

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



AUTUMN 2023

Bulletin No 360



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

7 June
24 June

Irene Gardiner
Rita Murray

We welcome You,
Father, Lord Jesus and Gracious Holy Spirit.
We are grateful that it is Your desire to be with and among
Your people.





September 2023

Dear Friends

"It's time for the September magazine John," said Isabel Johnstone, with that teacher's look in her eye!

"Eh - are you saying you want me to write a sort of pastoral letter again?"

"Oh!" she said, feigning surprise, "If you would that would great."

And with a smile she quickly shot off to ambush some other poor unsuspecting victim before I could extricate myself!

So here we are at the onset of a new session, with organisations getting under way, and, by the time you read this, the office-bearers, leaders and helpers will have already planned out the events and activities for the coming months.

During the summer Marlene and I enjoyed time with our family, in Germany, where we were able to relax with them, and again when they came over here to visit us - (not quite as relaxing!!) - and the other grandparents up north. They set off home for Obertshausen on 17 August, leaving us spinning in their wake. When you are a grandparent you have forgotten just how much energy a 9 year old and a 3 year old have! But would you want it any other way?

We are all concerned about Bryce, who will, hopefully, have started a new form of treatment at the end of August. Bryce, you and Helen are in our thoughts and prayers, and we want you to know that we miss you very much and are looking forward to when you can be back with us as our minister.

In the meantime, with Bryce's approval, and the agreement of the Interim Moderator,

and the elders (I hope - we haven't met formally yet!!) I am happy to take most of the Sunday services. Arthur has said that he will stand in every so often to give me a break - September 10 being one of them, when Marlene and I go down to Lincolnshire for the retirement of my youngest brother, Mark, as rector of St Botolph's Church in Quarrington.

I'm sure also, that if required, Bill Simpson and his elders' team might also manage a Sunday.

Which brings us nicely to Bill and his team - to whom we offer our grateful thanks for the summer Sundays which they took responsibility for. The services were much enjoyed and appreciated by all of us - we are indeed fortunate to have so many folks who are prepared to use and share their talents, enthusiasm, and faith. Thank you all so very much.

For the time being Rev Les Brunger continues to be our Interim Moderator. He can be contacted on 01698 813716. You can also relay any pastoral concerns to Margaret in the church office, or to your elder, who will ensure that information is forwarded appropriately. In an emergency please contact me on 01698 422511 and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.

As we begin this new season in the Church Year, looking forward to Harvest, Communion, Remembrance, and Advent, let us remember that Sunday Worship and our organisations are where we build our fellowship, and that Christ, the head and cornerstone, is at the heart of our faith.

With every blessing.

Rev John Thomson

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship resumes the new session at 7.30 pm on Monday 2 October, where we look forward to enjoying the happy fellowship which exist in St Mary's. The meetings will once again be held fortnightly, this year reverting to meeting in the Conference Room.

The preparation of the programme is in hand and will be intimated when available.

The dates for your diary: -

October 2nd, 16th and 30th

November 13th, and 27th

December 4th (which is a joint meeting hosted by the Guild) and 11th.

At the close of each meeting there is an opportunity for a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee and an expensive biscuit.

I would take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to all men in the congregation to join this friendly and lively group in the Conference Room 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



GUILD



As we realise summer is quickly passing, I hope you enjoyed your holidays and that you managed to get some welcome sunshine. I know there will be members who are still to go on a September break, so enjoy that too. I have been thinking of the Guild members over the past few weeks and hope you have been in good health and if not, you feel the presence and support from family and friends. I have been enjoying the Sunday Services conducted by a number of our members. How talented our congregation is.

The theme of the service on Sunday 20 August was Encouragement. It has been a few weeks since we last met but I would encourage you to join us again on 2 October at 7.30 pm in the Avon Hall. It is so important in life to be positive and see the best in everyone. We have a great group of guild members and it always amazes me how united we are in supporting each other through prayer, a phone call, meeting in Church or a kind word. These past few months have been challenging for some as they have been dealing with hospital treatment, mental health or bereavement. I hope people recognise that the Church, through its many organisations and caring people, supports them, and God is always close.

The Guild Committee meets on 28 September at 7.30 pm to discuss our Syllabus which is nearly complete. We have a varied programme from singing groups, Christmas food demonstration, a visit from the Brownies and a joint meeting with the Men's Fellowship in December.

The Film Night was such a success last year that we plan another film, so get your voices ready, and don't worry if you can't sing, just enjoy it.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all and please bring a friend along if you can to join us, they will be surprised at all the things we get up to.

Best wishes and thinking of you all.

Marlene Thomson
Guild President

WORK PARTY

By the time you read this, we will have completed our labours for another year. This year we spent some time in the Manse garden. Although the garden at the front is relatively small and largely hard landscaped, and low maintenance, the garden at the rear is the opposite in every respect. We have spent time weeding and pruning, and also redefining some of the paths, by spreading red chips, both at the front and the rear.

In and around the church we have undertaken various items of work in order to maintain the external and internal fabric of the property.

The Work Party is seasonal. Starting in April, and finishing in September. Although we finish in September, essential work, that cannot be deferred to the following April, is always completed before we finish.

The age of the properties we are entrusted to help maintain, and the regular use the properties get, means that there will always be some work to be done. Some items of work more obvious, and essential, than others.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings



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

We have returned after the summer break. It is so good to see familiar faces and also some new ones from the Motherwell Walkers as they popped in at end of their walk on our first week back.

We look forward to welcoming some more volunteers to serve tea, coffee and treats. You choose the dates which suit, this can be on a regular basis or any Wednesday morning you are available.



MOTHERWELL FOOD BANK

Please continue to donate to this Christian Project which offers support to those who are at a crisis point in their life. All packs are given out on a referral basis to people living in our local area.

Suggested items: hotdogs, meatballs, long-life milk, noodles, breakfast cereal, pasta and sauce, meals in a tin, tinned meat, tinned veg, tinned rice/custard.

Donations can be left in the vestibule of the church or in the church kitchen.



After the Summer break our leaders and girls are preparing to meet again at the beginning of September. Rainbow, Brownie and Guide parents should look out for a communication from the individual unit your daughter belongs to.

If you are new to Guiding and wish to register your daughter for the **first time** log on through the Girlguiding website. Find "For Parents", then read the information and then click on "Register your daughter". New leaders will also be made welcome. Our units are 6, 6a and 6b Motherwell.



Summer Camp 2023



Getting there....Day 1

With 22 boys and 11 officers (all resplendent in our new heather grey BB hoodies), the convoy of 2 minibuses, the Witzemann van and the Chapman's offroader and trailer we managed to load up and ship out all our camping stuff and luggage for 5 days of adventure as we headed for Badaguish just outside Aviemore in the Cairngorms for our 2023 Summer Camp.

After a lunch stop in Aviemore we descended on Badaguish and began the process of making ourselves at home - 10 tents had to go up, the kitchen had to be organised, our travelling crockery, cutlery and utensils washed, the mammoth online

shop had to be unpacked and the tuck shop retail outlet needed stocked and organised.

At Badaguish we have a great set-up that gives us best of both worlds - plenty of flat dry camping ground complemented by indoor cooking and dining facilities and a modern toilet/shower block.

The boys made an excellent job of setting up our brand new tents under the careful guidance of Mr Greenhorn so after an afternoon of settling in we enjoyed our first meal together and then set off for a stroll down to Loch Morlich.

The Hillwalk....Day

Sunday is the traditional camp hillwalk and this year we returned to a walk we last did

in 2017 - the Chalamain Pass. This was selected as an adventurous walk for the boys with a great sense of achievement without being too challenging (not everyone agreed on this!!) or prone to the bad weather that was forecast. It was a great hillwalk - 15 kilometres including a rocky scramble through the Chalamain Gap, into a section of the Lairig Ghru for lunch and finishing with a long walk through the Rothiemurchus Estate back to the campsite.

Activity Days....Day 3 & 4

Monday and Tuesday were both days of organised activities where the main event of the day was provided by an outdoor activity company. This year we again partnered with Gemma and Calum at Able2Adventure who are based at Badaguish and laid on an excellent set of activities for us.

Over the 2 days the boys learned to paddle board on Loch Morlich, gorge walked (lots of jumping in!) the River Feshie at Feshie Bridge, abseiled down a 20 metre cliff behind Loch Insh and canoed Loch Morlich in Canadian canoes.

We had loads of fun moments particularly when 'helicoptering' on a giant paddle board or plunging into a deep pool on the gorge walk and all are captured on video ready to be edited into the camp film!

What else....?

In between all the planned activities the boys were kept entertained/busy by our staff team in football competitions, a quiz night and a big game of baseball on Loch Morlich beach.

Thank You

A big thank you to all the parents for the privilege of taking their boys to camp (and

for providing us with cakes and biscuits for our suppers!).

Thanks to Mr Ian Beattie our camp chef for providing wonderful meals, doing all the dishes and putting up with all the nonsense chat!

Thanks are due to our partners - James Chapman Butchers for their continued support and to Witzemann UK for kindly supplying a van to help us with our logistics.

The officers love camp as much (if not even more!) than the boys but this year because of a number of clashes we had to call on the services of our reserve officers to help staff camp - thank you to Paul Bradshaw and Alan Joyce for supporting us in this way!

This year we had to completely replace all our tents and a big thank you to a number of supporters in the congregation who helped financially towards this. The new tents were excellent and look brilliant in our campsite.

Summer Camp 2023 was another memorable camp in the perfect location, awesome activities with a wonderful group of boys who have all come home with memories that will last a lifetime.

Camp 2024 is already booked for Thursday 27 June to Monday 1 July 2024 and we already have ideas for creating another memorable camp for everyone.....

Captain Stewart Maxwell



St. Mary's Parish Church
Avon Street, Motherwell

Boys' Brigade STARTS BACK SOON!

If you are a boy from P1 – S6 then come along and start your BB Adventure!

Anchor Boys: P1-P3, Fridays 6:15-7:15pm, starts back 8th Sept
Junior Section: P4-P6, Wednesdays 7-8:30pm, starts back 20th Sept
Company Section: P7-S6 Fridays 7-9:30pm, starts back 6th Oct

For more details please contact Stewart Maxwell
stewart@13thmotherwell.org.uk

>the adventure begins here

Summer Camp 2023 - some photos





Junior Church

It is always a pleasure to be part of the special Celebration Sunday to mark the end of our Junior Church session.

This year not only were we recognising the participation of the children from Junior Church within the life of St Mary's, but also 2 of the adults who have supported over many years in many different roles.

Marie Maxwell was our Junior Choir leader for 9 years. She shared her musical talents with the children, her love of warm up songs, her endless energy and most notably her choreography to help us all remember the words! The choir had a great season under her leadership, and it's fitting that Ava, one of her little choristers has gone on now to become the leader of Faith Notes our youth choir.

On this special Sunday Marie was in Fort Myers, USA visiting her family and new granddaughter Luisa, but we knew she was watching online with the family ... we all gave a wave and showed our appreciation to her sending our thanks via the internet! So, to Marie a big thank you for all you have done with our little songsters over the years.

Ian Graham has also had many roles with our young folks. Both as a team leader in Junior church, leader and founder of Sunday crew and most recently the leader and inspiration for Y Zone. This has involved Ian and our teens taking part in many special services, taking part in group activities and famously writing, producing and performing our annual pantomime! We are very grateful to Ian for his service over so many years and look forward to him continuing to give his sideline support to our teens. We are delighted also that Diane, Elaine and Ava have stepped in to continue working with Y Zone.

We were then delighted to present each child from Junior Church a book and certificate to mark their involvement in St Mary's Junior Church. Our thanks to the ladies of the Guild, and to members of the congregation for supporting Junior Church and for their kind donations which we used to purchase the books.

We had a super session last year at Junior church. Lots of fun, friendship and fellowship each week with our children and team - a team who give their time week by week to plan, prepare and present our Bible themed sessions My personal thanks and thank you from all our families for all that you do.

During the Summer weeks Summer Sundays met in the hall at 10.50 am for activities and games for all ages run by a rota team of parents and friends. My thanks to all who took part.

Session 2023/2024 looks to be just as busy as last year and already plans are in the making for our special Sunday for Harvest.

A warm welcome awaits all children from tots to teens!

Karen Maxwell

Our Junior Church Zones

Tots Zone	Babies- 3 years	Avon Hall Jillian Fleming
Mini Zone	Age 3- Primary 2	Avon Hall Christine Brown
Kids Zone	Primary 3- 7	Avon Hall Hazel Graham
Y Zone	S 1 +	Coffee Bar Diane Connor and Elaine Neilson

Update on this year's Summer Challenges
Challenge 1 –
send a **Summer Selfie!**

**Deadline 1
September**

Over 100 Selfies sent in!



Challenge 2 – Send a **postcard**

The Y Zone have displayed the postcards in the corridor to show where our friends have travelled to.

Over 60 postcards received!

Challenge 3 –
Grow the tallest **Sunflower**



Lots of amazing sunflowers grown!

Y ZONE IN ACTION

Busy members of the Y Zone in the Coffee Bar on Summer Sundays



Y ZONE

The members of the Y-Zone have been working hard over the summer months as they embarked on a challenge to make a custom made 'St Mary's Monopoly' game. In line with the work that is being completed towards the eco award they up-cycled old board games and various items that would have otherwise been thrown out. Each week there was a different combination of people working on the challenge and it has been great to see all the different ideas coming together. Everyone worked together sharing ideas and week by week progress was made until a completed game was achieved. The plan is to use and share the game with others which they hope everyone enjoys! So, with the challenge complete they look forward to a new session which will be full of new projects and fun activities.



Eco Update

Work continues towards the church becoming more environmentally friendly and aware.

The Eco committee have recently started work on creating an 'Organisational ECO health check' for each organisation with in the church.

Each organisation has been given a questionnaire (eco health check) which they have been asked to complete and to return to Barbara and which will form the basis of our application.

The questionnaire asks for a summary of what the organisation is and who attends. It also asks organisations to share details on anything they currently do which supports the message of re use, reduce and recycle

The Eco health check also asks organisations to share details of initiatives that have been completed in the past as we are aware that there have been some great events and activities over the years which we can learn from and re visit.

The plan is to share each organisation's eco health check via the church bulletin and notice boards with the hope to generate ideas and energy as we move forward.

In addition, work is underway to look at the small changes we can make to recycle and reuse within the church and its grounds and we hope to share with you our ideas and initiatives over the coming months.

Together we can make a difference





FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	17 September	11 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday	1 October	11 am	Harvest
Sunday	12 November	10.45 am	Service of Remembrance

FLOWER LIST SEPTEMBER

- 3rd -
 10th Miss J Graham
 17rd Mrs Loughridge
 Friends of Irene Nimmo
 24th Mrs J Findlay
 Mrs M Joyce

OCTOBER

- 1st Mr A Joyce (Jnr)
 Ms B Aitkenhead
 8th Mrs S Forrest
 15th Mrs I Dougal
 Miss V Craig
 22nd Mrs Currie
 29th Rev & Mrs J Thomson

NOVEMBER

- 5th Mrs S Sinclair
 12th Mrs A Corbett
 19th Mrs M McCloy
 Mrs D Livingstone
 26th Miss J Graham

DECEMBER

- 43rd Mr S McCue-Dick
 The Guild
 10th Mrs I Scott
 17th Mrs M Wilkie
 24th Mrs F Renwick
 Mrs A Brown
 31st Mrs D Connor

June Graham - Flower Convener

Please note: there are dates available for contributions to the Flower Ministry.

Useful Contacts

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



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St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

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

