

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity No: SC012233



Faith  Love
Blessed Hope

EASTER 2026

Bulletin No 370



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

-----oOo-----

FUNERALS

"I am the resurrection and the life"

12 February	Mr Robert Colquhoun
10 March	Mr Derek Horn

-----oOo-----

**DEDICATION, BLESSING AND
THANKSGIVING FOR A NEW BABY**

28 December	Harrison Bryce James Ross
-------------	---------------------------





March 2026

Dear Friends:

Easter, in the Northern Hemisphere at least, is a time of renewal. As winter gives way to spring, so new life begins to blossom in gardens, fields and farmyards all around us. Whether it's the new-born Easter lamb in the countryside, or, daffodils in our gardens, signs of new life aren't hard to find at Eastertime.

One of Jesus' key images of the Christian life is taken from the language of gardening and horticulture and it involves the theme of renewal: *"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* [John 12:24].

Here, in this simple agricultural truism, is a clear allusion to the path that Jesus was to take and the Path that we ought to follow. For Jesus, the path of death and resurrection. For us, the path of renewal - of dying to sin and being born anew in Jesus.

Without the death of Jesus there would be no resurrection. Without the cross there would be no forgiveness, freedom and fullness of life. Without Good Friday there can be no Easter Sunday.

Easter is not only about resurrection, it's about death followed by resurrection. And in the death and resurrection of Jesus we discover a new and better way of life; a way of life based on forgiveness and renewal. As we follow in Jesus' footsteps, the negative aspects of our lives are encouraged to wither and die only to be replaced with the fruit of the Holy Spirit - those positive qualities of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,

gentleness and self-control" [Galatians 5:22-23] that were such a central part of Jesus' life.

Through the cross we have been "*crucified with Christ*" [Galatians 2:20] and are "*dead to sin.*" [Romans 6:11]. Through the resurrection we are "*alive to God in Christ Jesus.*" [Romans 6:11]. The Christian Life isn't about striving to be good people in our own strength but dying to sin and rising with Jesus to renewed life, Easter Life, resurrection life - a life in which we are transformed in Christ's image. And as Jesus transforms us, as Easter people we go in His name to renew the world around us.

This Sunday past [1 March] I announced to the Congregation the death of our Former Session Clerk, Allan Joyce. As I write, I don't yet know details of Allan's Funeral Service. There will be opportunities in the days ahead to celebrate Allan's life and service. Simply, at this stage I want to recognise the great loss to his family and to the whole of St Mary's. Allan was a Man who very definitely led an Easter Life and spread the loving fragrance of His Risen Lord in all that he did. He will be sadly missed but his loving, wise, gracious influence will forever live on as an example to us all.

As I finish my Easter Letter, I want to highlight some exciting ways to celebrate Holy Week and Easter 2026, as well as some wonderful social activities.* May this sacred season be a time of blessing for you and all those whom you love.

Your Friend & Pastor: Rev Bryce Calder

* See page 21

If you need my help and support at any time, please remember to call me or send an e-mail. [Phone: 07401949831] [E-Mail: bcalder@churchofscotland.org.uk].

LENTEN PRAYER

The word LENT means SPRING. Very appropriate as LENT, in the Northern Hemisphere, falls annually in the Season of Spring.

Ecclesiastically, LENT is the name given to the 40 DAYS leading up to EASTER. It begins on ASH WEDNESDAY and ends on the evening of HOLY SATURDAY = the night before EASTER SUNDAY.

This Year, ASH WEDNESDAY was 18 FEBRUARY and HOLY SATURDAY will be 4 APRIL.

For those of you who can count quickly, you'll work out that LENT is really 46 days. The 40 DAYS of LENT comes from EXCLUDING the SUNDAYS - the SUNDAYS being special days in their own right.

LENT is associated BIBLICALLY with the STORY of JESUS 40 DAYS in the JUDEAN WILDERNESS preparing for HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY. In MATTHEW, LUKE and MARK, we discover that during HIS time in the JUDEAN WILDERNESS, preparing for HIS FORTHCOMING MINISTRY, JESUS experienced a SERIES of TEMPTATIONS.

LENT for us is a time, too, of PREPARATION - as we look to EASTER and the DEATH and RESURRECTION of JESUS.

Below is a short LENTEN PRAYER.

Lord, during this 40-day journey, create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Help me to fast from selfishness and feast on compassion, turning away from sin to follow you more closely. Strengthen my faith, guide my actions, and prepare my heart for the joy of Easter: AMEN

A message from Lesley Ewing

A Bit About Me and My Journey Towards Ministry

I live in Lanark with my husband Scott, our 2 daughters, Hannah (27) and Ailidh (22), and a very lively collection of pets: our dogs Rosie and Archie, and our cat Frank. Life in our house is rarely quiet, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

I'm originally from Wishaw, and I grew up in a family where serving the community was simply part of who we were. My mum, Kate, and my dad, Bobby, were both police officers, and from them I learned the importance of compassion, resilience and showing up for people when it matters most. My sister now lives in Yorkshire with her husband Ryan and their dog Jimmy, whom I proudly refer to as my doggy nephew.

My Calling

I currently work full-time as a youth and children's worker with Carlisle and Law Church of Scotland, which is a role I absolutely love. Walking alongside young people and families in their faith journeys, both within our congregation and the wider community, is a genuine privilege and something that continually shapes and challenges me.

Alongside working full-time, I study part-time with HTC online, and I'm on placement with all of you lovely folk at St Mary's. You have all been incredibly supportive and encouraging. It's a busy season of life, but one that I know is preparing me well for what lies ahead.

As you all know, I am a candidate for ministry, and, God willing, I'm set to begin my probation in August 2026.

This next step feels both exciting and humbling, and I'm grateful for all the experiences and people who have helped me get to this point.



Life Outside Church

When I'm not working or studying, you'll usually find me in the kitchen cooking or baking for my family and friends. I love singing, watching films, especially a good crime drama, and, like many of the young people I work with, I do enjoy a bit of TikTok scrolling.

What Matters to Me

At the heart of everything I do is a love for people and a desire to create spaces where everyone feels welcome, valued and able to explore faith honestly. My journey into ministry hasn't been a straight line, but it has been shaped by family, church, community and a deep sense of God's calling. As I look ahead to probation and, in time, ordained ministry, I do so with gratitude, hope and a real sense of purpose. I'm excited to see where God leads next.

Thank you for being part of my journey,
Lesley x

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

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

Wednesday 17 December was a morning with a difference - we hosted a Christmas Lunch, which was enjoyed by all. A big thank you must go to Ian Beattie and Robert Neilson who were the cooks. Along with many of our usual volunteer staff we were able deliver soup, a turkey dinner and tea, coffee and treats to over 50 people.

We always have a lot of chat going on and on a recent Wednesday morning an Apple watch told us that we were in a loud environment and had reached 100 decibels!

We will be taking a 2 week break over Easter.
No treats on 8 and 15 April.



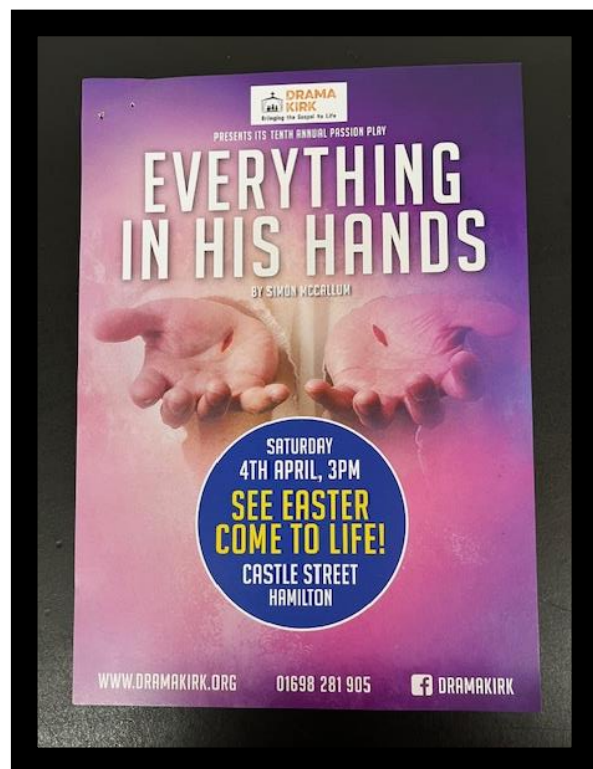
Becoming A Member at St Mary's

If anyone would like to become a Member of St Mary's Parish Church, or find out what this means, please contact Rev Bryce Calder - either by phone or email. Bryce will be happy to help you.

Home Phone: 01692 328665

Mobile: 07401949831

Email: BCalder@churchofscotland.org.uk



St Mary's Outreach Team

Sharing the Christmas message with our community

Christmas Gift Service

There was an excellent response from the congregation at the Gift Service. Four car loads of gifts were donated to Motherwell District Women's Aid for distribution to families. There was also enough toys to stock the charity's family refuges for the coming year.

The retiring offering raised £600 in cash for Motherwell Foodbank. This took the support for the Foodbank in 2025 to £2,334 in cash and an estimated £1,600 in food.

Thank you to everyone who donated.

Wednesday Christmas Lunch

The regular clientele who enjoy the fellowship at the Wednesday Coffee Morning received an 'upgrade' to a Christmas lunch. 55 people attended, including non-members. The turkey lunch, festive music, and quiz provided an ideal stimulus to the pre-Christmas mood.

The event was driven by Isabel Johnstone, supported by chefs Ian Beattie and Robert Neilson, and a large team of servers. Thank you to all who helped.

Reachout

Seven church members volunteer at Reach Out, a charity based at North Motherwell Parish Church, to provide a meal for families and pensioners in need.

Our volunteers were instrumental in laying on a hugely successful Christmas party.

Street Project

During these cold winter months we have provided hot drinks/food and warm clothing to those in need. We also took the opportunity to distribute a small Christmas gift.

While these tangible items are gratefully received, it is the willingness of the team to commit to regular engagement, listening to and empathising with the folk we meet that is perhaps appreciated the most. It demonstrates the Christmas spirit in action. "You make my day" said one of our friends on a cold December night.

To continue to fund this work, we had a retiring offering after church in February. This raised the excellent sum of £545 which will hopefully be matched by a Presbytery grant, ensuring this mission continues in the year ahead.

Thank you to the congregation for your support.

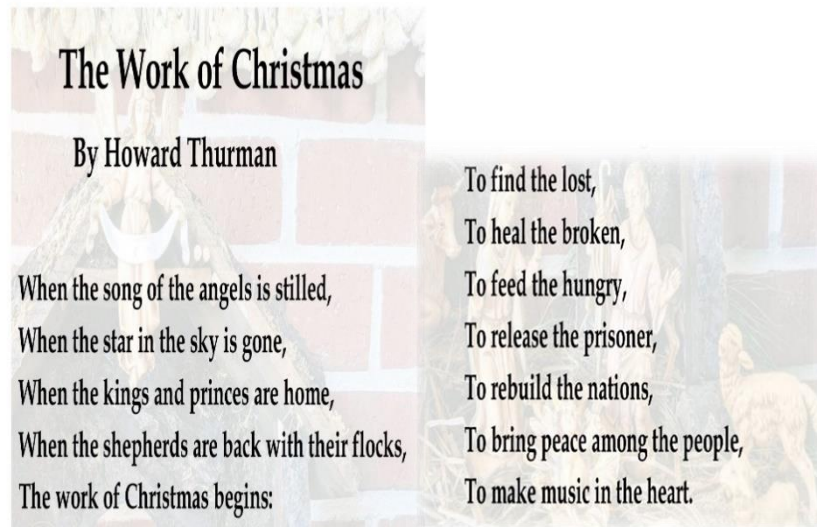
Avondale Care Home Services

It was lovely to share the Christmas message with the residents. Such was the enthusiasm of a few of the residents to sing the carols, they started singing as Janette played the introduction to each one on the keyboard, leaving the rest of us playing catch-up!

The Christmas cards prepared by the Junior Church and Brownies were very much appreciated too.

Now, the work of Christmas begins.

We are blessed to be able to enjoy Christmas, but in the words of Lesley Ewing from the pulpit in December, Christmas isn't meant to stay in the Church or be packed away with the decorations. Christmas goes with us into our conversations, our choices, our kindness. Christmas becomes the way we live.



EVENTS TEAM

On 1 April St Mary's are hosting a Holy Week service. There will be tea, coffee and home baking after the service.

Easter Sunday earlier service will be at 09.30 with breakfast rolls done as a cafe style service prior to the normal service at 11.00.

The 11 May is the annual Church Quiz. We welcome teams of 4 to compete against each other. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Kindest regards,

Kristeen Kennedy

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team are gradually establishing visits to members of our congregation. We would like to thank elders and church members who have made us aware of members who would benefit from visits but also updates on those of our congregation who are now in care homes. We are already seeing the benefit these visits are having. Please note the new Pew Cards that can be used to refer people to us or the Minister. This referral information will be treated in confidence. We also now have a friendship group card that we will leave with some of the people we visit to enable families to be aware that a visit has been made and who it was that visited. Members of the group and the congregation recently received training from Alzheimer's Scotland which was well received and will support us in our visits. The plan is to run another session in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact any member of the team if you know of someone who would benefit from a visit in addition to their elders visit. We currently are a small team and if there is anyone who would like to join the Pastoral Care Group please get in touch.

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



GUILD

As I come to the end of my 2 year term as Guild President, I would like to thank Vice President Eleanor and Secretary Linda for their hard work and support during my time in office. The Committee as always are very supportive and do everything to make Guild evenings enjoyable for all.

In December we had a most enjoyable musical evening: Christmas by Candlelight, when along with the Men's Fellowship we were entertained by members of our church. This was an evening to fund-raise for our Guild Project: Crossreach - Playful Beginnings. Sunflower Garden in Edinburgh and Daisy Chain in Glasgow provide much needed support for vulnerable children and their families. We were delighted to fill little Christmas stockings with donations which when added to other fundraising totalled £600.

We started our session in January with a joint evening with the Men's Fellowship. Our Speaker was Colin Russell, who gave a very interesting talk on his duties at the late Queen's Funeral and the Coronation of King Charles. He brought his uniform, and handed it round, everyone was impressed with the intricate detail of the embroidery and the weight of his jacket.

Our second meeting in January was a talk by Derek Todd from Lanarkshire Deaf Hub Derek is deaf but spoke very well about all the things available for young people and older ones in the Deaf Hub.

The entertainment for our Scottish Evening was provided by Raymond Tulips Raymond is always welcome at the Guild with his selection of Scottish Songs and then the

ladies enjoyed Potato Scones and Pancakes with their tea.

We still have an evening with Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, our AGM and an Evening of Easter Reflection to look forward to.

Our outing this year is on Monday 11 May to Holyrood House in Edinburgh and then for High Tea. It's always an enjoyable day and we hope the weather will be kind to us.

At the AGM we will be electing a new president and vice president and our minister Rev Bryce Calder is coming along to present long service certificates. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or helping with any of the other roles we would be interested in hearing from you.

Myra Philip
Guild President

Ladies of the Guild enjoying their Christmas meal at the Moorings



Men's Fellowship
1965 - 2025
60 Years of Fellowship

My report in the Christmas Magazine, was only able to include the first 3 meetings of our session, due to the copy deadline for printing the magazine.

On 17 November, Ian McPherson made a welcome return to the Fellowship. With the title of his illustrated talk "**#nosingleuseglass**" he spoke about the amount of waste in the beer wine and spirits industry, where millions of single use glass bottles were discarded every year, when empty. The single use technology, now created to reduce wastage, is simply a glass container, within a robust plastic frame. This allows beer, wines and spirits to be delivered to hotels, bars and restaurants. Once emptied, the container is collected and returned to the drink manufacturer for cleaning and refilling.

On Monday 8 December we had an additional meeting. **Christmas by Candlelight**. This was joint with the Guild. It was an idea from Eleanor & William Simpson, who organised the evening. As well as being an evening of musical entertainment, fun and Fellowship, the evening also raised in excess of £500 for the 2025 - 2026 Guild Project.

Our final meeting of 2025, on 15 December, was our **Christmas Quiz**. It was an entertaining evening, with the quiz questions set by our Secretary Alan Joyce. The winning Team comprised, Alasdair Blackwood, Robert Neilson and Ronald Mackie.

On the subject of winning. For the second year in succession, the Fellowship won first prize in the Boy's Brigade Christmas Tree Challenge. Being a **Silver Eco Congregation**, our tree and decorations have been

recycled for use in 2026. The model railway was boxed, and donated to the December Gift Service. Plans for our 2026 display, **minus** a Model Railway, but including a ? are underway.

On 5 January, once again we had a joint meeting with the Guild. **Royal Duties** was the subject. The illustrated talk was given by Colin Russell, who acts as an Officer at Arms. Their duties were in the main, attending state ceremonies in Scotland. He spoke at length about the uniform that they wear, and passed around his uniform that he wears on such occasions. He along with his colleagues played an active part in the funeral of the late Queen, attending the ceremonies both in Edinburgh and Landon. On Monday 19 January, Alan Clark and colleague Jimmy Orr spoke about the work of **Avondale Radio**. It is based in Strathaven and is "*In the Community for the Community*". He had set up for us a mini recording studio. Some members of the Fellowship were then interviewed, with the theme being "*My favourite song*" since the meeting, some of the interviews have been broadcast on Avondale Radio on a Sunday afternoon, in the programme hosted by Alan and Jimmy.

Our first meeting in February was to have been **Panto Time**. However, a technical hitch with the planned audio visual presentation, resulted in a "live" pantomime, as Alan Joyce and our speaker Scott Fleming, tried unsuccessfully to coax life in to the audio visual presentation. However in the true tradition of "The Show Must Go On" Alan interviewed Scott about his background and the shows that he has performed in. Including a Pantomime on a Christmas Cruise ship.

At our meeting on 16 February, we heard from our youngest speaker of the Session, Fraser Neilson. Speaking about **My Time at the RYLA**, (Rotary Youth Leadership

Awards). Fraser spoke about his time spent with other young people from across Scotland, at their base in rural Dumfries & Galloway. They were divided in to small groups, with a Rotarian overseeing their progress. There were a number of group activates to choose from. They were designed to help - Problem Solving/Physical Challenges/Team Building. The overall aim being to help young people enhance, and develop their Self Confidence and Leadership Skills. Some of the challenges they participated in, were not for the faint hearted. However, the week proved to be very rewarding, with strong and lasting friendships made with a number of the other attendees.

As I write this Epistle, we only have another 2 meetings of the Fellowship. Monday 2 March will be our first **Games Night**. Our final meeting, on 16 March will be our **AGM**, following which, with the intriguing title of **2 + 2**, we will be entertained by Stuart McCue Dick.

Attendances have held up well throughout the session. Four of our regular, long standing members, have been unable to be present at our meetings, for different health challenges. We wish them all a speedy recovery. We have been lucky to have 3 new members join the Fellowship during the session. We welcome them all, and hope that they find their time with us fulfilling.....and so ends our **first 60 Years of Fellowship**.

Howard Rennie
President



Y-ZONE

The Y-Zone continue to meet each Sunday and enjoy taking part in supporting special events within the church. With 20 young people, 3 youth leaders and 3 Adult (young at heart) leaders we are delighted to be growing in numbers. Since our last update we enjoyed being part of a special event hosted by the Guild. Christmas by Candlelight. A small group of our young ones helped entertain the audience with a dance/clap routine - and with the positive feedback we think all the practice was worth it! We were also delighted to be a part of the BB's annual Christmas tree competition. It was extra exciting for us as our tree made out of recycled bottles received a winning prize. Huge thanks to Heather Greenhorn for her creativity and time. We also enjoyed delivering the annual pantomime which was written by the hugely talented script writer Ian Graham - Ian has written and directed countless pantomimes over their years and this years did not disappoint. The evening was also made possible by the talent that is Joe Bradshaw who gives of his time willingly to add sound effects and volume to the production. A HUGE thanks to both. We have since entered in to our new session with our Sunday meetings with bible themed challenges, games, dragon's den, team building and quizzes and look forward to a number of Saturday Night events (details to follow). The fun fellowship is only possible with thanks to our amazing young people, who while juggling school exams, sports clubs, dancing, swimming, music, Boys Brigade and Guiding, they always give an amazing amount of time, effort and enthusiasm to the Y-Zone, for which we are hugely thankful. Looking forward to the year ahead 😊
Diane, Elaine and Heather

2025-26 Session Update...

This year we have seen an increase in our Company Section numbers due to another big 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 35 on a Friday night.

In addition to preparing for competitions such as first aid, bible knowledge, drill, physical challenge and our usual mix of Friday night activities we also managed to try out ice-free curling in the Avon Hall during the Winter Olympics, watch the Scotland U21 rugby world cup and made a lot of pancakes (some gooier than others!) in advance of pancake day!!

COMPETITIONS

At the time of writing in early March we have had 8 battalion competitions so far this session - Swimming Gala (2nd Place), Senior 5-a-side (2nd Place), Junior 5-a-side (4th Place), Quiz (3rd Place) and Cross Country (2nd overall, with our Jamie Reid winning the senior race) 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 and Athletics before the end of the session.

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 (£3500!!), 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.

For the 4th year of the festival we were very impressed with the creativity and originality of the entries.

You could even say that the entries were very informative - we now know the choir like cookies with their blue cookie monster

tree, that guild members manage to pack a lot of things into their handbags (they should be your go to in the event of any emergency!), what treats you can expect at the Wednesday Coffee and what Santa gets up to when he arrives in Motherwell thanks to the Knowetop tree.

The trees had been very carefully curated and all could have been worthy winners.

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.

In 3rd place with their recycled bottle tree was the Y Zone.

In 2nd place with their Angels tree was the Toddlers.

And in 1st place, winning for a second year in a row with their tree celebrating their 60th Anniversary - The Men's Fellowship.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took part - you should start thinking about your Christmas 2026 entry!

PRESIDENTS BADGES

This year we have 4 boys who will gain their President's Badge - Adam Bradshaw, Scott Campbell, Connor Fleck and Mitchell McClair. 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 4 young men who are in the final stages of their work towards the King's Badge: Euan Cargill, Alistair Crombie, Zack Fleming and Kyle Rankin.

The boys have been a support 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 and will do so again this year as this article goes to print!

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

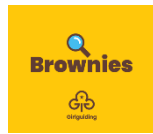
The Battalion Review will take place this year on Friday 8 May and will be hosted in St Mary's so watch this space for more information. Parents and friends of the Battalion are welcome to come along.

BB CAMP 2026

During November we held our Camp 2025 film night where the boys got to see the highlights of hundreds of hours of footage taken at Camp. Lots of happy recollections and comedy moments and it certainly put everyone in the mood for Camp 2026. A big thank you to officer Greg Weir for producing the film

Camp 2026 was booked long ago and was launched to the boys after the film premier - we are all organised to go back to Aviemore at the end of June....detailed planning is now in progress!

Captain Stewart Maxwell



6th Brownies

The Brownies finished off 2025 with their **Christmas Party** and an exciting visit to **Vue Cinema** with all the other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in St Mary's!



Badge work is also well underway for this session. The **Craft Badge** has involved making 3D pictures, making sweet crafts, which included very nice fruit faces and even nicer marshmallow 'top hats'! As we write we are 'enjoying' a bit of *cross stitch*, the leaders maybe enjoying a bit more than the Girls, although there have been a number of knots encountered, for the leaders to deal with!



The Brownies started back in their new session in January and it's been 'jam packed', the fun has not stopped! A number of the Girls completed their **Promise Badge**. Both the Promise and Brownie Guide Law were learned and recited, and the Girls proudly received their badges!



The middle of February saw the Girls head off to **Brownie Pack Holiday!** We stayed at Gowanpark, our Brownie and Guide Holiday Cottage, not too far away but far enough away for the Girls to think it is an exciting adventure! The girls arrived on Friday evening and stayed through until Sunday afternoon, and a fabulous time was had by all! This year's theme, given we were away over Valentine's Day, was "*The Kind Hearted Club*", and the girls *stitched their own love hearts, baked love heart shaped shortbread, made friendship bracelets*, to name but a few things, and had a special showing of *Lilo & Stitch!*



As would be normal tradition, Friday night also saw some late midnight feasts, but with some fresh air on the Saturday, sausages and marshmallows on the open fire, and fun in the woods, everyone was very early to bed on Saturday night.....a first for the Guiders!



The Girls finished February with **Thinking Day** on Sunday 22 February, joining all the St Mary's Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Trefoil to celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day! They joined in a lovely service with Lesley Ewing and members of St Mary's Parish Church, celebrating the theme of 'Friendship and Connection'!



Thank you for reading, and we look forward to updating you on the rest of this session in the next edition of the magazine!

Brownies and Leaders of the 6th Motherwell Brownies



6th Guides

The end of the year was busy in the run up to Christmas. This year our Christmas Tree entry to the Boys Brigade Competition was created from an old lightweight tent, recreating a campfire scene, with the toasting of marshmallows.



The girls also donated Christmas presents for named children as part of the Secret Santa Toy Appeal in partnership with Rotary.

On a couple of Tuesday evenings in the run up to Christmas the girls were able to make Christmas decorations courtesy of the skills of Sarah Reilly who introduced the girls to the use of sewing machines.

The girls and leaders thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the Vue Cinema in Hamilton for a private viewing of Zootropolis 2 along with our Rainbows and Brownies. Great fun on a very, very wet Sunday afternoon.



We also celebrated Robert Burns over a few evenings, listening to a story of his life, creating our own tartan and decorating gingerbread biscuits.



We were also proud of all the girls who took part in celebrating 100 years of Thinking Day and delighted that former members of Girlguiding in the church were able to renew their Promise along with us.

Junior Church

Junior Church Update - Easter 2026

Our children in Junior Church were delighted to be part of the special December services. Our highlight was obviously our annual Nativity play with the children presenting the Christmas story in verse and song. It was a very special morning.



As we move into a new season at Junior Church, we want to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to Barbara, who has stepped down from her role on the team. Barbara has been a steady, joyful presence for many years, and her kindness, creativity, and gentle encouragement have shaped so many of our children's experiences. She will be sadly missed, and we send her our love and gratitude.

Superheroes and the Power of Kindness

This term our theme has been Superheroes and the Power of Kindness. We've been exploring how small acts of kindness can have a big impact—sometimes even bigger than the superpowers in the movies!

The children have enjoyed completing Kindness Bingo challenges, creating their very own superheroes and capes, and some of the older children used technology to make their own videos.

A Very Special Visitor

We were thrilled to welcome Marley, a guide dog in training, as our special guest on 1st February. Marley captivated everyone with his calm nature and wagging tail, and the children learned about the important job guide dogs do and the kindness involved in caring for others.



Junior Church Logo Competition

Exciting news! We have launched a competition with our children to design a brand-new Junior Church logo. Entry sheets have been distributed, and we'd love children to hand their designs back in over the next few weeks.

Watch this space—you might just see your artwork representing Junior Church!



Show the Love - Green Christian

As part of the "Show the Love" initiative, the children have been thinking about God's creation and the things they want to protect. Each child added some green items to the large heart display, symbolising their love and care for the natural world. It has been a lovely reminder of our shared responsibility for the planet.



Church Concert

We have been busy rehearsing for the church concert on 14 March. The children are working hard, and we can't wait for you to see and hear what they've been preparing.

Mothering Sunday Crafts

Junior Church has been buzzing with creativity as we get ready for Mothering Sunday. On Sunday 15 March we will be inviting all our mums, grans and aunties to join us at this special morning in church and in the hall for crafts, stories and treats. Expect something heartfelt, handmade, and full of love.

The Eco Committee Update

The Eco Committee met in January 2026 and we are now aiming for Gold! We'll be working with the congregation to make sure that decisions made in St Mary's always consider the environment. We're developing an environmental strategy and a long term action plan. As part of this, we'll be encouraging the congregation to find ways to reduce your own impact on the environment, and to get involved in projects to support biodiversity and wildlife, as well as combating environmental damage and building a more sustainable future.

We're excited to share some of the Eco Awareness Activities we'll be taking part in this year - please do share these with your organisations, groups and friends and let us know what you're doing!

Eco Awareness & Activities 2026

www.ecocongregationscotland.org

Month	Eco Event	Website	Suggested Activity for all organisations, groups and friends
March	Global Recycling Day Wednesday 18 th March 2026	www.globalrecyclingday.com	Church-wide Recycling – How can we do it better? We'd love to hear your ideas!
	The Great British Spring Clean – LITTER Friday 13 th – Sunday 29 th March 2026	Great British Spring Clean Keep Britain Tidy	Raise awareness of litter issues and prevention. You could arrange a litter pick! Please let us know if you or your organisation are planning to do a litter pick and we'll promote what you're doing!
	Earth Hour Saturday 28 th March 2026, 8.30 – 9.30pm	www.earthhour.org	On earth hour, we're asking the congregation to switch your lights off for one hour to show your support for our planet.

Month	Eco Event	Website	Suggested Activity for all organisations, groups and friends
April	Stop Food Waste Day Wednesday 29 th April	www.stopfoodwasteday.com	There will be information on the Eco Committee notice board about what we can all do to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce & prevent waste • Repurpose & redistribute surplus food. <p>We'll also be encouraging another Food Bank Drive.</p>
May	World Bee Day Wednesday 20 th May	International Event Day https://internationaleventday.com > event > world-bee-day	Junior Church will be taking part in activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating bee/insect hotels from eco materials, to be used on church grounds and at home. • Scattering wildflowers seeds
June	Bike Week – 9 th – 15 th June	www.cyclinguk.org	Alan Joyce will visit the Y-Zone to talk about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits • Bike maintenance • His adventures <p>We'll be promoting Greener Travel!</p>



ST MARY'S GOT T★LENT

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH



7PM

TICKETS £5



FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

BEFORE EASTER

Saturday	14 March	7 pm	St Mary's Got Talent
	16-17 March 19-21 March		Ups and Downs Annual Concert
Tuesday	24 March	1 pm - 3.30 pm	St Mary's Tea Dance
Sunday	29 March	CLOCKS GO FORWARD	

EASTER

Sunday	29 March	11 am	Palm Sunday at St Mary's
Tuesday	31 March	7 pm	Dalziel High School Spring Concert at St Mary's
Wednesday	1 April		Dalziel High School Easter Service at St Mary's
Wednesday	1 April	7 pm	Holy Week Service at St Mary's
Thursday	2 April	7 pm	Communion Service at Motherwell North & Craigneuk
Friday	3 April	7 pm	Good Friday Service at St Margaret's
Sunday	5 April	9.30 am	Easter Sunday Café-style breakfast and Worship at St Mary's
Sunday	5 April	11 am	Easter Sunday Service at St Mary's

FLOWER LIST

APRIL

- 5th Mrs E Calder
Mr A Craig
- 12th Mrs H Graham
Mrs E Currie
- 19th Mrs E Taylor/
Mrs J Findlay
Mrs E Simpson
Mrs E Scott
- 26th Mrs L Kelly
Mrs A Johnstone
Mrs J Knox

MAY

- 3rd Mr & Mrs Malcolm
Mrs J McPherson
- 10th Mrs J Conquer
Mrs C Allan
- 17th Mrs S Brown
Mrs J Westwood
- 24th Mrs A Pearce
- 31st Mrs Corbett

JUNE

- 7th Mrs C Anderson
- 14th Mrs I Scott
- 21st Mrs F Hannah



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>

St Mary's Parish Church, Avon Street, Motherwell, ML1 3AB

Children's Activity

Make an Easter Garden. Anything from a simple plant pot to something bigger. Usually, an Easter garden includes a hill with 3 crosses made from twigs. Possibly a tomb with a stone in front. There could also be a small path made of stones with some moss as grass. The picture below may give you an idea.



The cross is the most recognisable symbol of Easter. Can you find a few pictures of crosses in this magazine. Have a look around the church too and see how many you can find.

Check out the shape of our church.

