

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

FEBRUARY 2022

Bulletin No 353

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

2021

21 November	William James Bell	Motherwell
30 December	Rebecca Jane McNeil	Motherwell

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MARRIAGE

"Whom God hath joined"

2021

4 December	Louise Entricon Ryan Watters	Motherwell
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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

2021

November	Ann Rodger	Avon Tower
23 November	Mr Lillie	Motherwell
27 November	Rena Milligan	Hamilton
29 November	Mrs Harkness	
30 November	Jim Boyd	Bellshill
7 December	Charlotte Blackie	Croftbank Nursing Home

2022

7 January	Gloria McMillan	King Court
24 January	Jack McLuckie	Croftbank Nursing Home





Manse of St Mary's

January 2022

Dear Friends:

I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year in 2022.

On behalf of the Manse Family, a big thank you for all your lovely cards and good wishes over the festive season. Helen and I feel blessed indeed 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 the opportunity afresh to invite everyone along to our Church activities in 2022. 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 [Manse: 328665 or BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk].

Two years ago, at the start of 2020, we launched an exciting Five-Year Mission Plan for our Church: "Vision 20:20 Plus." The intervening Covid-19 Pandemic has sped up parts of this Mission Plan and slowed down other parts.

As we move into 2022, the Kirk Session will review the whole Mission Plan and revise and renew it for the coming 5 years ahead - the focus of this revised and renewed Mission Plan will be upon worship, discipleship, and outreach. We find ourselves in challenging times, but I believe that, as we respond to Jesus' call to "Follow", we can confidently look forward in faith, hope and love as a Church Family.

On my recent birthday, 26th December 2021, the world lost one of its great Church Leaders: Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, human rights activist, and

Noble Peace Prize laureate died at the age of 90 years.

In tribute, I'd like to finish my Letter with a Prayer by Archbishop Desmond Tutu - one which he adapted from an earlier prayer by Sir Francis Drake. May this prayer inspire us as we journey forward in 2022.

Disturb us, O Lord

*when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we
dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.*

Disturb us, O Lord

*when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.*

Stir us, O Lord

*to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons
of our hopes and invited the brave to follow:
AMEN.*

Your Friend & Pastor:
Rev Bryce Calder



FINANCE REPORT

The end of the financial year figures would suggest that we have had a good year financially and the preliminary figures, albeit subject to any cheques or bills still to be submitted for 2021, show a surplus of approximately £7,000. This figure, as I have said, may be subject to some adjustments.

In 2021 we had a sizeable reduction in our Mission and Ministry payments to the Church of Scotland, we also endeavoured to ensure spending was kept in bounds and we were recipients of a water payment exemption which I had applied for in January. These factors led to a considerable reduction in expenditure.

While 2021 was satisfactory financially, 2022 is shaping up to be a difficult year in terms of finance. Our Mission and Ministry payments return to the level of 2019, payment of well over £90,000 to the Church in Edinburgh. Gas and electricity payments may well be substantially increased and generally speaking all of our other payments will, without doubt, be increased.

Although we generated a surplus in 2021 we may need that surplus to ensure a break even position for 2022.

As always, my thanks go to all of you for your generous giving throughout 2021. The pandemic, reduced numbers in Church and a whole host of factors have made the year a 'nightmare' yet members have supported St Mary's in a way that could not have been anticipated.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Many members give through Standing Order and this can still be organised in 2022.

I always remind you, at the beginning of the year, to consider what you give to the Church and if appropriate increase your amount. Any increase large or small will be gratefully received.

When the exact figures for 2021 are available the normal booklet will be printed and distributed to our members. Usually, these figures are discussed at the Annual Business Meeting in February. However, it remains to be seen whether this will take place or not.

Kind regards
Leslie Innes
Finance and Stewardship Convenor

NOTE:

WHITE FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you receive white WFO envelopes can you please be aware that there seems to be a fault with one side of the envelope opening up. If this is the case with your envelopes could you Sellotape along the edge so that no money falls out.

Many thanks.



GUILD

The Guild session should have ended with our Christmas Dinner at the Bentley on Monday 13 December, but we followed Scottish Government advice and decided that it would be safer not to have an event with people from many different households. Hopefully we will be able to have our meal sometime in the New Year.

We had enjoyed our meetings up to this point. We had a visit from Karen Maxwell and some of our church young people who gave us an insight into the many hobbies and activities that they take part in. They are a very fit and talented group of young people and we thank them for talking to us.

We had a Christmas themed evening at the end of November when Ros Ward and her daughters visited us and demonstrated the creation of floral arrangements for Christmas. Ros makes it look so easy.



Once again, our knitting needles were out and we managed to knit more than 200 mini Christmas Stockings. We thank our knitters from near and far. Our Junior Church children, Anchor Boys and Rainbows as well as some of the early years at Glencairn Primary were recipients.



We had hoped to begin the New Year with a Quiz organised by Stuart Reid. But it was ruled out as guidance changed once more.

We hope to catch up on a missing a talk from 2020 when we hear about the work of the Leprosy Mission. We will have a train journey through South America courtesy of Annabelle Maclean. Hazel Shaw will also join us to tell of her journey into the ministry.

Our Project Night will be on 8 March when we will hear about Starchild, a Scottish charity supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children in Uganda.

Our AGM and closing entertainment by Dalziel High School choir will take place at the end of March.

Isabel Johnstone - Guild President



Christian Aid's work, on its own programmes and as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, continues without pause.

The situation in Afghanistan is now desperate. Even before the Taliban takeover, the country was struggling to cope with a food crisis and the effects of the Covid pandemic. Now the situation has become sharply worse with drought increasing in many parts of the country. An estimated 8 million people are now on the brink of famine.

The link on the church's website goes straight to Christian Aid's Afghanistan page. While there are still constraints on traditional fundraising events, direct giving is the best way to help.

Margaret MacGregor

6th Brownies

When Brownies started in September, things were a little different with a good bit of time spent outdoors to start with - treasure hunts and toasting marshmallows. The numbers attending Brownies are fabulous with girls returning and new starts. Seven new Brownies are seen making their Promise.



There are also 2 new helpers who are doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Girls have completed the Mindfulness Badge which involves yoga, poppy making and investigating our senses.

The pictures show the girls enjoying themselves at Halloween, St Andrew's Day and Christmas. Food and Ceilidh dancing were a feature of the St Andrew's Day celebrations.



6th B Brownies

The girls had a sponsored dance night whereby they raised money for St Andrew's Hospice and also for Brownie funds.



They were lucky to have their Christmas party and Santa came along too. Santa handed out gifts as the girls left by the Cameron Street door.



6th Guides

Although attendance at the Remembrance Service in November didn't take place the girls were able to acknowledge this special time of year. They made candle holders and decorated cakes which showed the poppy.



In the run up to the festive season Christmas Crafts were much enjoyed.

Christmas Party night was as much fun as usual. The girls viewed a Christmas film while munching on popcorn. This was followed by a delivery from McDonalds.

Christmas jumpers and fancy headgear were all in evidence.

Junior Church News!

We had a busy end to the 2021 session at Junior Church. We were delighted and grateful for the wonderful response to the Gift Service Sunday. The chancel was filled with over 100 gift bags, filled with toys and gifts for the families in our local community. Thank you!

Our Lessons and Carols Service was enjoyed by all - it was great to see many of our Y Zone in the Dalziel High School Junior and Senior Choirs. We also enjoyed contributions from the Senior Choir and Inbetweeners. We look forward to 2022 being filled with music and song!

As national guidelines changed mid-December so did our plans for our Nativity. Having already practised for a few weeks the Junior Church team were keen for the Nativity to go ahead... so in true J Church form we took our play online!

We had dancing angels, shepherds and wisemen filming at home, soloists singing beautifully in front of their own Christmas trees and our narrators filming multiple scripts to keep it all together! So, after many hours and several takes the 83 clips were in - ready to be edited. Technology really is a wonderful thing!

Our final performance was well received and we were delighted to have all our families taking part. We even had family members further afield able to share in this special Christmas service. My sincere thanks to our parents for sourcing costumes, practising singing and actions and for filming - the support was very much appreciated.

We do hope that Nativity 2022 will see the chancel filled.

Something new in 2022...



We have started our new session by sharing in the online worship services and look forward to meeting again in person from 30th January.

Until then, to keep us all connected we have launched our New Year challenges - for Junior Church and for our friends in the congregation.

We have been collecting Christmas cards with - LOVE, JOY, PEACE AND HOPE - and we look forward to creating a Big Art display on our return to the halls.

Our second Challenge is Something New in 2022. Details for this are on the web page or on the recorded services. We look forward to seeing the entries on the slide shows before our morning service begins.

Our third January challenge will be launched on Sunday 23rd.

We hope that 2022 will be filled with many family services and special events for our Junior Church families.



FLOWER LIST

JANUARY

2nd Mrs J Weir
 9th Mr Rennie
 Mrs E Williams
 16th Mrs M McCardle
 Miss J Graham
 23th Mrs N McMillan
 Mrs M Wilson
 30th Church Choir

FEBRUARY

6th Mrs I Gardiner
 Miss C Kelly
 13th Mrs D Livingstone
 Mrs C Brownlie
 20th Rainbow, Brownies & Guides
 27th Mr & Mrs Malcolm

MARCH

6th Mrs M Skimming
 Mrs M Carrol
 13th Mrs M Watson
 Mrs C Dewar
 20th Miss I Johnstone
 27th Mrs J Findlay

APRIL


3rd Mrs B Neilson
 Mrs E Calder
 10th Mrs H Graham
 Mrs E Currie
 17th Mrs E Taylor/
 Mrs J Findlay
 Mrs E Simpson
 24th Mrs E Scott
 Mrs S Forrest/
 Mrs L Kelly
 Mrs A Johnstone

June Graham - Flower Convener



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

February	13	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
February	20	11 am	Thinking Day Service

Wednesday Mornings Coffee, Tea and chat 	
10 am - 12 noon	Avon Hall

Useful Contacts

Minister: Bryce Calder 01698 328665
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St Marys Parish Church
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