

# ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



# EASTER 2025

Bulletin No 366



# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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## **BAPTISM**

**"Go therefore .... and baptise"**

**2024**

24 November	Emma King-Dickson
29 December	Ruby Karin Waddell

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## **MARRIAGES**

**"Whom God hath joined ...."**

**2024**

29 November	Daniel Hayden and Samantha Leaker
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## **FUNERALS**

**"I am the resurrection and the life"**

**2024**

22 October	Mrs Helen Langford
15 November	Mr Ian Bonomy
17 December	Mrs Margaret Joyce
18 December	Mrs Margaret McMillan

**2025**

7 January	Mr Leslie Govan
9 January	Mr George Clark
31 January	Mr James Brown
14 February	Mrs Ruby McGhee
3 March	Mrs Margaret McClure

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

*Emma King-Dickson and Linzi Dodd*

## BAPTISMAL SUNDAY

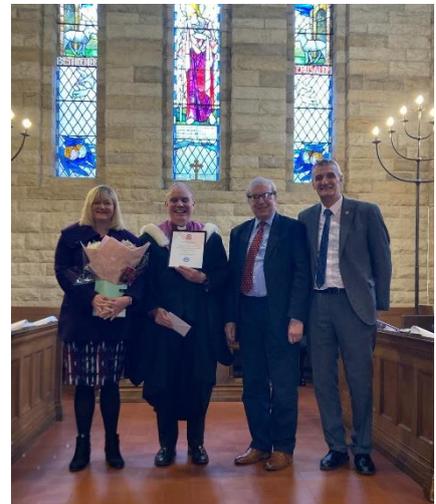
Baby Ruby and Evie - Bryce's first and most recent child baptised here in St Mary's.

On our special Baptismal Sunday we welcomed many families who have brought their children for baptism over 110 years.



## BRYCE CALDER'S 30 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY

At the church service on Sunday 26 January the Kirk Session and congregation were delighted to mark our minister Rev Bryce Calder's 30 years of ministry with a certificate and gift presented by Rev Arthur Barrie and Co-Session Clerk Alan Joyce. Flowers were also presented to his wife Helen to recognise the support she provides.



## ELDERS LONG SERVICE AWARDS



At our service on Sunday 16 February and at the Men's Fellowship on Monday evening we were delighted to recognise the dedicated service given by a number of elders totalling 590 years!

### *30 Years*

Marion Elder, Linda Huggins, Edith Sharp, Jacquie Westwood, Ivie Morrison, George Waters and Margaret Watson.

### *50 Years*

Allan Scott, Graham McNay, Bill Taylor and Ramsay Russell.

### *60 Years*

Allan Joyce, Alastair Blackwood and Robert Colquhoun.

The Minister, the Rev Bryce Calder paid tribute to all those receiving certificates and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to St Mary's.



Manse of St Mary's

March 2025

Dear Friends:

### THANKS

My wife Helen and I would like to thank the Kirk Session and Congregation so much for the wonderful way in which you marked my 30 years of Ordination on Sunday 26 January. It was a lovely surprise. Helen loved the flowers, my Certificate has pride of place in the Manse Study, and I am looking forward to spending my Book Tokens at the Glo Book Shop.

I have had the honour of serving 3 excellent congregations over the past 30 years: *Buckhaven Parish Church, Kirkintilloch St David's Memorial Park* and, for the past 7½ years, *Motherwell St Mary's*. I feel truly blessed.

### SPRING AND EASTER

As I write this letter, we have moved into Meteorological Spring and, as I look out of my study window, I can see beautiful signs of new life in the Manse Garden. This new life in nature reminds us of the new life that we have in Jesus our Risen Lord. As Jesus famously said: "***I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness.***" [John 10:10]

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.

Throughout Holy Week [Monday to Saturday] there will be an **Easter Labyrinth** at *Motherwell South Parish Church*. The Labyrinth is open from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

and 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm each day. A Labyrinth is an opportunity to walk around a variety of 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.

On the **Wednesday of Holy Week** [16 April] the first of our Joint Services will be at *St Mary's Parish Church* at 7.30 pm.

On the **Thursday of Holy Week** [17 April] our Maundy Thursday Communion will be *Dalziel St Andrews Parish Church* at 7.30 pm.

And on the **Friday of Holy Week** [18 April], we move to *North Motherwell Parish Church* for a Good Friday Service at 7.30 pm.

On **Easter Sunday** [20 April] *St Mary's* will hold our own Early Morning Service and Easter Breakfast in the Church Halls. This will begin at 9.00 am.

Our main Easter Sunday Morning Service will be 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.

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

### NEW CHURCH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

After receiving our new Unitary Constitution from the Church Law Department, our first Kirk Session was on Wednesday 22 January. The next Kirk Session Meeting will be on Wednesday 12 March. We no longer have a Congregational Board, and the Kirk Session is the body which deals with all church business: fabric, finance, and all spiritual matters.

The Kirk Session has created and delegated smaller Teams to take care of specific areas of Church business: Administration; Finance and Property; Communications; Events Action; Pastoral Care; Mission and Outreach; Children, Youth and Young Adult Development; Ecology and Environmental Work; and Discipleship and Training. These smaller Teams comprise both Elders and Congregational Members and if you would like to serve on a Team, please let me know. The Teams are in the nascent stages of meeting and, going forward, will use this Bulletin to communicate with the congregation. They will also report regularly to the Kirk Session and will need its approval for any major changes or expenditure.

### ECO-CONGREGATION

For months, the young people of our Y-Zone, with the help of an Eco-Team, set up by the Kirk Session, have been raising awareness within *St Mary's* of our need to reduce our carbon footprint and to be a more eco-aware congregation.

On Sunday 23 March, we will receive a visit from a Representative of Eco-Congregation Scotland. The Representative will review our congregation, and we hope to receive the Eco-Congregation Bronze Certificate. This would be a significant achievement, and an important milestone in our journey, as a congregation, to becoming net-zero in the years ahead.

### SAFEGUARDING

Since my last Pastoral Letter, I delighted to say that I have attended 2 Safeguarding Conferences and have obtained the following certificates:

ADVANCED LEVEL SAFEGUARDING  
[20 NOVEMBER 2024]

LEADERSHIP TRAINING LEVEL  
SAFEGUARDING [22 JANUARY 2025]

I am currently compliant with the highest level of training under the Church of Scotland's new Safeguarding Pathway for Ministers.

### UKRAINE

After 3 years, the Russian Invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine continues to cost lives and cause fear and devastation. A change of government in the USA, and its ambiguous stance towards Russia, Ukraine, and Nato, has added confusion to an already complex situation and led to an increased sense of uncertainty for the people of Ukraine and beyond. We are living in worrying times. At Church, on Sunday 2 March, I reminded the congregation that God is with us all throughout everything we experience. As we continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, may God be with the people of that nation and with all living with threats of war and violence throughout the world. May God also encourage and enable us, as a Church, to be brave in standing up for the causes of justice, love and peace - all 3 of which are central to the easter Message and the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

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

*Rev Bryce Calder*



## NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

### PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The first meeting of the pastoral care group took place on the 12 February.

This meeting focussed on what pastoral care is and what we can do as a congregation for our members.

The minister and elders are key to providing pastoral care and the group will undertake activities to complement that work.

Plans are being developed but we are also keen to establish what pastoral care work may be taking place that we are currently unaware of. We as a group would welcome you making contact with members of the group if there is work you are currently engaged in and would like us to know about.

The members of the group are as follows:

Christine Clark  
Margaret Watson  
Helen McKenna  
Jacqueline Westwood  
Kirsteen Dick  
Helen Calder  
Edith Sharp  
Christine Brown

In addition to the core group we aim to recruit additional members to ensure the group is representative of our congregation and there may also be occasions when we will ask for additional volunteers for specific work.

Please feel free to contact any of us directly or through the church office.

Email: [office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk).  
Church Tel - 01698 268554

Christine Brown - Convenor

## NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

### OUTREACH TEAM

*May your day be filled with opportunities to love others in ways that genuinely translate God's care for them even in the smallest of ways.*

Those were the Minister's closing words at the service on 9 February, providing inspiration for the Outreach team as they met for the first time on 12 February. The team members at the moment are Alan Brown, Tracy Dodd, Hazel Graham, Joanne Morrison, Jemma Henderson, Ian and Margaret Carrol, Tom McPherson and Bryce Calder.

#### **Our remit**

We spent the whole meeting understanding the outreach activities that are already carried out and supported by St Mary's.

Christian Aid, Motherwell Foodbank, Reach Out (providing meals to the community of North Motherwell), Street Project (more on this below), Avondale Care Home services, Wednesday Coffee Morning.

All of the team members enjoy being active in outreach activities and a key aim for the team is to encourage more of the members of the Church and our organisations to join us.

To help us do this we are planning our campaign to 'tell the story' for each of our outreach activities; what is the need, what we do and what difference do we make. The Street Project team are first up with their story - see below.

You will recall that a few years ago the Kirk Session designed a Five-Year Plan for the Ministry and Mission of *St Mary's Parish Church: 2020 a vision for Mission*. Sadly, but understandably, the onset of the Covid pandemic paused many of the goals of that plan. The team reviewed the Vision 2020 goals relating to outreach to identify items we could remedy quickly. As an example, we identified a need to find a person to take on the role of St Mary's Scottish Bible Society representative; if you are interested please contact Alan Brown through the Church email address, [office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk).

The team has also established a link with Church of Scotland Priorities Area Committee and reviewed the resources and funding sources available. Our parish includes a community impacted by deprivation which qualifies us for this resource. At our next meeting we will look at how we can network with other Churches and organisations who share our aims.

If you are interested in joining the Outreach Team please let us know through the Church email address: [office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysmotherwell.org.uk).

Alan Brown, Outreach Team Convenor

*Ephesians 3:20 (New Living Translation)*

## St Mary's Street Project

How lucky are we that we do not need to sit outside Asda, Aldi or anywhere else looking for a hot drink and some food.

Unfortunately, there are some men and women in Motherwell that for different reasons find themselves having to do that. Some may have issues with their state benefits, for example a missed meeting at the Jobcentre can lead to a sanction and a loss of benefits which be difficult to restore. Others have an addiction or are living in temporary accommodation eg Airth Court and Mason Lane or sofa surfing with friends and family. We don't always find out the full circumstances of the people we meet and we don't ask because we focus on dealing with the situation at hand.

At present there is a group of 5 people in the church who regularly go up the street and chat to the men, which it mostly is. We offer a drink and some food depending on where they are sitting. We never offer money. The people we meet are always polite and grateful and if they don't need it (perhaps they have just had something from someone else) then they don't take it. People are never greedy.

There are lots of kind folk in our town, usually people that don't have much themselves but think, "there but for the grace God" that could be me or a relative of mine.

The group from the church has set up an email group so we don't all go up on the same day. We can be seen 2-3 times a week. Some weeks there is no one there who need help but generally we see regular faces and new people drop in and out.

To highlight how great the need is a team member once had to take their socks off to give to a young man who had none. They have on several occasion taken off their scarves and gloves to give to someone. One of the group members has access to clothes and regularly gives a small bundle out. It was great to be able to provide a warm jacket from the donations the Church received in October as part of the Rotary Club campaign.

On one occasion a member had secured a supply of underwear and when they were handed over the young man said, "Oh that's great! I was just thinking about going into Primark to steal some". That's how desperate people can be.

The folk we meet all have a story and some like to chat. As well as making a difference by providing daily essential items we aim to establish a compassionate, caring connection with our community.

If you feel called to join us please let us know through the Church email address. One of the team will go with you to show you what's involved and you needn't give up your socks.

**BUSINESS TEAM - Convenor Bryce Calder**

**FINANCE AND PROPERTY - Convenor Ian Beattie**

**COMMUNICATIONS - Convenor Stewart Maxwell**

**DISCIPLESHIP AND TRAINING - Convenor Alan Joyce**

**YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS TEAM - Convenor Hilary Kidd**

**EVENTS ACTION TEAM - Convenor Kristeen Kennedy**

The Eco-Committee has reached out to Team Leaders to ask them to ensure St Mary's commitment to being an Eco Congregation is reflected in their work, giving a whole church approach to this important work.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

My report in the Christmas Magazine, did not include the last 3 speakers of 2024. John Maddock gave us a detailed insight in to the work of the **General Trustees**. As a preface to the report, he spoke about his many years in the Boy's Brigade, and the various roles he had during his time in the BB. Robert Nimmo took us from **Auchinleck to Aztec**. He recounted with vigour, the football games he has visited from a Junior game in Auchinleck, to World Cup games in Mexico. The characters he met along the way, and some of the signs he had seen. The most humorous being the notice in a Restaurant in a hotel in Coatbridge "*Soup of the Day*" which left him a bit confused. A more sobering talk was given by William Simpson, who stepped in to replace a speaker who was unable to attend "**Immigration and Asylum**", was an in depth talk about the inner workings of the process. Giving an insight in to some of the challenges, that those processing claims, and those hearing their cases in bespoke courtrooms, trying to ensure that justice is done.

2024 was rounded off by our Annual Quiz. The Questions being set by Alan Joyce competition was fierce, but I have to say the best team won. (Modesty forbids me to say who were in the winning team.)

Our first meeting in 2025 was the intriguing title of a talk by Arthur Barrie "**Then the Phone Rang**" This was a ramble through his life from his school days, starting at Glencairn Primary, until his time in the ministry. As he talked through his life, significant changes were prefaced with "Then the Phone Rang". Some of these phone calls, changed direction in his life which he could not have foreseen. Alex Baird has been a regular speaker at the Men's Fellowship over the years. This year was no exception. In our "**Scottish Night**" he captivated the members with his stories and

poems of Scotland, both past and present. Some humorous, and some serious. Alex has an *easy listening* style of speaking, which is one of the reasons he is a regular speaking at the Fellowship.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, we had something completely different. In what I believe was to be a first for both the Guild, Men's Fellowship, and our guests, **Organ Meets Films** was the programme, for our meeting. The meeting was held in the Church. Aaron Hawthorne played the Church organ to accompany 2 films. However, 2025 technology got the better of the films, made around 1917, and the film show had to be abandoned. All was not lost. Aaron played a variety of music, showcasing not only his talents at the organ, but the full range of music that can be played on the organ. *There are plans to hold the evening later this year.* David Walker spoke to the Fellowship at our meeting on Monday 17 February. His subject, **Poppy Scotland**. This was an interesting, illustrated talk where he told us about the history of Poppy making in Scotland, and about how the poppies made for sale, have evolved over the years, until the present day. Initially, it was not only poppies that were produced. Teddy Bears and Jigsaws were also produced to help raise funds.

We have 2 meetings in March. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, John Pitcathley will entertain us at the Church Organ. Our AGM will be held on 17<sup>th</sup>. This will bring to an end our 2024 - 2025 Session.

Howard Rennie  
President

## GUILD



As we near the end of this Guild Session and my first year as President, I would like to thank vice president Eleanor Simpson for all her help and also the members of the committee for all their hard work in making this year a success. Some of the committee are due to retire this year and a new committee will be elected at our AGM in March when we will also be entertained by The Dream Duo?

We have had an interesting and varied syllabus this year. In January we had a Hats Extravaganza, when the ladies wore a variety of hats and we had some members of the Y Zone as models. Marilyn Inglis gave a very informative talk about Reach Out. Our joint evening with the Men's Fellowship was an organ recital by Aaron Hawthorn with popcorn and sweets.

In March we are looking forward to a visit from Hazel Shaw and our closing social where we will be entertained by the Inbetweeners.

We also have our outing in May when we are going to Perth Museum and then for High Tea. This is always a very enjoyable day and hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

We try to arrange a syllabus for each session that suits everyone and of course each evening concludes with Tea, Coffee and chat. Anyone interested in joining us on a Monday evening will be made most welcome.

Myra Philip  
Guild President



Our Guild has chosen the Scottish Bible Society: Bibles for Bairns as our partner project this year. Do you know a baby born in 2025? You can register them to receive a free Share a Story Bible on their 1st birthday and further books on 2-4<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

## Work Party

The Work Party will resume their labours on **Monday 28 April at 9 am**. As the Property Committee continue to improve our property portfolio, so the extent of works that the Work Party can undertake reduces slightly. There is however still a need for our input, if only to save St Mary's money by not having to employ tradesmen. We have a number of projects to start in April. If you are free on a Monday, even if it is not every Monday, you will be welcome to join us.

Howard Rennie

### A Trip Down Memory Lane

EVENT date - Monday evening, date tbc

An evening of shared memories and stories of the good old days and past experiences of our congregation and organisations.

More information will follow but, in the meantime, if you are Spring Cleaning have a look for a few photographs, memorabilia etc that will be fun and interesting to share.



## WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

COFFEE, TEA, TREAT AND CHAT FROM  
10 - 12 NOON

Our Wednesday mornings continue to be busy with new people popping in to join us.



### AFTERNOON TEA DANCE

Tickets are available from Mrs Renee Turner for this event in the Avon Hall on Tuesday 22 April from 1-3.30 pm.

Raffle and Refreshments

Tickets £5

## THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS



## 13<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Boys' Brigade Company

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell



## 2024-25 Session Update....

This year we have seen an increase in our Company Section numbers due to a great P7 intake of new recruits at the start of the session. We now have 40 boys on the roll and are getting regular attendances of around 30-35 on a Friday night.

### COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing in early March we have had 6 battalion competitions so far this session - Swimming Gala (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Senior 5-a-side (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and the Quiz (1<sup>st</sup> Place) are all known results but the results of the Physical Challenge, Restricted Drill and Bible Knowledge will all need to wait until the Battalion Review in May.

We are currently preparing for the First Aid, Squad Drill, Junior 5s and Athletics before the end of the session.

This year we also entered a few of the Boy's Brigade National Competitions. We entered the Senior 5-a-side, FIFA (Football Computer Game) and Masterteam Quiz.

In FIFA we had a team refresh this year and they put up a great competition in the first round but didn't manage to win the round.

In the National 'Masterteam' Quiz we progressed through several rounds to get to the Scottish Final. The Scottish Final was held on Saturday 18 January at the Carronvale House Scottish Headquarters of the BB. Six teams had reached the final via the local qualifying rounds. 13th Motherwell achieved third place in the final - and while this doesn't take us to the UK final, 3<sup>rd</sup> best in Scotland is a great result!

Well done to our team of Lewis McLachlan, Charlie Fleck, Alasdair Crombie and Adam Hattie!

The Senior 5-a-side is always a really high standard of football and this year was no different. We hosted the first round of the

competition at Ravenscraig in November and successfully progressed to the second round which we also hosted again at Ravenscraig in January and again successfully progressed through into the Scottish Final for the first time ever!

The Scottish Final was held on Sunday 23 February at the Allander Leisure Centre in Bearsden. Six teams from across Scotland were taking part and the competition was fierce!

We achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place which is a great result - well done to our team of Kyle Rankin, Zack Fleming, Finlay Bradshaw, Alex Hamilton, Alex Maxwell and Lewis McLachlan.

### CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

On the first Saturday in December we hosted our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. The winning recipe of festive music (including the Junior Section!), excellent coffee, creamy cakes and Christmas gifts was popular once again and I would like to thank all those who supported the event and helped raise a **fantastic total of £3000** for company funds.

This money is used in the running of the Company over the course of the session, to help with our BB subscriptions (£3200!!), badges, training, activities, class materials, subsidising trips and competitions etc. Without this money we wouldn't be able to do half the things we do!

A big thank you to everyone in the congregation who supported the event, the very generous donors and to all those friends of the company (visible and invisible) who helped in the kitchen, staffed the cake stalls and mucked in for the clearing up - the coffee morning would not be such a success without you.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Following on from the success (and competitiveness!) of previous years we once again hosted the Christmas Tree Festival. We invited organisations to enter a Christmas tree that would represent their organisation at Christmas time.

We had 16 creative entries that were on display in the church throughout the festive season. All the visitors to the Coffee Morning entered through the church and were invited to vote for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd favourite Christmas trees.

Our 3 category winners:

Tots to Teens - the Guides fantastic soft toy tree

21+ - Joint Winners - the choirs wonderful manuscript tree and the Inbetweeners fabulous snowman.

Overall winners - by quite some margin - The Men's Fellowship railway themed tree - with baubles naming stations such as 'Beatties Dusty End', 'Thomsons Ramble' and 'Sermons Yawn', customised printed base paper and a miniature train set, the fellowship had gone all out to win this year!

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part - you should start thinking about your Christmas 2025 entry!

## PRESIDENTS BADGES

This year we have 4 boys who will gain their President's Badge - Adam Hattie, Murray Neilson, Jamie Reid and Jack Sharkey. This is the culmination of 4 years in the Company Section having worked through the 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, run by Lanarkshire District.

## KINGS BADGE

This year we have 7 young men who are in the final stages of their work towards the Kings Badge: Finlay Bradshaw, Charlie Fleck, Alex Hamilton, Alex Maxwell, Lewis McLachlan, Fraser Neilson and Adam Shepherd.

The boys have been a huge boost to the officer team in general and have been out in the community fulfilling the volunteering section of the award. As part of this the boys served as stewards at the Ups and Downs show last March as part of our ongoing link with the theatre group (as the current crop of QB candidates will do this year).

The boys will then be working to complete the recording of their work in time to be presented with the award at the Battalion Review in May.

## BATTALION REVIEW

The Battalion Review will take place this year on Friday 9 May and will be hosted in St Mary's so watch this space for more information. Parents and friends of the Battalion are welcome to come along.

## BB CAMP 2024 & 2025

During January we held our Camp 2024 film night where the boys got to see the highlights of hundreds of hours of footage taken at Camp in July. Lots of happy recollections and comedy moments and it certainly put everyone in the mood for Camp 2025. A big thank you to officer Greg Weir for producing the film.

Camp 2025 was booked long ago and was launched to the boys in February - we are all organised to go back to Aviemore at the end of June.... detailed planning is now in progress!

Captain Stewart Maxwell

## National Masterteam Quiz Scottish Finalists 2025



Charlie Fleck | Lewis McLachlan | Alistair Crombie | Adam Hattie

## National Senior 5-a-side Football Scottish Finalists 2025



Kyle Rankin | Zack Fleming | Finlay Bradshaw | Alex Hamilton | Alex Maxwell | Lewis McLachlan



### 6<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Rainbows



We have 4 new Rainbows waiting to make their Rainbow Promise within the next few weeks and we hope they will enjoy their time at Rainbows. So far this year we have celebrated Chinese New year and had fun trying to pick up sweets with chopsticks and find animals from Chinese Zodiac. We have also completed the Healthy Mind Interest badge and Feel Good Stage 1 Skills Builder and gained the Be Well Theme Award. Four of our Rainbows have now jumped the rainbow and are now in Brownies. Three of these girls gained their Silver Award which meant they had gained 4 out of the 6 Theme Awards. This was a first for us and we are so proud of these girls.

At the moment we are working towards our Skills for our Future Theme Award and will complete the Book Lover Interest badge and Lead Stage 1 Skills Builder.

Whilst the Rainbow programme takes up our Rainbow meetings we still play games and enjoy crafts.

Rainbows love having fun and we are lucky to have Lucy Fleming and Lucy Gardiner, from Guides, who help with the games and the Rainbow programme.

We also had a lovely breakfast and crafting time before the Thinking Day service. This was the first time we have done this and everyone enjoyed the early start.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Brownies



Since starting back in January, the Brownies have been keeping busy as normal!

**Games night** got everyone back up fighting fit after the holidays, 'Ladders', 'Bear and the Honey Pot', and 'What's the Time Mrs Wolf'!

Then the Girls celebrated **Burns Night**, designing their own 'Hamish the Haggis' and trying some tasty Scottish treats, tablet, cheese, haggis crisps and of course a tiny bit of Irn Bru!



The Girls have also just started working on the **'Jobs' Badge**. So far, they have acted out what they would like to do when they are older, done little job interviews, with more to follow. So, in the future watch for a 'dancer', a 'doggie day care handler', a 'zoologist', and we still had some 'teachers'!



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February saw the Girls take part in **Thinking Day Celebrations**.



Along with the Rainbows, Guides, Leaders & Trefoil the Brownies began the morning coming together for a fab breakfast of pancakes, with any topping you fancied (butter, jam, chocolate, syrup!), muffins, and lots of healthy fruit! They took part in a quick craft, making their own torches to help 'shine some light,' before taking part in the church service and renewing their Promise. A lovely morning enjoyed by all.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Guides

The Guides were delighted to take part in the Christmas Tree Competition and even more so to win their category. The Teddy Bear Tree had an important function. As well as the girls donating bears to create the tree, they were going to a charity which distributes the bears to children suffering hardship in various parts of the world. These are children who have experienced the horrors of war, or are living in extreme poverty.

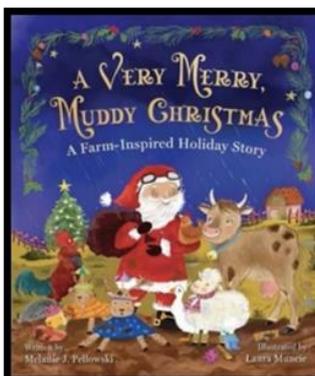
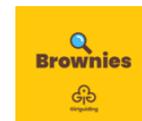


So we move from February into March where we will be away on Brownie Pack Holiday! We are off to Gowanpark, CozieGlen, not too far away but far enough away for the girls to think it is an exciting adventure, which we hope it will be!

Thank you for reading and we look forward to filling you in on all our exciting Brownie Camp news in the next edition of the Church Magazine!

The Tuesday Guiders

The leaders are proud of the girls who took part in the Thinking Day Service: Lucy Gardiner and Lucy Fleming for reading the poem, Sophie Connor, Emily Ward and Ava Fulton for singing the Song of Hope. It was good to see so many of our girls from all the units in church at the end of a week when they were on holiday from school and our units.



# Junior Church

## New session ...

The children have enjoyed a new series of themed mornings based on the Parables in the Bible. With a variety of activities including puppets, pebble painting, treasure hunts, team games, candles, crafts and big art, the children have heard the stories told and had fun 'making and doing 'to help them remember the importance of the messages found in each one.

Our big art this year took inspiration from the Moderator's Challenge "Let there be light". Thank you to all our friends in the congregation who handed in their Christmas Cards for us to recycle and use in our display. This can be seen in the main church corridor.



## Baptismal Sunday...

We invited all the babies and children who have been baptised by Bryce during the past 7 years to join us for a special family service. We were delighted that many of the families attended and were especially pleased to have Baby Ruby and Evie, Bryce's first and most recent baby to be baptised, to take part in the service. Evie had the special job of lighting the baptismal candle. All our children received a certificate to mark 110 years of welcoming children in St Mary's. The families were then invited to join Junior Church and to take part in our morning activities.

## Bring a friend Sunday...

Our children were all encouraged to invite a friend to join us at Junior Church to take

part in friendship Sunday. Following the All age address and choruses they all headed to the halls to make friendship bracelets, partner art and to hear the story of Jesus and his friends.

## Mothering Sunday ...

A special invitation is extended to our 'mums and grans ' to join with us at the front of the church for this family service. Following this we will all head out to the hall to work together on our theme morning and have a chance to share some of our songs with our mums as they enjoy tea and cake! Following the service **ALL** are invited to the Cameron hall for tea, cakes and fellowship.

## Easter ...

During the school EASTER Holidays we have a number of Sundays planned and details for this will be sent out nearer the time.

ALL are invited to join the breakfast and short service on Easter Sunday...crafts, games and an egg hunt will be available for our children .

## How did you travel to church? ...

In the coming weeks our children will be carrying out a survey to ask how you travel to church. We hope to encourage our friends to walk in the Spring sunshine or to car share with friends or family. You can look out for our results on the display boards.



## Y ZONE

It's been a busy but fun time since we last reported on the activities of the Y Zone. In November we enjoyed a super evening to celebrate St Andrew's Day. An evening of music and dancing led by our fabulous compere Fraser ably assisted by Paul and accompanied by Bill, Ian, Darren and Peter who provided the music for the evening. Around 70 folk came and enjoyed the evening and whilst it was a free event amazingly we were able to raise £437 for church funds thanks to Chris, Emma and Laura's generosity and efforts with a raffle and lucky squares ..... everyone was a winner! It was a great night and everyone was left satisfied as there was no shortage of pies and Scottish treats thanks to Elaine and Rob. The 'thank yous' are almost endless as almost everyone who attended helped in some way. It was an evening of celebration and true fellowship!

It was then on to all the fun of Christmas with the Carol Service, Nativity, Santa's visit, and annual Panto - which was written again by Ian Graham who added his creativity to yet another fabulous script. We also participated in the BB Christmas Tree Competition and attended the Ladywell Primary School Fayre where we sold upcycled crafts for Church funds.

Then in our new session we have enjoyed music, challenges, games and crafts and have also spent some time supporting the Eco Committee - spending time assessing storm damage in our local area.

Some of our members have also helped out at a themed night at the Guild where they modelled different hats as the ladies were told that like hats we all have a different purpose and that if we let our talents shine the world will be a brighter place. Most recently we enjoyed an evening of fun, games and pizza on a Saturday night where we invited the Y Zone members to bring a friend. Thirty-five people attended and we were delighted at how much fun we had.

Thanks is due to those who provided the pizza and treats. Your help and encouragement is appreciated. So as we look forward to the session ahead we remain thankful for our wonderful young people who bring energy and fun to all we do.

Diane, Elaine and Ross - Y Zone leaders



# ECO COMMITTEE



## ECO COMMITTEE

The Eco Committee is a small group that was formed a few years ago with the aim of looking at how we can become a more Environmentally Friendly Church.

The committee is made up of cross section of people within the church :

- Diane Connor
- Elaine Neilson
- Barbara Aikenhead
- Howard Rennie
- Ros Ward
- Alan Henderson
- Hilary Kidd
- Fraser Joyce



and with input for the young ones at the Y-Zone.

The committee works together as we work through our Eco action plan and meet formally every 2 months to discuss progress and new ideas.

Details of our action plan can be found on our newly formed Eco notice board which is situated in the corridor leading from the Avon Hall Door.

We appreciate we are at the very early stages of our Eco Journey but it is an important stage where in simple terms we recognise that as individuals and as a Church we can do better and have the desire to do so.

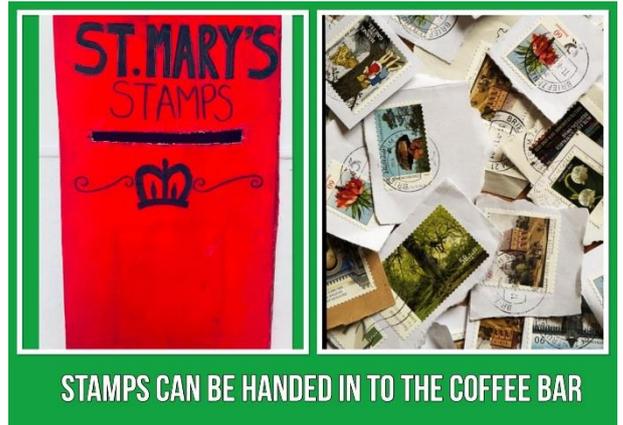
Should anyone have any ideas or suggestions on things we could do please contact a member of the committee 🌱



# WHAT CAN WE DO?



- ### 10 Simple Things You Can Do to Help Protect the Earth
1. Consume Less
  2. Upcycle More
  3. Educate
  4. Conserve Electricity
  5. Use Less Water
  6. Use Fewer Chemicals
  7. Shop Secondhand
  8. Plant a Tree
  9. Give Up Plastics
  10. Walk, Bike or Take Public Transit



STAMPS CAN BE HANDED IN TO THE COFFEE BAR

Eco Activities March – June 2025		
Month Eco Event	Website	Church Activity
<b>March Global Recycling Day</b> Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March <b>The Great British Spring Clean</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> March – 4 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Earth Hour</b> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 8.30-9.30pm	<a href="http://www.recycle.org.uk">www.recycle.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org">www.greatbritishspringclean.org</a> <a href="http://www.earthhour.org">www.earthhour.org</a>	Y-Zone are creating window displays for the three Conference Room windows to encourage participation by the local community. Also: • Social Media • Pre-service presentations with ways to take action • Ice Notice Board posters
<b>April Stop Food Waste Scotland</b> – Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="http://www.stopfoodwaste.org">www.stopfoodwaste.org</a>	Easter Breakfast on Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2025. Notice Board info about what YOU can do. Junior Church – • Planting a Bee Garden on church grounds and at home. • Build Bee Hotels from eco materials.
<b>May World Bee Day</b> – Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<a href="http://www.bee.org.uk/world-bee-day">www.bee.org.uk/world-bee-day</a>	Raise awareness – • Social media • Notice board
<b>June Bike Week</b> – 9 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="http://www.vale.org.uk">www.vale.org.uk</a>	Alan Joyce will visit the Y-Zone re- • Green transport • Health benefits • Bike maintenance • His adventures



Let's walk to Church !

## EVENTS ON OFFER IN OUR HALLS

Suzanne O'Reilly Fitness

BRINGING A NIGHT OUT TO YOUR WORKOUT! Clubbercise® is a fun full body workout with a banging soundtrack that gets great results. One session burns around 600 calories. The routines combine toning and combat moves with options to suit all fitness levels. Classes are held in a darkened room with disco lights and our trademark LED glow sticks.

Thursday 6.45-7.45 in the Church Hall.

To book simply click on the link - <https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/4319>

## Chair Yoga Sesions

Join us every Wednesday  
9.30-10.30 am

### Benefits:

Greater flexibility, mobility, stamina and sense of balance.

Fosters mental clarity, aids stress reduction, stimulates cognitive function and enhances a sense of wellbeing.

Connect with like-minded people in a supportive and uplifting environment.

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street,  
Motherwell

First session FREE

£5 per session

£20 for a block of 5 sessions

Booking on [www.mayaschool.co.uk](http://www.mayaschool.co.uk)

## JUST BREATHE YOGA GROUP

St Mary's Parish Church Hall

Saturdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM

You Can Join By Coming Along  
Or Telephoning 07795 378490

## BoogieBeat

music & movement



St Mary's is delighted to be hosting a BoogieBeat mixed age class on a Wednesday morning 9.30 -10.15 am.

The classes for children 6 months to 5 years feature lots of singing, dancing, stories and lots more.

To book a space simply click on the link - [www.boogiebeat.co.uk/classes/lanarkshire](http://www.boogiebeat.co.uk/classes/lanarkshire)

## St Mary's Church



## TODDLER GroUp



Tuesdays & Fridays

10:00 - 11:30 AM

For More Information Visit

St Mary's Toddlers Facebook Page



## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday	13 April	11 am	Palm Sunday
<b>HOLY WEEK SERVICES:</b>			
Wednesday 16 April - St Marys Parish Church - 7.30 pm			
Thursday - 17 April - Communion at Dalziel St Andrews Parish Church - 7.30 pm			
Friday - 18 April - Good Friday Service - North Motherwell Parish Church - 7.30 pm			
Sunday	20 April	11 am	Easter Sunday

## FLOWER LIST



### APRIL

- 7th Mrs E Calder  
Mr A Craig
- 14th Mrs H Graham  
Mrs E Currie
- 21st Mrs E Taylor/  
Mrs J Findlay  
Mrs E Simpson  
Mrs E Scott
- 28th Mrs L Kelly  
Mrs A Johnstone  
Mrs J Knox

### MAY

- 5th Mr & Mrs Malcolm  
Mrs J McPherson
- 12th Mrs J Conquer  
Mrs C Allan
- 19th Mrs S Brown  
Mrs J Westwood
- 26th Mrs A Pearce

### JUNE

- 2nd Mrs W Burrell
- 9th Mrs C Anderson
- 16th Mrs I Scott
- 23rd Mrs F Hannah

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

24 March	Annual Church Quiz
30 March	Mothering Sunday Tea and cake after service
20 April	Easter Sunday Breakfast Between services
May TBC	A Trip Down Memory Lane
21 June	Family Sports Day & BBQ
24 October	St Mary's Got Talent All organisations concert

### Useful Contacts

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

 St Mary's Motherwell(@stmarysmwell)/X  
Rev Bryce Calder(@bryce\_calder)/X

 St Mary's Parish Church Motherwell

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

June Graham - Flower Convener

## A PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

Lord God,  
early in the morning,  
when the world was young,  
You made life in all its beauty and complexity;  
You gave birth to all that we know.  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Early in the morning,  
when the world least expected it,  
a new-born child, crying in a manger,  
announced that You had come among us,  
that You were one of us.  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Early in the morning,  
surrounded by respectable liars,  
religious leaders, anxious politicians, and silent friends,  
You accepted the penalty for doing good,  
for being God:  
You shouldered and suffered the Cross in LOVE.  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Early in the morning,  
a voice in a guarded graveyard  
and footsteps in the dew  
announced that You had risen,  
that You had come back  
to those and for those  
who had forgotten, denied, destroyed & ignored You.  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

This Easter Morning, in the multi-coloured company  
of Your Church on earth and in heaven,  
we celebrate Your Creation, Your Life,  
Your Death and Resurrection,  
Your interest in, and LOVE for, each one of us.

So we pray:

LORD, BRING NEW LIFE  
WHERE WE ARE WORN & TIRED  
NEW LOVE  
WHERE WE HAVE TURNED HARD-HEARTED  
FORGIVENESS  
WHERE WE FEEL HURT  
AND WHERE WE HAVE WOUNDED  
AND THE JOY AND FREEDOM  
OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT  
WHERE WE ARE PRISONERS OF OURSELVES

To all and to each, where regret  
is real,  
Jesus pronounces His pardon  
and grants us the right to begin  
again.  
Thanks be to God! AMEN