

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre

Autumn 2021

Bulletin No 351

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

4 July	Ross Nelson Rory Nelson
10 July	Robyn Anne Hutton
11 July	Oliver Forbes
25 July	Amelia Douglas

MARRIAGES

"Whom God hath joined"

21 August	Lindsay McDougall and Lee Adam
28 August	Robyn Herriot and Calum Millar
3 September	Margaret Anne Hastie and William Shaw

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life...."

23 June	Margaret Graham
8 July	Annie Anderson
14 July	Norma Elizabeth Ross
30 July	Agnes Dunlop
30 July	John Thomson
9 August	Sadie McCallum

NEW MEMBERS BY PROFESSION OF FAITH

Over the Summer at our Morning Services we were delighted to welcome 5 new Members to our St Mary's Church Family - all by profession of faith.

Mr Ross Nelson
Mrs Pamela Nelson
Miss Julie Thomson
Mr Mark Forbes
Mrs Laura Forbes

We welcome our new Members to our Church Family and ask God's blessing on them as we journey together in the days ahead.



Dear Friends:

This Summer I managed to successfully grow 5 beautiful sunflowers as part of the Junior Church Summer Challenge. The last of the 5, though, is now beginning to fade. At the same time, the Manse Rowan Tree is in full bloom and the Apple Trees are laden with fruit. Summer, in essence, is giving way to Autumn and the year is moving on. In a month's time we will celebrate the Harvest - something which will be especially important this year as we approach the beginning of COP 26 in Glasgow. May the God of Creation encourage us, His people, to be good, faithful and generous stewards of all the resources that He has gifted to us.

As the year moves on, so does Church life - slowly but surely. Church Services now include congregational singing - albeit with the wearing of masks. Weddings and Baptisms have resumed and we have had lots of each. Then, after 74 long and difficult weeks, our Junior Church was able to meet 'in-person' again for the first time last Sunday. Covid-19 hasn't gone away, though, and as a Church we continue to make risk management an absolute priority in order to protect and care for one another. Elsewhere in this Church Bulletin you will see our most up-to-date risk reduction plan.

Along with the 'live in-person' Sunday Services we continue to broadcast 'live on-line' each week via the Church Website. Much thanks are due to Limelight Networks who have very generously

broadcast our services [free of charge] since the beginning of the pandemic.

St Mary's now have a contract with Sanctus Media to take over this role and we look forward to working with them in the months ahead.

The mix of 'live in-person' and 'live on-line' participation in Sunday Services has undoubtedly been a source of blessing for us as a congregation. As more folks are doubled vaccinated, though, it is my hope that we can regrow our confidence in 'live in-person' attendance at Sunday Worship - with the correct mitigations, of course, being put in place. Not to put too fine a point upon it, the future of our congregation and church building relies on this happening. It is easy to book a place at Sunday worship, simply call the Church Office and leave your details for track and trace purposes. The Church Office phone number is: **01698 268554**.

Just before the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, our Kirk Session agreed an ambitious Five-Year Mission Plan [Vision 20:20 Plus]. Many of the target dates have been put on hold.

Some, though, have been accelerated - most notably the use of multi-media in worship. In the months ahead, the Kirk Session will revise and reinvigorate our Mission Plan to make sure that none of our initial enthusiasm or ideas are lost.

Mission must always be at the very centre of Church life and St Mary's needs an active, vibrant and exciting Mission Plan that we can work on together.

Starting on Wednesday 22 September one of the goals of Vision 20:20 will come to fruition with the start of a weekly Church Coffee Morning. This will meet from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon every Wednesday in the Avon Hall. This new Coffee Morning is an opportunity to enjoy Christian Fellowship and to invite friends and family to St Mary's. I would encourage us to give this new venture our prayerful and practical support.

As I end my Autumn Newsletter, I would like to thank Jillian Storrie [our departing Ministry Candidate] for all her hard work and dedicated ministry at St Mary's over the past year. We wish Jillian God's blessing for her future as she continues along her path to becoming a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament. As Jillian leaves we welcome Hazel Shaw as our new Ministry Candidate. I will ask Hazel to write an article of introduction for our Christmas Edition of the Bulletin. May God be with Hazel as she joins with us on 5 September and serves with us through to next May.

Your Friend and Pastor:

Rev Bryce Calder



MESSAGE FROM JILLIAN STORRIE

As many of you may know I am a massive Disney fan, and my favourite character is Winnie the Pooh.

Winnie the Pooh told his friends, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

I agree with Winnie the Pooh. Saying goodbye is never easy when you have developed such a love and concern for the people to whom you are saying goodbye.

I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Bryce and everyone here at St Mary's for being such a massive part of my faith, ministerial and personal journey over the past year and always making me feel so welcome. I have honestly loved being with each one of you and you have strengthened and nurtured my faith more than you will ever know. Thank you for all the gifts and cards I received on Sunday 29 August when I led worship on my last day of placement with you all. I will treasure them all. I hope this isn't goodbye and that I'll be invited back to join you all again.

God bless everyone at St Mary's, you will always have a special place in my heart.

Jillian Storrie x

A Prayer

Creator God, who by Your Word, brought the world to birth: we Worship You.

Christ Jesus, Word of God, who by giving Yourself, became, for us, the very Word of Life: we Worship You.

Spirit of God, by whose power words comfort, strengthen, convince and save: we Worship You.

God the First Word, God the Last Word, God the Word for us Now and Always: we Worship You.

Loving God, we confess that we have not always listened to Your Words.

For many reasons, our ears, at times, become deaf to Your voice.

Forgive us, Lord. Open our ears. Speak to our hearts. Guide our lives along the right paths that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, leads us. And inspire us to live each day in faith, hope and love - working always for justice and peace.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR THESE OUR PRAYERS - IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD: AMEN



Finance (to the 31 July 2021)

Income

Throughout the summer months the finances of our Church have been ticking over nicely. However, you will see from the finance report below, that our income is slightly down compared to 2020.

There is no great concern about this at present since we are approaching the busiest time in our Church calendar and that, as the Church begins to return to normality, more people will attend and hopefully boost our income. One of the results of a closed Church has been the loss of about £6,000 in Open Plate contributions mainly given by visitors, attendees at baptisms etc. Of course, we also lose the Gift Aid associated with this amount.

Having said all of the above we are very grateful for all of the financial help we have received from everyone in our Congregation. Your support is appreciated and no doubt will lead to, at least, a break-even position, at the end of the financial year.

Expenditure

From the figures I have, expenditure has been greatly reduced. Some of it reflects the reduced need for gas and electricity during the Church building closure. There are other factors including the ongoing scrutiny of all expenditure by the Interim Management Group, the reduction in our Ministry and Mission contributions by around £10,000, reduction in our Presbytery dues, Water payment exemption and a reduction in our Church Insurance payments. This all helps to offset any reduction in income experienced during the last 7 months.

Stewardship - 'Narrative of Giving' Zoom Conference

I took part in this Conference and listened with interest to what was being said. The Conference was not all about giving of time, talents and money but encompassed many aspects of our normal life and as such was of great interest.

I will give a fuller report on this very important topic through time.

Kind regards

Leslie Innes

Stewardship and Finance Convenor

St Mary's Parish Church
Wednesday 18 August 2021
Finance Committee Report at 31 July 2021

1 INCOME	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
a) Offerings	£ 65,429	£ -	£ 65,429
b) Tax Recovered	£ -	£ -	£ -
c) Donations to General Fund	£ 750	£ -	£ 750
d) Donations to Reserve Fund	£ -	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
e) Donations to Fabric Fund	£ -	£ -	£ -
f) Miscellaneous Income	£ 9,300	£ 145	£ 9,445
g) Use of Premises / Interest	£ 2,008	£ 24	£ 2,032
h) Life & Work	£ 396	£ -	£ 396
	<u>£ 77,883</u>	<u>£ 2,169</u>	<u>£ 80,052</u>
2 EXPENDITURE	£ 68,784	£ 12,157	£ 80,941
3 STATEMENT OF FUNDS			
Congregation	£ 29,425		
Fabric	£ 8,586		
Reserve	£ 80,608		
Total	<u>£ 118,619</u>		
Consolidated Fabric Fund	£ 10,666		
4 ANNUAL COMPARISONS			
Offerings to End July 2021	£ 65,429		
Offerings to End July 2020	£ 67,971		
Difference	<u>-£ 2,542</u>	-3.7%	
	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Income to End July 2021	£ 77,884	£ 2,169	£ 80,053
Income to End July 2020	£ 79,915	£ 11,205	£ 91,120
Difference	<u>-£ 2,031</u>	-2.5%	<u>-£ 9,036</u>
		-80.6%	<u>-£ 11,067</u>
	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Expenditure to End July 2021	£ 68,784	£ 12,157	£ 80,941
Expenditure to End July 2020	£ 78,285	£ 18,517	£ 96,802
Difference	<u>-£ 9,501</u>	-12.1%	<u>-£ 6,360</u>
		-34.3%	<u>-£ 15,861</u>

COFFEE AT ST MARY'S

A coffee morning will be held in the Avon Hall on Wednesday mornings, from 10-12. This will begin on Wednesday 22 September. Initially this will be tea, coffee, a biscuit and a chat with friends in return for a donation.

Volunteers (male or female) are needed to operate this new venture. Should you wish to assist please speak to Christine Clark, Margaret Watson or Isabel Johnstone to have your name added to a rota.



YOUR PROPERTY MATTERS

I hope this report finds everyone well.

News - The Presbytery Property Committee are coming to our church to carry out the 5 yearly inspection of the church and Manse, they will check we are maintaining the buildings properly and make suggestion of what work we may carry out to keep the buildings well maintained.

As we come to the end of the summer period, I want to simply thank those who keep our church buildings and grounds to the high standard that we have come to expect.

Our church officer Iain Beattie, continues to work tirelessly both inside and outside the church, doing much more than you could every except from a church officer and I thank him for that.

You may have noticed that the church house has received a lick of paint and is looking stunning, many thanks to our tenant for taking on this task and doing such a great job. Thanks Archie.

Thanks as usual to the Monday work party under the Iron Fist Rule (only kidding) of Howard Rennie, who have just started back and are as usual committed to keeping the exterior church fence painted and relatively rust free.

Thanks also to Bryce, Helen and the Calder family who continue to care for our Manse and assist with its upkeep.

It is with great delight that it appears that the church buildings will be getting used again at night and during the day as our church groups return, we look forward to the challenges to our property this might present.

The Property Team are in a position to invite anyone with an interest in the church buildings to join our small team. If you want more information contact me or Bryce for a chat.

Finally, on behalf of the Property Committee I want to thank Jillian Storrie for her kindness and service to St Marys in her year with us, we wish her every success as she progresses through her training to be a minister.

All the best

Alan Joyce



UPDATE

Christian Aid was working, with its partners, to help people suffering from the problems we have been aware of for so long: crop failures leading to famine, lack of clean water, no access to health care, poverty, injustice. Then along came Covid. The pandemic not only increased the need for humanitarian aid but also halted many of the traditional ways of raising funds to provide it.

At present, Christian Aid is warning that 41 million people in 43 countries are 'teetering on the brink of famine. People in countries such as South Sudan and Afghanistan are among those threatened.

We were fortunate in St Mary's that Bryce's 2 Christian Aid Week appeals, through Just Giving pages, were generously supported by church members. This was much appreciated by Christian Aid.

As we inch towards the time when we can again gather together to raise funds for Christian Aid, please keep in touch with the charity's work through its website

www.christianaid.org.uk

Margaret MacGregor



GUILD

The ladies of the Guild should be able to meet again in the Avon Hall from Monday 4 October at 7.30 pm. To begin with we will meet on a fortnightly basis. Please remember to bring your mask which will need to be worn in the Church premises. Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance to the hall.

Jean Mitchell has been working on a syllabus over the summer months and we hope to have some interesting nights ahead. It will be good to meet again in fellowship.

The Strategy for 2021-2024 is Look Forward in Faith, with the theme for this year being: Lights and Bushels.

This year the committee has chosen Star Child as our Guild Project.

Starchild, Uganda is hoping that with the support of the Guild, they will be able to build a centre where children with a range of learning disabilities - but particularly autism - can come to learn alongside their peers. In Uganda, children with learning disabilities are often hidden away and do not receive the education they should. This project hopes to tackle that stigma, support the children and their families and also help to educate community leaders.

The Guild held their Annual Gathering at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh on Saturday 4 September. The event was live-streamed on the Church of Scotland website.

The Gathering celebrated the life and work of the Guild and featured guest speakers, fabulous music and amazing singing.

Isabel Johnstone
Guild President

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship resumes the new session at 7.30 pm on Monday 11 October, and we look forward to once again meeting in person and enjoying the happy fellowship which exist in St Mary's, we are grateful for the modern technology which enabled us to keep in touch over the past months and are thankful for the medium of ZOOM.

As a group we express thanks to our ever-diligent secretary Alan for hosting the ZOOM meetings and filling the programmes.

As we now start this new session, we do so under the restrictions imposed on us by Covid, for the time being we can no longer meet in the Conference Room (due to space and ventilation restrictions) and will meet on a fortnightly basis in the Avon Hall commencing on Monday 11 October, meeting on alternate nights from the Guild.

Under the present Guidance we will be required to wear Masks throughout the church buildings. Speakers can remove their mask while addressing the meeting but must wear them at other times. **We will of course operate under the latest Government and Church of Scotland guidance.**

At this time of writing, and due to the great uncertainty surrounding COVID we have no fixed programme in place, however, be assured that over the coming weeks we will endeavour to arrange items of interest, which will be intimated prior to each meeting. **SECRETARY ALAN OR I WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU CAN MAKE TOWARDS THE PROGRAMME.**

I would take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to all men in the congregation to join this very lively group in the Avon Hall any Monday evening they are free, or where there is a subject that may be of special interest, and they will be assured of a warm welcome.

President - Allan Joyce



The leaders of our units are making preparations, including extensive Risk Assessments, for the safe return of our girls to fun evenings in the church halls.

All girls and parents should keep a look out for communications from their own leaders as each Rainbow, Brownie and Guide unit will be returning at different times. The girls who are already members will return first to allow the leaders to see what activities and formats for the evenings will work. If your daughter is on a waiting list please wait to be contacted by the relevant guider before attending.

Sadly, during the past year we have said goodbye to our 6A Brownie Pack which has met on a Thursday evening for the past 58 years. We thank the current leaders, Sarah Aitken and Linzi Dodd and all other leaders who led this unit over those years. Much time has been given in preparing fun activities, challenges and badgework, allowing the girls to find out about themselves, their community and the world, all activities which make up the Brownie Pack meetings.

St Mary's Motherwell Scottish Bible Society Fundraiser Walk

This walk will take place round Strathclyde Country Park with Bryce Calder, Margaret Carrol and others on Sunday 24 October at 2 pm, leaving from the Beach Car Park.

Please, if you can, join them on this walk.

Should you wish to support the Scottish Bible Society make a donation via

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bryce-calder3

FOOD BANK

Lanarkshire Basics Food Bank

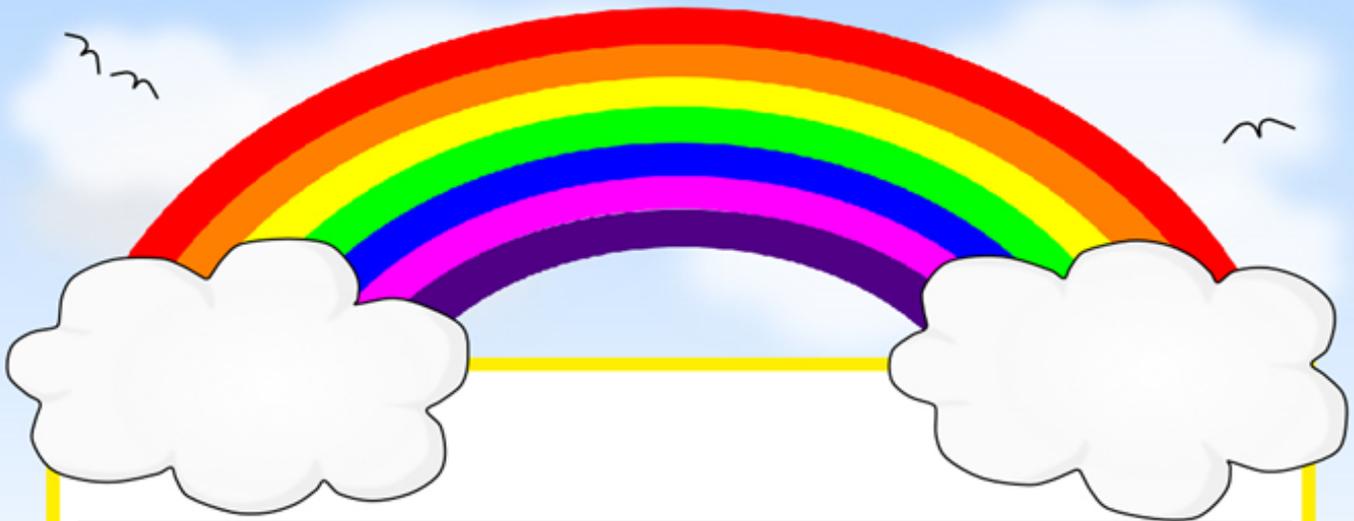
Monetary donations can be made via transfer from your bank account to Basics Food Bank Account: Sort Code 80-22-60 Account Number: 10260162.

This will enable the 3W Supermarket Vouchers to be purchased for use in local supermarkets. The 3W stands for Shop When, Where and purchase What you need. This model gives people dignity and personal choice.

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

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





Junior Church ...

It was lovely to welcome back our families on Sunday 29th August. Our first meeting together in person for 75 weeks!

As a Junior Church we met in the grounds for a Rainbow themed morning, filled with arts and crafts. We even made a rainbow path!

Our parents enjoyed the opportunity to join worship in the sanctuary and our team enjoyed sharing in the service outside via the live stream. My thanks to the team for their help with the set up and preparations. It was wonderful to be 'back together'.

Over the coming weeks our themes will be Helping hands, and then Jigsaws...both themes to show the importance of working together and helping others. This links perfectly with our idea to help support the children caught up in the troubles in Afghanistan and those seeking refuge in Scotland. More details to follow.

Having taken part in over 74 challenges we want to say a huge THANK YOU to all our families and friends who took part. We really did appreciate the support! What a creative church family!! A selection of our favourite entries is part of the recorded Sunday service slide show on 5th September.

We look forward to meeting week by week and hope that as the restrictions change, we may also be able to be part of the worship in church very soon.

It was great to be 'back together' as friends from Tots, Mini Zone, Kids Zone and Y Zone.

Junior Church Postcard Challenge 2021...

Thank you to all who sent in postcards from their staycation holidays.

Winners will be announced in the church shortly.

Some of your postcards are displayed on the windows in Cameron Street.



SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE

Again, thanks to all who took part in the Sunflower challenge. As we know that some are still to bloom we will wait a few weeks before announcing winners in church.



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Cards, calendars and gifts are now available to order online via www.crossreach.org.uk



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

19	September	11.00 am	Sacrament of Communion
3	October	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving
24	October	11.00 am	Guild Dedication Service
14	November	10.45 am	Remembrance Service



FLOWER LIST

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Mrs N Smith
 10th Mrs Loughridge
 Friends of Irene Nimmo
 17th Mrs Thomson
 24th Mrs M Joyce
 Mrs J Findlay

OCTOBER

- 3rd Mr A Joyce (Jnr)
 Ms B Aitkenhead
 10th Mrs S Forrest
 17th Mrs I Dougal
 Miss V Craig
 24th Mrs Currie
 31st Mrs M Graham

NOVEMBER

- 7th Mrs L Huggins
 Mrs J Weir
 14th Mrs S Sinclair
 Mrs A Corbett
 21st Mrs M McCloy
 Mrs D Livingstone
 28th Miss J Graham
 Mrs R Milligan

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>

