

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



SUMMER 2021

Bulletin No 350



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined"

8 May	Steven Nicholson and Hannah Vance
21 May	Stephen Ross and Alex Calder

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

16 April	Miss Anne Smith, Motherwell
5 May	Mr William Kyle, Motherwell
17 May	Mrs Margaret Ballantyne, Motherwell
25 May	Mr John Ramage, Wishaw
4 June	Mr William Grant, Wishaw



Manse of St Mary's

June 2021

Dear Friends:

"And Now Faith Hope, And Love Remain..."
[1 Corinthians 13:13]

As I write this pastoral letter for the Summer Edition of our *Church Bulletin*, I am reminded that it is now 4 years since I was Inducted as Minister of *Motherwell St Mary's Parish Church*.

In so many ways the world has changed over that time. Very few people in the Summer of 2017 could have predicted or envisioned something as devastating as the Covid-19 Pandemic that we have all been living through for the past 18 months.

So much of our life now, including Church life, is being conducted online. Despite the inevitable Digital Fatigue that this can bring, there is no doubt that things like Online Church Services, Family Zoom Chats, Virtual GP Appointments, and Computer Working from home have all made life much more bearable for so many of us.

In a time of change and great turmoil, one thing that has remained a firm constant over the past 4 years is the sense of belonging, love, and care that Helen, my family, and I have experienced and enjoyed from being a part of such a wonderful Church Family. *St Mary's Parish Church* is a truly exceptional church, in so many ways, and I am proud to be your Minister.

As we look forward into the Summer, and beyond we are all looking forward to a return to more normal ways of doing life. This looking forward, though, is naturally

tinged with a sense of caution and realism. The road ahead is still uncertain and, despite the success of the Vaccine Programme here in the UK, Covid-19 will inevitably continue to confront us with ongoing, and perhaps unforeseen, challenges and restrictions.

As we journey onwards as a Church Family, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit bind us together in oneness - with faith, hope, and love at our very core of our being.

"O Sing To The Lord A New Song..."
[Psalm 96:1]

Over the past few months it has been a joy to be able to welcome folks back to the Church Sanctuary on Sunday Mornings. As more folks have received their second vaccinations the numbers have steadily grown. For Jillian, John, and I, who have been leading worship, it has been lovely to be able to look out from the Pulpit and Chancel and see folks in the pews - as well as the film cameras. While social distancing measures remain in place, though, the numbers watching at home on the 'live-link' will continue to outnumber those actually in the building. In all likelihood this 'Blended Church' model is something that will continue for the foreseeable future and, perhaps, beyond.

A big 'issue' will hopefully be resolved in the coming weeks ahead that will make the 'Blended Church' experience better for all concerned. That is the issue of 'singing'. Currently, folks at home are free to sing whilst those in Church cannot. When North Lanarkshire finally moves to Level One Covid-19 Restrictions, however, congregational singing will be permitted 'in Church' - albeit behind masks.

This is a step forward that many folks will certainly be looking forward to.

**"Unless The Lord Builds The House,
Those Who Build It Labour In Vain..."**
[Psalm 127:1]

A few weeks ago the General Assembly 2021 met online and a number of major issues were discussed. One of our St Mary's young folks, Megan Graham, represented Hamilton Presbytery as our National Youth Representative and we will look forward to hearing from Megan about her experience as a commissioner.

The General Assembly headline news this year concerned the proposed reduction in Ministry numbers in the next 3 to 4 years ahead. Recommendations brought forward by the Assembly Trustees, and Faith Nurture Forum, and agreed by the General Assembly, will see the loss of around 200 'Full-Time' equivalent Ministry posts in this time period. This loss is driven by the reality of financial challenges [exacerbated but not caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic] and the imbalance between Ministry recruitment and retirement numbers.

A new 'Mission Plan' for each Presbytery in Scotland, to be drawn up over the next 18 months, will show how these reductions will be realised. This will inevitably lead to unions, linkages and new ways of doing and being the Church of Scotland. No town, and its current congregations, will remain untouched by this process. May God lead and guide us in the months and years ahead as we seek to discover His Will for our National Church, our Presbytery and our own Congregation. Please pray for Howard Rennie [our new Presbytery Elder] and I as we seek to represent St Mary's Parish Church in any planning discussions.

**"From The Rising Of The Sun To Its
Setting The Name Of The Lord Is To Be
Praised..."** [Psalm 113:3]

Scottish Summers can be very unpredictable weatherwise - even mid-July we can experience several seasons in one day! One of the nice things about the Scottish Summer, though, is the long days and short nights that we enjoy. In a few week's time, at the Summer Solstice, it will be after 10.00 pm before the sun finally sets over Glasgow. This definitely makes up for the darkness of the winter months.

This Summer, wherever we are, at home, or on holiday, may the blessing of God - Creator of the Sun, Moon and Stars be with us all. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we let His light shine through our lives as we continue to follow in the footsteps of His Son Jesus.

Your Friend and Pastor:

Rev Bryce Calder

A Summertime Prayer

*Creator God
who breathed the cosmos into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and tiny wren,
thank You for this world
which You have created.
Thank You for Summer sun,
which reminds us
that Your creative breath
is always alive and active.
Thank You for the warmth of Your love,
which sustains this world,
Your garden: AMEN*



GUILD

As we came to the end of this unusual session, we created our own Closing Social using the talents and skills of our members and friends in the congregation.

Maureen Dick and Isabel Craig contributed to our evening in poem and Janette McPherson shared holiday slides from around Scotland with us.

We all then took part in an Easter Bonnet Competition and voted for the best as we viewed our creations on screen. Jean Hunter, Elizabeth Blackwood, Jean Mitchell, Marlene Thomson, Maureen Dick and Anne Gibson all received prizes. We also reminisced by listening and possibly joining in with the Easter Parade song. Musical contributions came from Janette McPherson, Fraser Joyce and Paul Bradshaw.



We are most grateful to 4 of the men from the Inbetweeners who recorded songs for us to use in our meetings: Paul Bradshaw, Chris Mitchell, Fraser Hamilton and Fraser Joyce. Their contributions were much appreciated.

Two weeks later we had another get-together with music from Chris Mitchell, a short delightful video from a previous speaker on Hearing Dogs where we watched puppies in training having fun in a garden.

We also had a quiz based on logos from well-known brands.

We had an update on our Guild project recording that the Guild members and friends in the congregation had raised £435 for CrossReach - Join the Dots. Thank you to all who contributed.

Projects 2018-2021

Total money raised: £551,434.70

- CrossReach: £103,123.34
- Sailors' Society: £84,555.46
- Boys' Brigade: £93,853.57
- World Mission: £84,874.10
- Malawi Fruits: £86,837.29 (Donations to Malawi Fruits, based in Newmains, is being matched by the UN)
- Free to Live Trust: £98,190.94

The new projects for the next 3 years are:



The new Strategy for 2021-2024 is **Look Forward in Faith.**

Themes for the 3 years:

- 1 - Lights and Bushels
- 2 - Wee seeds, big trees
- 3 - New wine, new wine skins

There is to be a Guild Big Sing on Friday, June 11 at 7 pm, with link provided via the Church of Scotland Guild Facebook.

We look forward to our new session, hopefully back in the Church premises.

Isabel Johnstone
Guild President



HM Queen Elizabeth II has been patron of Girlguiding since 1952, having joined the 1st Buckingham Palace Brownie Pack and Guide Company in 1937. A special badge has been produced to mark the Queen's 95th Birthday.

Lots of materials for the girls of our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units continue to appear on the Girlguiding UK website.

The latest made available from the Girlguiding Scotland website, to download, is the following Challenge which looks like a lot of fun over the Summer when we are on holiday.



2021 Out and About Challenge!

A new resource all about wee beasties, bugs, creepy crawlies, critters - whatever you like to call them! You can do this challenge with your unit, with friends (subject to your current restrictions) or you can complete it with your family but let your unit leader know first.

The Challenge

Go on a wee beastie hunt and see what beasties you can find.



FOOD BANK UPDATE

St Mary's congregation have been donating food and money to the **Lanarkshire Basics Food Bank** for many years. This organisation has now changed its approach and is supporting families via vouchers for local supermarkets. This is called the 3W Supermarket Voucher model. The 3W stands for Shop When, Where and purchase What you need. This model gives people dignity and personal choice.

Monetary donations can be made via transfer from your bank account to Basics Food Bank Account:
Sort Code 80-22-60 Account Number: 10260162.

The collection of food has been taken over by the Maranatha: **Motherwell Food Bank @Maranatha** run by Clyde Valley Community Church otherwise known as CVCC.

Please continue to donate to this organisation. Food and money handed in to the church as usual will be directed to the Maranatha Centre in Glencairn Street.

Junior Church News!



Once again, the families from Junior Church and friends in the congregation have supported the work of Christian Aid.

During the month of May our children have been active every day and have sent in action shot photographs - running, walking, cycling, bouncing and scooting! Many of the adults in the congregation have also taken up the step challenge...some reaching 10000 steps a day or more! We are very grateful to everyone for their support and at present we have raised over £1400.



We also created a window and gate display to highlight Climate Change. Our thanks to the talented team from the Junior Church for organising this.

Sunday Worship...

Our families continue to be involved in our blended worship services and we thank all our children who have led the call to worship during the Spring months. Our Challenges continue to be extremely well supported by all in the church family.... Keep a look out for the progress of our sunflowers. Each child received a packet of seeds and instructions. All we need now is some sunshine. Our sincere thanks to Lorraine Gibson for organising, and delivering all the resources!



Summer is on the way

As we bring the 2020-2021 session to a close we look forward to sharing in a special end of session Sunday in June. Once again, our team have been busy preparing gift bags for our children. Keep a look out for our special delivery!

Summer Sundays....

During July, we hope to meet informally for park, play and pray Sundays.....more details to follow via the Junior Church WhatsApp .

Thanks....

We are very fortunate to have a large team of willing, energetic and enthusiastic folks who week by week have shared ideas for the challenges, helped with our displays, entered our challenges and prepared the resource packs for our children. Our thanks to them all for their work each week. Our thanks also to Lynn Kelly and Lisa Mossman, our treasurer and secretary, who week by week support the Junior Church behind the scenes.

Junior Church Postcard Challenge 2021...



As usual we are asking you to send the Junior Church a postcard from wherever you venture during the holiday period. This year send your postcard from wherever you have a Staycation in the UK.



So please get posting - and take part in our Postcard Challenge!

The address is -
Junior Church,
St Mary's Parish Church,
Avon Street,
Motherwell, ML1 3AB

What we challenge you to do is **tell us where you've been!**

Your postcards will be displayed on the windows of the Conference Room in Cameron Street.



SUMMER SUNDAYS for the Junior Church

Look out for news on a Sunday, notices on the Church website and messages on the Junior Church WhatsApp.



I hope life is now being kinder to you than it has been over the past year. The sun has come out today and life seems so much brighter. Let us hope and pray that we continue to move forward to a better way of living.

The work of Scottish Bible Society hasn't rested during this unprecedented time of Covid, although fundraising has been dented like so many other charities. However, for many years, SBS, has worked in partnership with Audio Bible Production Company, *Faith Comes by Hearing*. An organisation with a similar aim - to make God's Word accessible to people everywhere - although they specialise in the provision of audio Bibles.

Seventy per cent of people in the world live in oral communities, where the spoken word and storytelling are the primary ways a message is delivered and understood. Although global literacy rates are rising, there are still 781 million people worldwide who can't read. These statistics help remind us of the need to provide God's Word for every culture and community and the importance of making the Bible available in an audio format.

Countries like Ethiopia have a high percentage of people who are illiterate and the Bible Society endeavours to reach these people with the Scripture listening programme so that their faith is strengthened and their lives changed.

Our Chief Executive Elaine Duncan, who has preached from our pulpit many times over the years, participated in Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk to raise funds for a range of Bible projects. This walk was the equivalent of a marathon. Thanks to the Hunter Foundation, **all donations will be topped up by 50%**. You can support Elaine by giving a donation to her JustGiving fundraising page.

Take care and God bless.

Margaret Carrol
Motherwell Action Group

On a personal note:

Our grandson, Josh, nearly three years old, became critically ill a short time ago. Ian and I would like to take this opportunity to give our thanks and gratitude to those who upheld him in prayer. We received words of encouragement and would like to let you know just how much this has meant to us as a family.



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	6 June	11 am	Songs of Praise
Sunday	13 June	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday	20 June	11 am	Junior Church Service



FLOWER LIST	
JUNE	
6th	Mrs W Burrell
13th	Mrs L Thain
20th	Mrs M Graham
27th	Mrs F Hannah
JULY	
4th	Mrs E Blackwood
11th	Mrs F Shearer
18th	Miss L Clarkson Mrs Galloway
25th	Miss J Moffat Miss A Ford Mrs M Graham
AUGUST	
1st	Mrs M Dick
8th	Miss J Pettigrew Mrs G Neill
15th	Mrs L O'Neill
22nd	Mrs J Crawford Mrs E Fraser
29th	-

June Graham - Flower Convener



BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH SERVICES

If you would like to be a part of the in-person congregation, you must book a place each week.

Places can be booked by calling the Church Office [01698 268554] between 10.00 and 11.00 am on the Monday preceding each service.

It is at this stage that your track and trace details will be taken. If, when you call, the limit for the coming week's service has already been exceeded you will be offered a place at the following week's service.

Useful Contacts

Minister: Bryce Calder 01698 328665
 Church and Halls: 01698 268554
 Telephone listening
 Church Service: 01698 533200



twitter@stmarysmwell
 twitter@bryce_calder



St Marys Parish Church Motherwell

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

Details of how to contribute to Christian Aid can be found on the Church website above. So far, the total raised this year is approximately £2500 [Inclusive of Gift Aid].