

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



EASTER 2022

Bulletin No 354



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM

"Go therefore and baptise"

27 February

Emily Barr

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

25 January	Mrs Annie McArthur
26 January	Mr John Clark
2 February	Mrs Sheila Carswell
16 February	Mrs Mary Mackie
8 March	Mrs Nan McMillan
10 March	Mr Tom Sloan





Manse of St Mary's

March 2022

Dear Friends:

EASTER

As I write this letter, looking out of the Manse Office window, I can see the daffodils looking resplendent in the Spring sunshine. To me, daffodils are always a sign of Easter - their vibrant colour symbolising the new life that we have in Jesus our Risen Lord.

This Easter, *St Mary's Parish Church* will be sharing in some joint services and activities with our friends and neighbours from the other Motherwell Church of Scotland congregations. We are hoping that some of the other denominations in Motherwell might also want to join in with us.

On the **Monday of Holy Week** [11th April] there will be an Easter Labyrinth at *Motherwell South Parish Church*. It will be open from 10:00 am till 12 Noon, 2:00 pm till 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm till 9:00 pm. A Labyrinth is an opportunity to walk around several stations. At each station there will be something to look at, listen to, or reflect upon. I have been involved in creating Labyrinths in the past and they are always a popular event. You can visit the Labyrinth at any of the above times and walk round at your own pace.

On the **Thursday of Holy Week** [14th April] a Maundy Thursday Communion will be held in *Dalziel St Andrews Parish Church* at 7.30 pm.

On the **Friday of Holy Week** [15th April], we move to *North Motherwell Parish Church* for a Good Friday Service - again at 7:30 pm.

On **Easter Sunday** [17th April] we will hold a short Outdoor Easter Service at 8:00 am in the Duchess of Hamilton Park. This will be followed by an Easter Breakfast in *St Mary's Parish Church Halls*.

You are very welcome to any, or all, of these Joint Easter events.

Our own Easter Sunday Morning Service will be held at the usual time of 11:00 am and will take the form of a Family Celebration - an opportunity to sing the great Easter Hymns and read and reflect upon the Resurrection of Jesus. If Covid allows, it would be wonderful to see the Church bustling with life on such a special Sunday in the Christian Year.

MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH

In the New Year Edition of the Church Bulletin, I intimated that *St Mary's Parish Church Kirk Session* would be reviewing our Five-Year Mission Plan - much of which was put on hold during the various Covid lockdowns. I am happy to say that this process is well under way and a new and exciting plan will be published soon!

Concurrently, the new *Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale*, of which the former *Hamilton Presbytery* is now a part, is working with congregations to establish a new Presbytery Plan. All Presbyteries in Scotland are undergoing this process as a direct instruction from last year's General Assembly. The Presbytery Plan must take account of the fact that there will be a 40% reduction in Ministry Personnel by 2025. This reduction is due to more Ministers retiring than starting training, and a lack of funding for Ministers and Church Buildings at the national and local level.

The Kirk Session of *St Mary's Parish Church* will, of course, give a very strong account of our congregation and its strategic importance within the Motherwell Community. Every single one of us, though, must play our part now if we want to assure the future of our congregation. A bustling Sunday Congregation, a vibrant Junior Church, and busy and active Church Organisations, for all ages, are the foundations on which we must build as we seek to reach out into our Parish and Community in the days ahead.

A NEW PRAYER INITIATIVE

In Luke's Gospel, we read: "**Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'**" [Luke 11:1]

Prayer has always been a central part of the Christian Faith - both congregational prayer and our own private prayer lives.

Many churches that I have been involved in, during my lifetime, have had Prayer Chain Ministries - a simple, effective, and powerful way to encouraging members to pray for one another, church, parish, community, country, and world.

Establishing a Prayer Chain Ministry in *St Mary's Parish Church* was a central component in our *Vision 20:20 Mission Plan* and will be vital, too, within our new Five-Year Plan for Mission. Led by our Student Minister, Hazel Shaw, a small group have been working on the practicalities of establishing a Prayer Chain Ministry. As Minister, I am happy to say that it is ready to start in the weeks ahead.

Two secure Prayer Boxes have been purchased: one for each of the main Church entrances. Three Prayer Chain Co-ordinators have been identified - Hazel, Margaret Carrol, and Helen Calder. Prayer Request Cards have also been printed and are ready to be used.

Anyone with a Prayer Request [on Sundays or midweek] will be able to write that request on a Prayer Card and place it in one of the secure Prayer Box. Only the Prayer Chain Co-ordinators will empty these boxes. You can ask for prayer for yourself, for someone else, or for a particular situation. If seeking prayer for someone else, it is always important to ask their permission first. Prayer Requests can give specific details [*Please Pray for Bryce as he recovers from his chest infection* etc]. Or they can be less specific [*Please Prayer for a woman going for hospital tests* etc.]

On a specific day, during the week, the Prayer Co-ordinators will collate the Prayer Requests and send them as an E-Mail to those who wish to be part of the Prayer Chain. Members of the Prayer Chain will be able to read the E-Mail and pray for those seeking prayer. All of this will be done with the utmost confidentiality. Nothing is too big or too small to be prayed for.

Currently, we are seeking people of all ages to be part of the Prayer Chain. As Minister, I am

aiming big! In my previous congregation we had over 50 on the Prayer Chain. In the Edinburgh Church I worshipped in during my Theological Studies there were over 90. For those seeking prayer, it is both wonderful and powerful to know that lots of people are praying for you and your request.

If you wish to be part of the Prayer Chain, please let Hazel, Margaret, Helen, or myself know as soon as possible. All we will need from you will be your E-Mail Address. Again, your E-Mail will be treated completely confidentially and will not be shared with others in the Prayer Chain.

In **John Chapter 17**, we are told that, on the night before He went to the Cross at Calvary, Jesus prayed, in the Garden of Gethsemane, for His disciples and all who would come after them. As our Lord prayed and prays for us, let us be encouraged to pray for one another.

UKRAINE

As I end this letter, I would like to encourage us all to pray for the peoples of Ukraine and for all who suffer the horrors of war the world over.

St Mary's Parish Church have set up a Just Giving page to collect money for the DEC Ukraine Appeal. Many have already contributed. If you haven't, and would like to, you can access the Just Giving Page via our Church Website [where you will find the appropriate link]. Our website is: www.stmarysmotherwell.org.uk

If you don't have internet access, you can simply place a donation in an envelope marked 'UKRAINE APPEAL' and either bring it to Church or post it in the Church Letter Box.

If you would like to find out how to support a Ukrainian Refugee in your home, please contact myself directly and I should be able to help you with this process.

As your Minister and Pastor, I would like to wish you all a very blessed Easter time.

Rev Bryce Calder





Seven Long-service awards were made to elders on Sunday 27 February. Recognition for 30 years of service was given to June Graham, Anne Johnstone, Neil McCallum and Sheila Sinclair and for 40 years of service to Irvine Brown, Alex Craig, and James Murray.



The congregation marked Allan Joyce's 30 years of dedicated service as Session Clerk at the Advent Communion on Sunday 28 November. Rev David Doyle and Rev Arthur Barrie took part in the service recognising Allan's commitment to St Marys. Afterwards Allan and Margaret planted a tree in the church grounds.

PRAYER CHAIN

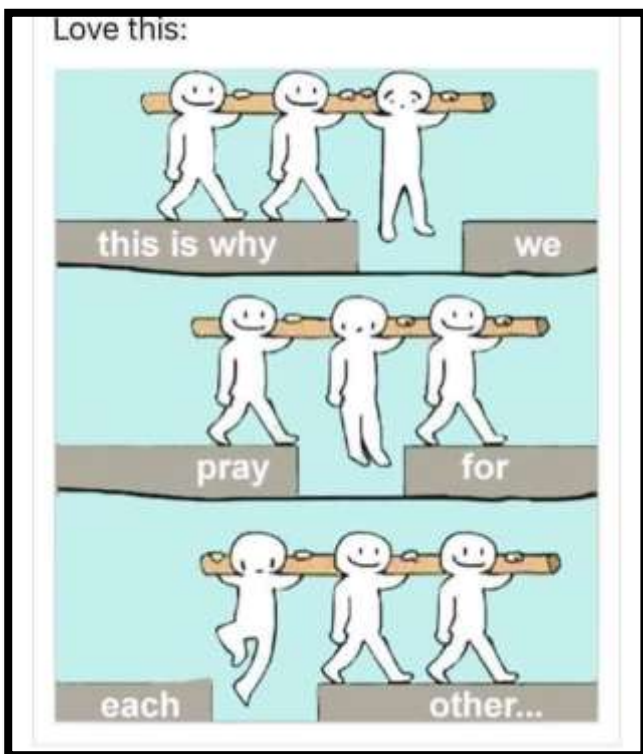
Article from Helen Calder, Margaret Carrol and Hazel Shaw

Hello everyone, we hope and pray you are all well. We have some exciting news to share about what we hope will be an important addition to the prayer life of our church family. Bryce recently shared in his reflections about the power of praying for others and the amazing feeling of being upheld when difficult situations arise in our lives.

We can testify to the wonderful blessing that prayer is when you are the recipient and also the blessing that comes from praying for others.

There are multiple verses in the Bible encouraging us to pray for others and many reasons that praying helps every one of us at different points in our lives.

We think this little meme is a pretty accurate reflection:



The idea we would like to introduce is that of a prayer chain in the form of an email. We would love for our church family to request prayers for themselves or others at such times as they wish their brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for them.

There are many reasons prayer can be requested including for thanksgiving, for healing - physical, spiritual or emotional, for comfort and peace in a bereavement, for support in challenging times - God is interested in every aspect of our lives so no request is too big or too small.

Requests can be made using a prayer request slip which will be available in the church, online or use the one below. Alternatively, you can email or text Helen Calder, Margaret Carol or Hazel Shaw using the contact details at the end.

Confidentiality will be maintained for any request and if desired can also be kept anonymous. The requests will be shared in an email and sent to those who would like to willingly and faithfully commit to praying for those individuals and the situations named in the email. Again, confidentiality will be maintained.

If anyone feels that they would like to be one of our prayer warriors and commit to pray for those named in the email then please also contact Helen, Margaret or Hazel.

This is a really important ministry and we encourage you all to prayerfully consider this opportunity to pray and be prayed for by others in our church family here in St Mary's.

We really do hope that as many people as possible will volunteer to be part of the prayer chain and that as we all experience joys and concerns in our life we will seek the prayerful support of those in our congregation.

If you have any questions, would like to be part of the prayer chain or would like to request prayer please do let us know.

Yours in Christ,

Helen Calder, Margaret Carrol and Hazel Shaw



PRAYER REQUEST

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

Prayer requests may be for yourself, others or a particular situation.

Please pray for

Please note that if your request is for another person please ensure they are aware that others will be upholding them in prayer and confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Name of requester _____

Email or contact details _____

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Amen.



GUILD

Already we are at the end of the 2021-2022 Session which thankfully saw us back in the Avon Hall.

We started back again in February, with a slight delay. Firstly, we welcomed Annabelle Maclean who took us on a journey from Argentina to Chile by train introducing us to the different culture, trains and flowers of South America. Hazel Shaw our new candidate for the ministry, was welcomed to our next meeting and gave us a personal insight into her journey to the ministry.

Our project night, organised as usual by Joyce Knox, was inspiring as we heard from Michaela Foster Marsh telling us about Starchild. We currently have donated £250 for the charity's work in Uganda. This Glasgow based charity, in memory of her adopted brother, is supporting children with learning difficulties and autism who are not normally supported in their communities.

Thankfully, we were also able to have refreshments at tables as in previous years.

At our final evening of the session, we were delighted to hear from the young people of the Music Department of Dalziel HS lead by Mrs Nicola McKenzie and accompanied by Mr C Bensalem.

This was also our AGM. We wish Marlene Thomson well in her new role as President for the new session. She will be supported by Valerie Craig as Vice-president with 2 new committee members, Myra Philip and Margaret Carrol.



We made this a Pink Night enjoying some competitions while supporting Breast Cancer Research, raising £222.

Once again a few of us, as well as other members of the congregation, have been knitting crosses for our young people this Easter.

Isabel Johnstone
Guild President

Wednesday Coffee Mornings



Coffee, tea, treat and chat
from 10 - 12 noon.

Due to the generosity of all who come for a chat and a treat on Wednesday mornings we are able to donate money to a number of charities. Over the next few weeks donations will be sent to:

Reach Out - North Motherwell
Meningitis Research Foundation
Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity
Motherwell & District Woman's Aid

We will also retain matching amounts to be used in St Mary's.

2021 -22 Session Update....

Since the middle of November we have been back meeting in the church building after our successful re-engagement with the boys using Ravenscraig Sports Facility since the start of the session.

We are getting regular attendances of around 30 (if no-one is self isolating!!) and have been able to offer some new (old but re-introduced!) activities such as golf (driving from the chancel into the church), darts and the surprise hit of chess, while taking advantage of the new screen in the church to watch sporting events or have a giant screen version of FIFA!

NOT THE COFFEE MORNING

We had hoped to return to our regular coffee morning in December 2021 but with case numbers on the increase and the approach of the Omicron variant at the time we decided it wouldn't be wise to try to bring so many people together at the same time so we had to park our plan for another year.

The virtual coffee morning had been a huge success in 2020 so we decided to offer a slightly scaled back version of it in 2021 - the 'Not the Coffee Morning'. This involved issuing members of the congregation, friends and families of the BB with a small pouch of coffee, tea and biscuits to have a coffee/tea and think about the work of the BB. We were also able to offer some lovely Christmas gifts thanks to the hard work of some of the ladies in the congregation and our in demand 2021 vintage of The 13th Ginger Wine made by Paul Bradshaw.

Our coffee packs, Christmas crafts, exclusive bottling of Ginger Wine and some generous donations all helped to raise a **fantastic total of £1083.50** for company funds.

This is a significant contribution towards our annual Boys' Brigade subscription and goes a long way to replace the income normally generated by the coffee morning.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the BB in any way for our 'Not the Coffee Morning' event!

PRESIDENTS BADGES

This year we have 2 boys who will gain their President's Badge - Euan Blackwood and Ewan Bowman. This is the culmination of 4 years in the Company Section having worked through the Discovery Awards scheme, a period of Christian faith development, carried out service to the company or community and been to a camp or other overnight event. The final part is participation in a leadership development course known as Building Your Skills which the boys took part in earlier in March run by Lanarkshire District in Bothwell Parish Church.

QUEENS BADGES

This year for the first time in as long as I can remember we don't have any boys in S6 and consequently no Queen's Badge recipients. This is a quirk of demographics in that we have some year groups where we don't have many boys - it just so happens that this year we have no S6 boys!

Fortunately, we do have a very strong S5 group of 7 boys who are the backbone of our NCO group. These lads are at the early stage of their Queen's Badge programme and will complete it next session in their S6 year

SUMMER CAMP

After 2 years without a 'proper' camp we are all set to return to Aviemore for our summer camp from Saturday 2nd to Wednesday 6th July 2022. Fingers crossed all the plans get to transpire and we have an exciting and fun camp together.

Take care and stay safe, from your friends in the Boys' Brigade.

Captain Stewart Maxwell



6B Brownies

The girls have been busy over the last few weeks with various themed evenings and welcoming lots of new Brownies with some older Brownies jumping the Toadstool onto Guides to continue their Guiding journey there.

We had a Chinese evening to celebrate Chinese New Year, whereby we created Tiger Masks and made lanterns and played some Chinese games.



We celebrated Burns night and made our own wee Rabby Burns dolls and for Pancake day we decorated our own pancakes.



For Thinking Day we travelled to various countries and learned some fun facts and sampled some unusual food.

We have also had a pyjama party and designed our own pillow cases and toasted marshmallows.

6 Guides

The girls have returned this session full of enthusiasm. Numbers have increased as new girls joined from Monday and Tuesday Brownies. Promises made in Brownies have now been renewed as Guides.



Crafts have been completed, one in particular reminding them of the plight of the people of Ukraine. They created a picture frame with a sunflower attached and recently planted sunflower seeds. It will be interesting to see how high they grow.



Chinese New Year was an opportunity for the girls to be creative in making dragons.



New patrols have been set up and the girls have chosen Daisy, Mole, Dolphin, Bee and Bluebell. They are studying new badges and picking ones to do as a patrol or individually. There is definitely quite a buzz in the Avon Hall on a Tuesday evening.

Work Party 2022

Rainbows

The new Rainbows have been making their Promise - one at the Thinking Day Service and the others all together one Wednesday.



All of the Rainbows have been doing their Family Tree interest badge and their network Stage 1 skill builders badge. We haven't just been concentrating on badges but making things as all the rainbows love crafts.



Easter will be a chance for the ever popular Easter hunt around the church grounds and of course there will be chocolate eggs for everyone

It is proposed that the Work Party will resume on Monday 25 April.

There are a number of projects to be tackled. Some large, some small. Some inside, some outside. A variety of skills will be employed. So, if you have the time, circa 3 hours on a Monday morning, and have some, even basic skills, such as how to hold a paint brush, then you would be welcome, even if you are not able to attend every Monday.

Some of the members have been with the Work Party since it first started last century. A few of the members have skills that would leave you lost for words! However, do not let that put you off.

Howard

REQUEST FROM LANARKSHIRE CANCER CARE TRUST

For more information call 01698 355137


Donate To Us


Volunteer Fundraising

Help raise local funds by
visiting our website

Can you help Lanarkshire
Cancer Care Trust?


Volunteer Driving

Do you need help
getting to hospital
treatments?

Can you drive for Lanarkshire
Cancer Care Trust?

Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust is a not-for-profit charity by helping cancer patients all over Lanarkshire by giving them free transport when they need to visit hospital for treatments and appointments

Do you have a car, drive and have some spare time during the week to help others?
Why not become a volunteer driver?
You can help to reduce the stress and anxiety facing patients by providing a reliable, friendly, confidential and supportive driving service.
For more information call us on 01698 355137 or pop into our office for a chat.

We offer
cancer patients
and their carers
living in the NHS
Lanarkshire area
free transport to
the treatments
they need





UPDATE

Christian Aid, like other international aid charities, must maintain its ongoing work to alleviate poverty and inequality while also responding to urgent emergencies.

As a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee, Christian Aid is actively responding to humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine. St Mary's members have contributed to Bryce's appeals for both situations.

In Afghanistan, conflict, poverty, covid and the worst drought in 27 years have brought the country into crisis. Christian Aid and its partners are reaching people most in need and supplying them with food, nutrition, and hygiene kits. Through 2 partners they aim to reach around 17,000 people with food packages and provide over 850 pregnant women, new mothers and malnourished infants with additional nutritional support.

In the dreadful situation unfolding in Ukraine, where at least 3 million people have fled their homes to escape the conflict and where increasing numbers of civilians are being killed or injured, Christian Aid is working with 2 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition) to help desperate refugees. So far, 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials have been distributed to people on the Ukrainian borders. A refugee help point has also been established.

The support you have already given has been much appreciated by Christian Aid. Please continue to help in any way you can. Bryce's Just Giving page for Ukraine is still open and there will be additional opportunities to contribute during Christian Aid Week in May.

Margaret MacGregor

DRAMA KIRK

Drama Kirk are delighted to be back in the heart of the community, bringing the Easter story to life on Good Friday!

"I Am With You, Always" is a new script, specially written for Drama Kirk by Scottish playwright Simon McCallum. It will introduce new characters we have not met in previous years; and some new scenes from scripture will be included, for example the beatitudes.

We are delighted to welcome Nicholas Elliott back to lead the cast as Jesus, alongside many of our local cast.

The play will take place on Friday 15 April at 2 pm in Castle Street, Hamilton.

Drama Kirk are still looking for disciples, crew and stewards to join the company - please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. And if you can't join the company then please do come along as we take the heart of the gospel to the heart of the town - spread the word!

Junior Church News!

We are delighted to be back in the pews at the front of the church. The children have been focussing on stories from the Bible including; Mary and Martha, and Daniel and the Lion's den. We have also been preparing for our Spring display and busy making gifts for Mothering Sunday.

As always, we are very grateful to our team of Junior Church Staff who plan, prepare our programme and support our Junior church Sunday by Sunday.



We have an exciting end to our Spring session. The children are looking forward to taking part in our Easter Afternoon in the church grounds. An afternoon filled with fun, crafts, games and chocolate treats!

Mother's Day

On Sunday 27 March the Junior Church will be joining the congregation for a family service for Mothering Sunday.

Our Annual sunflower challenge was launched on Sunday. Anyone wishing to take part should collect a packet of seeds from the Coffee Hall following a morning service. We look forward to see the photographs as they grow!



Once again, the ladies of the Guild have been busy crafting! All our families will receive a hand knitted or crotched cross at our Easter afternoon. Sincere thanks to the ladies for this lovely Easter gift.

During the school Easter holidays our families are invited to attend the morning worship together or to enjoy on line together. A special invitation to the Easter Sunday breakfast and short service is extended to all.

We look forward to resuming our new session on Sunday 24 April.



JUNIOR CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS



JUNIOR CHURCH CHALLENGE - HEARTS





At the Kirk Session Meeting in February, it was with sorrow that I had to report that the Motherwell Action Group had been disbanded. St Mary's has had an excellent and long connection with the Scottish Bible Society. Volunteers from our Church have worked as District Organiser; Speakers, who would visit Churches and Guilds; Chairpersons; Secretaries and Church Representatives. The valued support, prayers and encouragement from our Church members has been greatly appreciated throughout this time.

For many years as Secretary of the group, I have written to Motherwell Churches asking for support by sending a Representative from their Church to join the Action Group. Only a few Churches responded to this request. Unfortunately, over the past few years, the number of committee members had fallen due to personal reasons.

In June, last year, I wrote to 20 Churches of all denominations in the Motherwell area hoping to recruit new members. Only two replied saying that they were unable at this time but would keep us in their prayers.

As a result of this response, the committee concluded that the group could no longer function due to lack of personnel. A further letter in January of this year was then sent to all of the Churches to inform them that the Motherwell Action Group had been disbanded, but thanked them for their past support and prayers. Churches have been asked to continue supporting the valued and vital work of Scottish Bible Society on an individual basis.

I am assured that St Mary's will continue with their loyal support for the Scottish Bible Society and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for the tremendous support you have given to previous personnel and me.

Please take care and God bless,

Margaret Carrol

A PRAYER FROM CHRISTIAN AID AND CAFOD'S EASTER SEASON ANTHOLOGY

May fear strike no longer.
Let pain fade away.
May earthly power be challenged,
when it plunders the poor,
and tramples on hope.
**GOD OF PEACE, MAY YOUR KINGDOM
COME.**

Help us to put away the weapons of war.
Help us to destroy the tools of destruction.
Let earthly power be challenged,
when it plunders the poor,
and tramples on hope.
**GOD OF PEACE, MAY YOUR KINGDOM
COME.**

Teach us to follow the ways of justice.
Teach us to walk the paths of truth.
Let integrity challenge the power that plunders,
when it tramples the poor,
and pours scorn on our hope.
**GOD OF PEACE, MAY YOUR KINGDOM
COME.**

Bring peace sweet as honey.
Bring peace like a shield.
And may we be the challenge
to earthly power that plunders
and tramples on hope.
**GOD OF PEACE, MAY YOUR KINGDOM
COME: AMEN**



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	10 April	11 am	Palm Sunday
HOLY WEEK SERVICES:			
Monday - Labyrinth at Motherwell South: 10 am -12 noon, 2-4 pm, 7-9 pm			
Thursday - Communion at Dalziel St Andrews: 7.30 pm			
Friday - Good Friday Service at North Motherwell: 7.30 pm			
Sunday - Outdoor Service in the Duchess of Hamilton Park: 8 am followed by an Easter Breakfast in St Mary's Halls			
Sunday	17 April	11 am	Easter Sunday

FLOWER LIST

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



MAY

- 1st Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson
- 8th Mrs J Conquer
- 15th Mrs S Brown
Mrs J Westwood
- 22nd Mrs A Pearce
- 29th Mrs C Allan

JUNE

- 5th Mrs W Burrell
- 12th
- 19th
- 26th Mrs F Hannah

Useful Contacts

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



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twitter@bryce_calder



St Marys Parish Church Motherwell

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

June Graham - Flower Convener