

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



SUMMER 2020

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

17 April	Mrs Isabel Dyet
20 April	Mr David Black
17 June	Mr James Moonie
18 June	Mr Charles Ford



The various Church denominations in Scotland have been encouraging their members to take time to pray at 7 pm on Sunday evenings. Many across the country have lit a candle in their window - a sign of hope in a time of darkness. A reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.

For all that is good in life, thank you,
For the love of family and friends, thank you,
For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan
stranger, thank you.

May those who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless,
experience support,
May those who are sick, know healing,
May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.

Bless and guide political leaders and decision-makers,
with wisdom,
Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with
strength and well-being, Bless and guide each one of us,
as we adapt to a new way of living.

And may the light shining from our windows,
across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle,
be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.





Manse of St Mary's
June 2020

Dear Friends:

The last few months have been a frightening and difficult time for so many of us - as we have lived through one of the worst world health crises in modern history.

As I write, the COVID-19 pandemic may be on the wane here in Scotland, but across the world it continues to grow. Its affect is felt especially in some of the poorest parts of the globe.

In Matthew's Gospel, the last words of Jesus to the disciples are words of promise: **"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** [Matthew 28:20]

Over the past three months of lockdown, Jesus' promise has brought enormous comfort to us as a congregation and to millions of people throughout the world.

Jesus' words chime with the amazing promise of God found in **Isaiah 43:1-5**:

*"But now thus says the Lord,
He who created you, O Jacob,
He who formed you, O Israel:
'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire
you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour...
Do not fear,
for I am with you.'"*

The presence of God with us in recent days has enabled us to cope with things that we could not have imagined as we entered into 2020 six months ago.

As a Parish Minister, I have spoken to folks who have not been able to see loved ones including parents, children, grandchildren or sick relatives; I have conducted funerals where mourners have been restricted to a dozen; and I have worked with couples who have had to postpone their wedding plans.

In the midst of all of this, more and more people have turned to God, to faith, to the Church, for spiritual nourishment and pastoral support.

When I wrote my last Church Newsletter, I had to announce that Services of Public Worship would have to cease for the foreseeable future - until such times that the Scottish Government feels that the pandemic is under control and large scale gatherings are safe.

As we move into Phase Two of the Scottish Government's Four Phase Plan for exiting lockdown, I am happy to say that we are now able to open our Church Sanctuary for private prayer and reflection - at this stage on a Monday Morning [10.30 - 12.00 Noon] and Thursday Evening [7.00 - 8.30 pm]. Due to strict social distancing measures still in place, only 18 pews are able to be used. A pew can take a single person, a couple, or, a family [who have been in lockdown together]. Places will be allocated by a steward at the church door - on a first-come-first-served basis. Hopefully, though, over the coming weeks, everyone that wants to come for private prayer and reflection will have the opportunity to do so.

No one knows for certain when Church Services will be able to resume but I know that the Church of Scotland is in constant dialogue with the Scottish Government on this matter. For up-to-date information, you can always visit the Church of Scotland Website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk

In the meantime we will continue with our On-Line Sunday Services - which are proving highly popular with congregational members of all ages.

Thanks to the technical expertise of one of our younger members, Colin Barr, and the generosity of his company 'Limelight Networks', we are now able to broadcast these services live at 11.00 am every Sunday on our Church Website: www.stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

The service can also be listened to throughout the week - either on the website or via telephone [01698 533200].

As Minister, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to the congregation for all the positive and encouraging feedback which I have been given about these services. St Mary's congregation is a wonderful Family Church and, like any family during this time of separation, we have worked extra hard to maintain our sense of togetherness. Members of the congregation, in family groups and as individuals, have recorded Calls to Worship, Bible Readings and music which have greatly enhanced our services. Couples have sent in beautiful photos of their Wedding Day to accompany our Anniversary Announcements. I have enjoyed 'Happy Birthday' greetings and the joy of announcing the arrival of newborn children and grandchildren.

I am delighted that we have been able to continue the rhythm of our Church Year through the On-Line Services. We have celebrated Easter and Pentecost; we have shared Communion; we have raised £3536 [including Gift Aid] for Christian Aid, we commemorated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day; we have showcased the talents of our Boys Brigade and, most recently, we had an innovative Junior Church Promotion Sunday.

One of the highlights each week has been the slideshow of photos in response to the challenges set by our fabulous Junior Church leaders. Many of these can still be seen on our website, or, Facebook page. I would like to thank everyone who has shared in any way to enrich our services.

We have lots more to look forward to in the weeks ahead as we explore our Summer Theme ['The Fruit of the Holy Spirit']. When I am on holiday [Sundays 19 & 26 July] Rev John Thomson will lead the services. The Summer will also see a Y-Zone Celebration Service, a Pet

Blessing Service, our annual Postcard Competition, and the continuing weekly Junior Church Challenges.

One of the main upsides of the On-Line Sunday Services is that a number of members who weren't able physically to come to church are now able to feel more part of the St Mary's Church Family through accessing the services on-line or via telephone.

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board have formed a small Management Team to guide the congregation through the weeks, and perhaps months, ahead. One of the key items on the Management Team's agenda is making sure that we can continue to broadcast our services online - even when regular Sunday Services can resume.

As I near the close of my Newsletter, I would like to pay tribute to all who have worked so hard, and so faithfully, to keep St Mary's Parish Church going strongly over the past months - including our wonderful staff, fantastic Elders, Junior Church Leaders and enthusiastic helpers and volunteers. Your dedication is appreciated by myself and by all in the Church Family.

As we go forward, if you, or anyone you know in the Church Family, needs any practical, or spiritual, help and support - please let me know. I can be contacted via telephone [Manse: 01698 328665/Mobile: 07401949831].

You can also contact me via E-Mail BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk

Alternatively, you can contact your District Elder, or, our Church Secretary Margaret McCloy. Margaret is available via the Church Office Phone [01698 268554]

or you can E-Mail her at:

margaret.mccloy@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

I will end with the note of encouragement that I began - with the words of Jesus: ***"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*** [Matthew 28:20]

May these words give us hope, comfort and encouragement in the days ahead.

God Bless: Rev Bryce Calder

PRAYER

God of all Power,

You are the One

who called the Universe into being,
who breathed life into existence,
and we acknowledge that You have no equal.

As the Book of Isaiah declares:

*"With whom, then, will you compare God?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth."*

God of Justice,

In a world where power is all too often
misused and abused,

You constantly use Your Power, Your Strength,
for the cause of good.

To those in need, to the broken-hearted,
to the lost and rejected,

You are the Good Shepherd.

As the Book of Isaiah reminds us:

*"God tends His flock like a shepherd.
He gathers the lambs in His arms
and carries them close to His heart."*

God of Love,

Your radical love is seen most wonderfully

in the person of Jesus, Your Son, Our Saviour,
the One in whom all Your promises are fulfilled,
in whom we find forgiveness,
freedom and fullness of life.

We pray that, in Jesus,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
we too can become
radical bearers and sharers of Your love,
this day and every day.

God of Grace,

May our Summer On-Line Services,

be a true expression of our desire
to worship and serve You,

for the many ways in which You bless us.

And may our lives always reveal our gratitude
in all we think, and do, and say.

WE PRAY ALL THESE THINGS
IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN
CHRIST
WHO TAUGHT US HOW TO SAY
TOGETHER
THE FAMILY PRAYER:

*Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power and the glory
for ever: AMEN*



FINANCIAL REPORT

It is important that everyone in the Congregation is up-to-date on our financial situation. When I meet members, on the street, while out walking, inevitably, they ask the question about our finances.

I am in a position to inform you that like every other organisation in the country, our finances have suffered during the closure of our Church due to this awful pandemic. We are fortunate that we have a healthy Reserve Fund which within weeks will have to be used to pay our bills and fulfil our financial responsibilities.

Stuart Reid, our Treasurer, has produced a financial prediction to the end of this financial year. His estimate is that our Congregational Account will have a £36,000 deficit. This is the account into which we pay all of the money given on a Sunday morning and through Standing Order and this money is used to pay all of our bills on an ongoing basis. It is clear that we will have to use a large amount of our Reserve to fill the gap in the Congregational Account.

The Appeal I made at the start of the lockdown asking members to consider contributing by Standing Order and signing up to the Gift Aid scheme was well supported and led to an increase in giving by Standing Order from £4,000 per month to well over £6,000 per month. Also, we have a good number of members signed up to the Gift Aid scheme for the first time. This has helped reduce the deficit on our Congregational Account to a much more manageable figure.

We had a number of plans to improve the Church buildings by using part of the Reserve Fund but of course all plans are now on hold because of our financial situation with the exception of:

1. The pathway into the Sanctuary from the gate at the corner of our property
2. The provision of cameras in the Sanctuary to continue the filming of services to be accessed on our web page.

The cost of the pathway, which is now complete, was financed by the money held for us, in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, by the Church of Scotland. This money can only be used for fabric issues and since this was the case we decided to use it. This money comes from the rental of the Church Officer's house and is paid into the Consolidated Fund on a monthly basis.

The cost of the cameras and some other equipment will be met by the Reserve Fund. Live filming and recorded services will become even more important when the Church re-opens. There may be a drastically reduced number of attendees because of social distancing and in addition many members may be apprehensive about attending worship in the short term. The cost of this is not outwith our budget even though our finances are taking a big hit.

I know from meeting members that many are faithfully filling their envelopes and are anxious to contribute as soon as possible. By the time you read this report our Minister will have announced when these envelopes can be handed in.

Make no mistake our Church will survive this crisis and be aware that our finances are being monitored VERY carefully.

I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well and I thank everyone for their support in this time of crisis.

Kind regards
Leslie Innes
Finance and Stewardship Convenor



PROPERTY MATTERS

Hi Folks

I hope you are all doing ok.

As you may have noticed in the photos at the start of the service on Sunday 28 June the Property Team have some great news, the proposed upgrade of the path from the main church gate to the front door has been completed. It will allow much needed level access to the Sanctuary for all users, this means everyone can enter the sanctuary from the Main Door, instead of possibly having to use side door. The path has been laid with stones to complement the church building and has removed the step from Avon St onto the path and the 2 steps into the main door.

We have been able to install lights on the edges of the path due to a generous donation by 2 of our members, my thanks to them for this amazing gesture.

With the church open now for private prayer and hopefully soon for the return of some services, I hope you agree the path looks great as well as being very practical and much safer.

We have also taken the chance to re-install the flood lights that illuminate the beautiful Stained Glass windows at the front of the church, so when we can meet in the evenings in the Sanctuary we can still enjoy our windows.

I'd like to take this chance to thank the Property Team for their continued support and work, also a special thanks to our Jack of all Trades, Church officer, Ian Beattie.

Ian has been down to the church most days, cleaning, painting, repairing, designing, supervising Landscapers, you name it, he has done it. The list of tasks Ian has completed is a bulletin in itself, but some of the work done, redesign and decorating of the Coffee Bar, painting of the corridors and of course gardening. If you pass or visit the church you'll see that it has rarely looked better. Well done Ian and thanks.

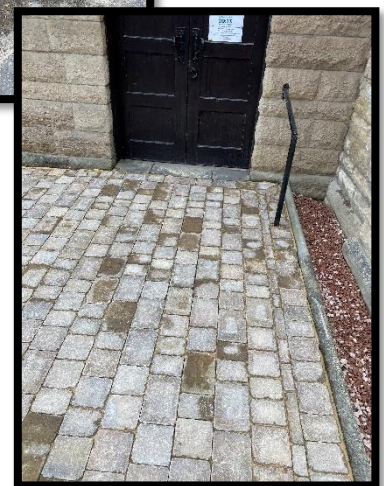
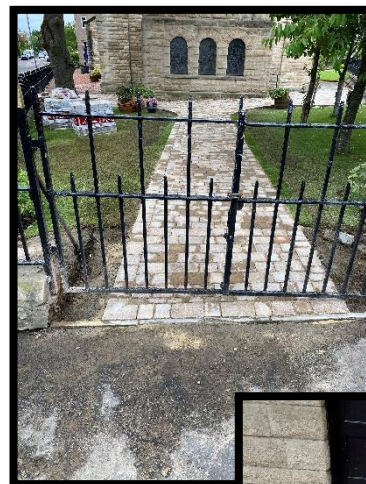
Finally, thanks to everyone who contributes or helps with the church buildings.

Hope to see you all soon, when it is safe to do so.

God bless

Alan Joyce

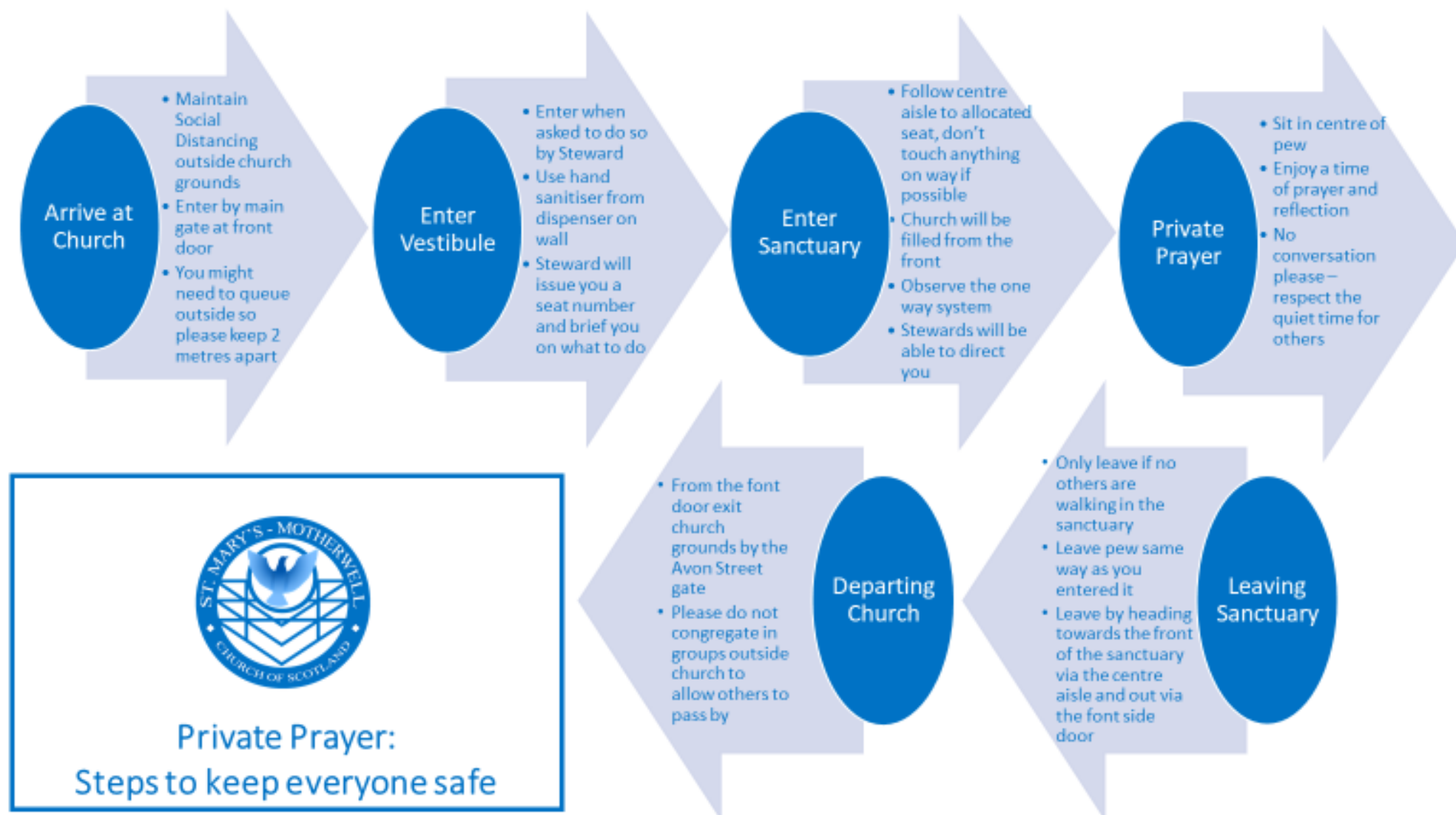
Property Convenor





Opening for Private Prayer: Control Measures to keep everyone safe

- A Covid-19 Risk Assessment has been carried out and the following controls have been identified by the Risk Assessment, Church of Scotland guidelines and instructions from the Scottish Government.
- Church will be open for private prayer on Monday 10.30 - 12 noon and Thursday 7 - 8.30 pm.
- You should not attend if you have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 and carefully consider attending if you are shielding or in a vulnerable group.
- We can accommodate **18** 'slots' at each opening. Each slot could be an individual, couple or family. Slots will be allocated on a first come basis.
- Face masks are not required unless personally desired.
- Private prayer is a time for quiet reflection so please respect this for others.
- The toilets will not be available when visiting the church for private prayer.
- All other parts of the church building will be closed during private prayer time.
- The sanctuary will be cleaned between private prayer sessions.
- You are requested to take any tissues, wipes etc that you have used home with you.





GUILD

Never more has the Guild theme been more relevant. "One Journey, Many Roads", has been our theme for the sessions covering 2018-2021. How true is that. We are all in the same difficult health crisis, but the road through it is different for all of us.

Last session our topic was Companions on the Road and next session it is The Extra Mile. Examples of both of these can be seen in various acts of kindness given and received during these past weeks.

Following careful consideration, the Church of Scotland Guild took the decision to postpone publication of the magazine but agreed to produce a weekly enews each Monday. This can be emailed to you or can be read online.

To sign up, go to the Church of Scotland Guild website and choose Contact. Choose Guild News and then sign up for email of news. They have a variety of items telling of what is going on round the country, with our partners abroad and have updates on the Guild Projects.

2018 – 2021 projects update

Total money raised: £296,016.54

- CrossReach: £57,826.84
- Sailors' Society: £41,236.80
- Boys' Brigade: £65,373.14
- World Mission: £37,499.38
- Malawi Fruits: £43,161.87
- Free to Live Trust: £50,918.51

We in St Mary's Guild have embraced Zoom technology. The Committee had a Zoom meeting and decided to keep in touch with as many members as possible during the coming weeks via Zoom meetings every second Monday evening.

To date we have had 2 meetings with a prayer, reading and a short talk. On our first meeting Christine Brown gave us advice on looking after our health, by eating properly and keeping hydrated. On our second meeting Ellie Maxwell gave us a PowerPoint presentation on how she has been keeping busy over the last 13 weeks. She has done schoolwork, dancing, Junior Church challenges and kept in touch with her wider family. Knitting, baking and gardening have all been overseen by her grandparents.



We have also heard Janette McPherson, our pianist, play as we joined the meeting as sadly, we cannot have our usual chat. We may be able to rectify that in future meetings.

Isabel Johnstone
Guild 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 at a collection point in ASDA.

Monetary donations can be made via transfer from your bank account to

Sort Code 80-22-60

Account Number: 10260162

These details can be confirmed from the 'Donate' page of the Basics Food Bank website:

<https://basicsfoodbanklanarkshire.weebly.com>

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship, like other organisations in the church came to an unexpected end and we were deprived of the much anticipated night with the very talented Junior Choir, our AGM, an evening with our Church Organist Ronald and the Closing Social with the Guild.

Since the Lockdown we have been in contact by email with most of our members and the others by telephone.

Our Secretary Alan has suggested that we produce a newsletter, the first edition of which will be sent by email soon (do not want to put him under too much pressure on time scale).

The use of the Zoom Platform for meetings seems to be highly successful and we will advise of how this can be accessed if we decide to use the format for getting together.

The uncertainty of how meetings can be held at the start of the new session in October makes it difficult to do much in the way of forwards planning, however, in the event that meetings are allowed, we have enough talent in the Fellowship and Congregation to be able to sustain a programme which will as ever, Inform, Educate and Entertain.

As we face the summer break I trust and pray that all of you will Stay Safe and Well.

Allan Joyce
President

Work Party 2020



Oh what is this life is full of care
We have no Church Property to repair
Monday is normally the day for us
But we are kept at home by this deadly virus

We had plans for work outside and in
But all our plans are consigned to the bin
We have no choice but to obey the rules
Doing anything else, we would simply be fools

Over the years the Work Party have served
St Mary's well
Jobs undertaken, too numerous to tell
Some of the work done, you will never see
But if you really want to know, just speak to me

I must pay thanks to the lady who bakes
Biscuits, sponges and even Rhubarb Cakes
Every Monday they arrive without fail
So who is the mystery baker? I am not revealing that tale

So will the Work Party resume this year?
If the climate is right, then we will be there
I speak for us all when I say we want to be back
But first things first, we all have a deadly virus to whack.

HJR

End of (abbreviated!) Session

EARLY END OF SESSION

Just as the last church magazine was going to print the country went into lockdown and brought about an early end to the BB session.

Friday 13 March was our last physical meeting as a Company and put on hold some of the events and activities in our calendar for an unknown period of time.

One of the first priorities was to work out how we would complete the work of the boys on the Queen's Badge programme...they had literally just finished supporting Ups & Downs Theatre Group with the stewarding at their show in Hamilton Townhouse and only had to write up their reports and attend the completion course to gain their badge.

Fortunately, by emailing documents backwards and forwards and filming video reviews of their record books we managed to get their awards signed off and the requirement to attend a completion course was relaxed as the course had to be cancelled!

With no physical activities possible the remaining Battalion competitions were scrapped and a decision was made quickly (unlike the SPFL!) that the Battalion Flag Championship would be suspended this year with no winner announced.

BATTALION REVIEW &

The 114 Annual Battalion Review was the first of a kind as it was presented via the YouTube online video platform and was broadcast on Friday 15 May.

As a company we used the Zoom video conferencing platform and got all the boys, officers and our company section elders onto a video call where we all watched the Battalion Review presentation. We enjoyed watching Battalion President Mr Alan Anderson announce the winners of the Battalion competitions and the recipients of the President's and Queen's Badges.

At 13 Motherwell we have had a successful year in the competitions - 4 first places (Bible Knowledge, Quiz, Junior Football and Swimming), 2 runners up places (Restricted Drill, Senior Football) and a third place (First Aid)...not bad out of a total of 8 competitions!

While it is nice to have success as a Company it is particularly pleasing to see boys within the Company achieve special individual awards. More on this further on in the article...

Following the Battalion Review presentation we remained online as a company and presented our special awards for the session:

This year our Junior Sports Champion was **Alex Maxwell** and our Senior Sports Champion was won jointly by **Adam Blair** and **Scott Rankin**.

We also present 2 awards in recognition of boys who have made a particular contribution during the session or set an example to the other boys.

This year the Officers' Endeavour award was presented to **Cameron Gunn** and the Captain Mathie Commendation was presented to **James MacIntosh**.

PRESIDENT'S BADGES

We had 2 of our senior boys achieve their President's Badge this year: **Andrew Gardiner and James Leckie**.

This is the second highest award in the BB and involves completing the discovery badge programme in 5 key areas: Adventure, Community, Leadership, Interest and Physical.

QUEEN'S BADGES

The Queen's Badge is the highest award in the Boy's Brigade and requires the young men to make some demanding commitments during the course of the programme.

Adam Blair, James MacIntosh and Scott Rankin are all Sergeants in the Company and are all worthy recipients of the Queen's Badge. All 3 young men have given a great deal of time both to the company in their leadership roles and also to the community over the course of the last year. They have all developed through the process and have had an impact in each of the areas where they have worked.

Completing the Queen's Badge programme is not just about getting the award (although it is a proud moment for us all!) and I am sure that these outstanding young men will see it as the foundation for even greater things.

The officers of 13 Motherwell congratulate the 3 young men on their achievements and wish them all the best for the future!

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

On Sunday 14 June we were delighted to participate in the St Mary's online worship along with the Anchor Boys and Junior Section. The service had a Boys' Brigade theme and was a nice celebration of the boys' efforts over the session.

SUMMER CAMP

As we are unable to go through with our plans for our usual summer camp, we decided to come up with some activities we could do at a distance that would give the boys a flavour of what it might have been like to be at camp.

We will be doing this over the 5 days from Saturday 27 June to Wednesday 1 July and hope to have boys camping in gardens, walking to Aviemore (not literally) and tackling daily challenges set by the camp staff team by video.

Our virtual camp will be run on twitter and captured there for you to see later - just look up and follow @captainmaxi

THANK YOU!

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported the Company over the last session.

To the officers in each of the sections who put in a great effort every week to provide an exciting and fun programme of events, to the parents who support their son's involvement and to the congregation for its support collectively and as individuals - thank you!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

"Captain Maxwell doesn't know about this bit, but I'd like to take this chance to acknowledge the work of our Captain Stewart Maxwell, and thank him on behalf of the Boys, the parents and the Company officers.

Stewart works tirelessly for our company and the BB in general, as well as all the other stuff he does for our church. If we are meeting on Fridays in person, or online, since Lockdown, Stewart has been innovative, committed and highly organised. Stewart is BB man to the core and we are lucky to have him as our Captain.

Stewart thanks again for all you do"

Alan Joyce



Since our units came to a rather abrupt halt this session, Girlguiding, like many organisations, created a variety of solutions to keep in touch with our girls and keep them active.



An on-line resource called Adventures at Home is available for all our girls to access. This continues to be updated providing a variety of activities to keep the girls, and possibly members of their family, occupied. These are linked to the new Guiding programme. Luckily this new programme also created badge books which the girls may have at home which will allow them to complete Interest badges ready to be recognised when we are all able to meet again.

In March an on-line festival was set up which the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Guiders could access and enjoy a variety of activities for the different age groups.



These are still available on You-Tube to be accessed. Football skills, creativity, campfire and talks from adventurers can all be watched. Some of our girls enjoyed taking part. After following the baking programme some of the girls shared their treats in Random Acts of Kindness.

Netherurd House, the Scottish Girlguiding Outdoor Centre also produced a challenge which some of our members have been completing.

The Tuesday Guides are delighted to announce the birth of Guider Laura's baby boy during lockdown. Oliver Andrew Forbes was born on 11 June and greetings and good wishes are sent to Laura and Mark.



The Thursday Guides have been working on interest badges which have been designed to be completed at home. Confectionary, photography, upcycling and meditation are some of the badges which they have undertaken. Ideal for the current time.



Personal Protective Equipment

CrossReach has residential services throughout Scotland. Each one of these services has had to put in place additional measures to protect the residents and the staff. All of its residential services are home to the people who live there. As part of its ethos, CrossReach is maintaining that home feeling as much as possible, while balancing it with the clinical needs of the current pandemic and relatives' expectations to wear PPE. Like most care homes and other residential settings, CrossReach services were not set up as clinical establishments. Therefore, providing the necessary resources to all residential services which includes gowns, masks, visors and associated equipment has been at the forefront of their efforts. Every week, personal protective equipment is arriving at the CrossReach central distribution site and being distributed by a staff team co-opted from other duties. This will be repeated regularly for the foreseeable future. **To donate or find out more information, please visit: bit.ly/COVID-19CrossReach**

Bags for CrossReach Care Homes

Members of churches have been creating bags for the staff at their local CrossReach care homes which allows them to safely take home their working clothes at the end of their shifts. The bags can then be put directly in the washing machine without having to take the clothes out. There are various patterns online to select from. To participate: www.sewcreativestudios.net/post/stay-home-sew-nhs-uniform-bags

Mental Health Resources

There are a number of online spaces filled with tips and advice on maintaining good mental health during self isolation.

Further details: www.crossreach.org.uk/find-service/children-families/counselling

Host a Virtual Grey Cake Coffee Morning

As we all continue to live with the impact of COVID-19 and having to maintain social distance, is there someone you wish you could chat with over a cup of coffee and piece of cake? Holding a Virtual Grey Cakes Coffee Morning is a great way to connect with your friends and loved ones whilst helping CrossReach to continue to support those who are coping with mental health and wellbeing issues, made all the more difficult by COVID-19.

You can get as creative as you like; share your recipes and compare versions of the same cake.

More information: www.crossreach.org.uk/virtualgreycakes

Junior Church News!

Promotion Sunday...

The children of the Junior Church zones celebrated the end of the session in June by contributing to the morning worship at our Promotion Service on line. A number of our children took part in the call to worship and read our Bible readings. The highlight of the service was our presentation of the certificates. This took the form of a "Pass it on video!" It was great to see all our church families taking part. Lisa, our Junior Church secretary had also compiled a collage of photographs from throughout the year... great to look back at all our memories from the past session.

Christian Aid...

As a Junior Church and as a congregation we have made an excellent contribution to the work of Christian Aid again this year. This will go towards the continuing work in third world countries. A **BIG** thank you to all who supported the children. This year our virtual challenges included making a red photo collage and taking part in a sponsored garden keep fit challenge.

(Editor's Note: we feature on the Christian Aid Scotland website - Christian Aid Week 2020.)

Lockdown...

Although we have not been at church for a few months now, we have all enjoyed sharing in worship online. A particular highlight of each service has been the Junior Church Challenges. Our families, and wider church family have all been very busy each week and our entries have been really creative. We have made crosses from daffodils, fish from shells, taken photographs in our gardens, built mountains in our bedrooms.....the list goes on. Many of creations can be found on twitter or on our church web page. A display is also on the church gates for passers-by to admire on their daily walks. Our sincere thanks to all who have taken part, we really do appreciate it.



Sunflowers....

We also sent each family in our Junior Church an envelope of sunflower seeds. Each week before the service we will keep you up to date on the progress of our flowers during the slide show. Some are very impressive in size already. All we need now is some sunshine.



Guild donation...



The Junior Church would like to thank the committee and ladies of our Guild. Following their AGM they made a very generous donation to our Junior Church to purchase our books for promotion Sunday. The books have been ordered and will be presented at the start of our new session. We are very grateful for the continued support from the ladies.

Knitting...

Sincere thanks to all our "knitters" who helped us reach and exceed our total for the local hospitals. We were able to donate over 500 mask extenders to our local hospitals and surgeries. They were very much appreciated.



Summer Club

More information will follow. Keep an eye on the church website and [twitter@stmarysmwell](https://twitter.com/stmarysmwell).

Junior Church Postcard Challenge 2020...



Normally you would be asked to send the Junior Church a postcard from wherever you had ventured during the holiday period.

This year is different so we ask you to create your own postcard and send to a friend/friends. You are also invited to send a copy of your creation to Bryce, Karen or post on [twitter@stmarysmwell](https://twitter.com/stmarysmwell) for all of us to enjoy. They will be displayed digitally later on.

So please get posting (literally or digitally) - and take part in our Postcard Challenge!





Since my last report, it is an understatement to say that the world has changed. We have heard so much bad news, so many people dying, some of those amongst our own family and friends. Our lives, our living conditions have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Although these have been difficult times a lot of good has been coming out of this. The comradery of the people in our community; the community spirit; the hand of friendship to help with shopping; random parcels and letters being posted through our doors and people acknowledging one another as they smile when they are out for their daily walk.

Unfortunately, I was not able to distribute 'Transform' the Scottish Bible Society's Spring magazine. However, an update I would like to give you is the success of Bible 2020. It took SBS years of planning, hundreds of meetings and hours of prayer and petition and has become the largest campaign to date. Bible 2020 was launched on the first of January. People around the world all read the same passage of the Bible aloud every day for a year. It has become a global movement. Numbers recorded in Spring are over 17,000 people in over 100 countries taking part and downloading the Bible 2020 app. Stephen Opie, Chief Operating Officer, Bible Society New Zealand said "Maybe the promises of Scripture spoken aloud will linger over our cities until God brings them to fruition. Maybe God's Words will bring peace to those who desperately need it right now. May God use Bible 2020 to change our nation and our world!"

Despite severe economic, social and environmental issues in countries around the world, the Bible Societies are continuing to fulfil its mission to provide the life-transforming Word of God to people who need it. The Gospel is spreading to the ends of the earth. Last year marked a 5 year high for the number of Bible translations launched by the United Bible Societies Fellowship: 90 languages used by 617 million people.

At the present time, we are unable to organise our 2 annual fundraising projects. Hopefully, in the not-to-distant future, we will be able to do this. Like all charities, SBS need funds to continue their work at home and abroad.

I would like to conclude my report by wishing you all to stay safe and keep well. I look forward to the day when once more we will be reunited and worship together as a family in our church.

God bless

Margaret (Carrol)
Motherwell Action Group



At the beginning of lockdown, there was dismay amongst Christian Aid volunteers. All the fundraising events planned around Christian Aid Week and beyond had to be cancelled, or at least indefinitely postponed. This was at a time when Christian Aid was facing a rapidly increasing level of need, partly caused by the virus that was cutting off so much of its fundraising.

Here in St Mary's, Bryce took the initiative of opening a 'Just Giving' page for Christian Aid, linked to the church's website and explained to the congregation at an online Sunday service. This enabled and encouraged St Mary's' people to keep on supporting Christian Aid, even at this difficult time, and resulted in £2900 being raised for Christian Aid plus a further £600 in Gift Aid. (The Just Giving page is still active.)

Please continue to support Christian Aid, both financially and in your prayers. If you haven't already visited it, have a look at the website (www.christianaid.org.uk) which provides an overview of Christian Aid's work and campaigns for love, equality and justice.

Many thanks,
Margaret MacGregor

FLOWER LIST

JUNE

7 th	Mrs W Burrell
14 th	Mrs L Thain
21 st	Mrs M Graham
28 th	Mrs F Hannah

JULY

5 th	Mrs E Blackwood
12 th	Mrs F Shearer
19 th	Miss L Clarkson Mrs Galloway
26 th	Miss Moffat Miss A Ford Mrs M Graham

AUGUST

2 nd	Mrs Dick
9 th	Miss Pettigrew Mrs G Neill
16 th	Mrs L O'Neill
23 rd	Mrs J Crawford Mrs E Fraser
30 th	Miss A Smith

SEPTEMBER

5 th	Mrs N Smith
13 th	Friends of Irene Nimmo Mrs J Loughbridge
20 th	Mrs N Ross Mrs N Thomson
27 th	Mrs J Turner Mrs M Joyce Mrs J Findlay



Flowers are still being sent by June Graham on special occasions in the lives of our members.

Useful Contacts

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Church Service: 01698 533200



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St Marys Parish Church Motherwell

Website: <https://www.stmarysmotherwell.org.uk>