures and teachings of the Bible, appropriate for age and need, would be provided.

I am so thankful for your loyal support and prayers.

With Christian love,

Margaret Carrol
Motherwell Action Group



FLOWER LIST

JANUARY

5 th	Mrs M Hardie
	Mrs J Weir
12 th	Mrs J Rennie
	Mr & Mrs W McNair
	Mrs E Williams
19 th	Mrs M McCardle
	Miss J Graham
26 th	Mrs N McMillan
	Mrs M Wilson

FEBRUARY

2 nd	Church Choir
	Mrs I Gardiner
9 th	Miss C Kelly
16 th	Mrs D Livingstone
	Mrs C Brownlie
23 rd	Rainbow, Brownies & Guides
	Mr & Mrs Malcolm

MARCH

1 st	Mrs M Graham
	Mrs M Skimming
	Mrs M Carrol
8 th	Mrs M Watson
	Mrs C Dewar
15 th	Miss I Johnstone
22 nd	Mrs I Craig
29 th	Mrs J Findlay

APRIL

5 th	Mrs B Neilson
	Mrs E Calder
12 th	Mrs F Shearer
19 th	Mrs E Taylor/Mrs J Findlay
26 th	Mrs E Scott
	Mrs S Forrest/Mrs L Kelly
	Mrs A Johnstone



June Graham - Flower Convener



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Feb	9	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Feb	23	11 am	Thinking Day Service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb	12	7.30 pm	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
April	27	7 pm	Annual Quiz Night

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY CONCERT

Motherwell Action Group presents

studio 32

theatre company

IN CONCERT

7.00 pm **Saturday 1st**
February 2020 **£6** per person

Venue: Crosshill Parish Church, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell
Ticket price includes refreshments

Raising vital funds to support **The Bread of Life - Children at Risk** in Lima, Peru

The Scottish Bible Society, 7 Robertson Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5AG. Tel: 0131 551 7701. Email: info@scottishbiblesociety.org. Web: scottishbiblesociety.org. Scottish Charity No. SC030750. A company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No. 1234567 - registered office as above.