

Tidings



December 2019
Christmas

MINISTER

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Dear friends,

I recently received a call from Hamilton College, asking if I might like to join the Chaplaincy team, and especially in a role to support the staff. I was also asked if I might be willing to lead a lesson or two for the Religious Education class. Of course, I accepted. The school is within our Parish and I have been developing links there for some time. What I did not expect was that the first topic might be “Judgement: Heaven and Hell”!

Well, I like a challenge! We started by discussing ancient views on what the afterlife might be like, before describing some of our more modern ideas and how they had developed. We then looked at how diversity in a group can have an affect on views. Our culture, religious upbringing, exposure to philosophies, and even personality, can have a bearing on how strongly we hold a range of beliefs. Throughout, and finally, we discussed the importance of judgement in life, from a court of law through to the X-Factor. We included concepts of leniency, ransom, pardon, fines, reparation, honour, capital punishment, and, most importantly to the Christian faith, grace.

The reality of our own sense of justice and judgement hinges on so many of these factors and more. It’s common to hear the phrase “that’s not fair”, from adult and child alike. Yet, we know that life often does not seem fair. Having a friend, confidante, or advocate can help a little. But, in the final analysis, we rarely have all the facts at our disposal; we rarely understand all the thoughts and motivations that influence people’s actions; we sometimes don’t even understand our own response to things. We just know that something doesn’t feel right, or just, or true. It’s a gut thing, borne of experience and environment. It also varies from person to person.

Perhaps because there is so much variation in understanding and behaviour, that is where grace is even more necessary. Grace to understand. Grace to be tolerant. Grace to turn the other cheek. Grace to rest in God’s presence, even when we do not understand. Grace to accept God’s grace for us, in this life and the next. That might not always feel fair, but it is certainly gracious. May God be gracious to us all.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



What's On

November

Sunday 24 10.45am Sacrament of Holy Communion
3.00pm Woodburn Court

December

Sunday 01 *First Sunday in Advent*
10.45am Morning Worship
4.00pm Joint Sacrament of Holy Communion at URC

Friday 06 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight
(in Church - teas/coffees and goodies afterwards in the Halls)

Sunday 08 *Second Sunday in Advent*
10.45am Lessons and Carols & Christmas Lunch

Sunday 15 *Third Sunday in Advent*
10.45am Nativity & Christmas Pie Sunday

Sunday 22 *Fourth Sunday in Advent*
10.45am Family Service - Christmas Jumper
3.00pm Woodburn Court

Tuesday 24 3.00pm Afternoon Family Service
11.15pm Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25 10.45am Christmas Family Service

Sunday 29 10.45am Family Service
3.00pm Woodburn Court

January

Sunday 05 10.45am Morning Worship
Saturday 11 Elders' Conference

Sunday 12 10.45am Morning Worship
Tuesday 14 7.00pm Session Meeting

Sunday 19 10.45am Morning Worship
Sunday 26 10.45am Morning Worship
3.00pm Woodburn Court

February

Sunday 02 10.45am Morning Worship
Lunch with Burns

Sunday 09 10.45am Morning Worship

Sunday 16 10.45am Morning Worship

Sunday 23 10.45am Morning Worship
3.00pm Woodburn Court



Finance and Gift Aid

No doubt you will have been aware of the work in the halls to upgrade the heating system. This will hopefully make the rooms much more comfortable for all organisations using them. The funding for this project came from the Fabric fund. The General Trustees held some of this fund from the sale of redundant buildings however, this account has now been closed and all our funds are held locally.

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to thank the counting team of Ian, Armour, Jim and Craig. We are indebted to them for appearing every Monday morning to count and bank our offerings. When the Royal Bank on Cadzow Street closed they had to make their way down to the new bank at the cinema. The new systems the bank uses are challenging to say the least but they have taken it all in their stride – thank you gentlemen.

I will soon be submitting our claim for Gift Aid. Can you please remember to tell me if you have moved house during the year, have stopped paying tax or there has been a change in your circumstances which might affect the claim.

Can I once again thank each and every member of the congregation for your financial support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Marilyn Henderson



A New Star

“A New Star” is Drama Kirk’s nativity for 2019. It presents the nativity from the perspective of the stars. There is a new star in the sky who doesn’t know what Christmas is (although he has heard about selection boxes). A more experienced star decides to take him in hand and explain what is important about Christmas and why it is celebrated. But just who does this old star turn out to be? What does the new star find out about Christmas? And does he get his selection box?! Join us to find out the answers!

This year we are delighted to be part of the Reindeer Parade again on 7th December at 12.30pm. This is an important part of Drama Kirk’s outreach work into our local community as it provides a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with young families alongside secular celebrations. Our Business Improvement District, who organise the parade, have been extremely supportive of working in partnership with the churches and are looking forward to having us as part of the parade.

From the parade, we head up to Wellhall Care Home where we will perform for the residents. The following weekend we have a new venue, Clyde Valley Farm Park at Crossford. The farm park offers a lovely family package of Christmas entertainment, including traditional games, a train ride, some crafts and a visit to Santa. It is a privilege to share the news of Jesus’ birth as part of this.

Chris McLeish, a professional actor who joined the cast of The People’s Passion as John, will play the New Star and we look forward to welcoming him back. HOPC’s own Jim Henderson will play the Old Star, giving us the benefit of his worldly wisdom! Many others from our own congregation and others are involved in bringing this important story to life. Please give them your support – and bear a thought for Marilyn as she designs costumes that light up!



Company Section

We held our Enrolment Service and Company Section Presentation of Awards on Sunday 22 September 2019. As always we are very grateful to the Minister in his capacity as Company Chaplain for conducting a very meaningful Service and Act of Dedication for the boys and officers. Thanks are due also to Graham Horne for preparing and presenting a thoughtful and memorable Children's Address. If you missed it then it's well worth a look on the Church's website.



The following awards were presented:

James Alston Dykes Indian Challenge Medal for General Efficiency

The medal is awarded based on the points awarded to the boys throughout the year for attendance on Company nights and at Parades, for their participation in all of the Battalion competitions and events, and for their general conduct. It requires huge commitment and hard work throughout the full session. Continuing on from where he left last year, when he shared the award with his brother Colin the winner this years was:

EUAN DAVIDSON

John Allan Award for the Most Improved Boy

The John Allan Award for the Most Improved Boy (or as the officers prefer to call it - "the boy who was slightly less annoying than last year") is also assessed looking at points gained during the year in comparison to the year before. This year's winner was very well deserved. He made a very significant contribution to the Company, most notably in participating in all of the Battalion Sports events that led to us sharing with the 2nd Hamilton the Cunningham Memorial Battalion Sports Trophy. It is the first time the 1st Hamilton's name appears on the Trophy which is great credit to all the boys who took part, adding their own chapter to the Company's history.

This year the most improved boy was:

CAMERON MCINTOSH

Bible awards

The Bible awards are far more straightforward. Each year the Battalion has its Bible competition with the boys split into junior and senior age groups. They answer questions on Old and New Testament passages. The marks from the Bible competition are then used for our own awards. This year the junior competition was very close with all of the boys doing exceptionally well – but the award went to:

LEWIS CHISHOLM

All of the seniors also did well.

Again it was close but this year's award went to:

EUAN BAIRD

Mr and Mrs A Harley Squad Challenge Trophy

The Mr and Mrs A Harley Squad Challenge Trophy for the Best Squad is awarded by adding up the points for each boy and then dividing them to reach an average mark across the squad

The winners of the Best Squad were Squad One:

**EUAN BAIRD
CAMERON MCINTOSH
LEWIS CHISHOLM**





PRESIDENT'S BADGE

We had one further and very important presentation to make.

This year another of our senior boys completed his President's Badge. The President's Badge is the second highest award in The Boys' Brigade. The Company Section badgework programme is divided across different areas: Community, Recreation and Skills – all underpinned by Christian Faith

Each year the boys work their way through the different levels. To gain their President's Badges they have to achieve Level 4 in each of the different areas. They must attend a Battalion Training Course to build leadership skills. They must show commitment and good conduct within the Company, and finally, they have to be recommended for the award by the Company Captain.

The President's Badge is not achieved easily. It is not designed to be. It requires hard work, commitment, dedication and perseverance. It also requires guts and determination.

These qualities have been shown for years by the young man in question, and especially when we were out on this year's Battalion Expedition weekend. Early in the hike, while crossing a burn, he sprained his ankle pretty badly. He knew there was a long and hard day ahead. He could have taken the easy option and hobbled back to the campsite. But that was not his - or the 1st Hamilton's - way. Instead he strapped his ankle and continued with the next stage of the hike, which involved climbing the steepest of the hills on the route at just under 2000 feet, and then going on to walk the remaining 10 – 15 miles. Guts and determination – or maybe he's just a bit daft. Probably a combination of all three !

In achieving his President's Badge he has reached a very significant milestone in his BB life, and it now enables him to embark on the work for his Queen's Badge

To present the award we wanted to find someone in whose life The Boys' Brigade has played a very significant part, not only in having served in Brigade himself, but also within his family. Over the years, despite being hugely supportive of his family and the Company, work commitments meant that he had missed out on many of the Company Services and Presentations of Awards.

Fortunately not again – and there was no one better to make the presentation than his dad, Iain Davidson.

The very well deserved recipient of his President's Badge

EUAN DAVIDSON

The new session is now well underway. The boys are already heavily involved with badgework and preparing for Battalion competitions. More of that in due course.....

Alistair Buttery
Captain

Sunday Live

Following the summer break, our new session is well underway and the children are enjoying a variety of crafts and activities and are collecting items for their reverse Advent Calendar. With Christmas not too far off, rehearsals for the nativity are now in full swing under the watchful eye of Liz. On Sunday 15 December we're looking forward to performing our nativity in the Church and then over to 'The North' Hall for Christmas Pie Sunday. All going well we may even manage a Christmas Party on Sunday 22 December!!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Sunday Live Team

Anchor Boys

The session is well under way and the boys are having lots of fun.

We have welcomed back Kalan, Kyle, Max and Nolan and are delighted to be joined by our newest member Evan, who joined after the school October holiday.

The next few weeks will be a busy time with Halloween fun and then Christmas crafts, games and a party.

All boys in primary classes 1 to 3 and who are aged 5 to 7 are invited to join us on Wednesdays at 5.30pm.



Nanette McLean
Leader in charge

Junior Section

The new session is well underway, and we are delighted to welcome Gregory Blackman, Elliott Dickson & Blair McIntosh who have all joined us from the Anchor Boys.

We also welcome Euan Davidson who is doing his Company Service with us, as part of the work required for his Queens Badge.

The Annual competitions have already started, the first of which was the Cross Country in which Stuart Davidson represented us.

This session the boys have started a project, under the guidance of Graham Horne. The boys are building a Bug Hotel using logs, wooden pallets, bricks, leaves etc. This is going extremely well, and is already "under construction" in the graveyard.

Next on the agenda will be an outing to the Ten Pin Bowling with the Company Section.

A warm invitation is extended to all boys between 8 - 11 to join us on Wednesday evenings between 6.30 & 7.45.

Alan Brown
Leader in charge



Brownies

We started back in September with a few girls turning 11, which is Guide age, over the summer holidays so have decided to run our current pack as brownie/guides and welcome Andrea and Gillian Davidson along to help with this as they have Girl guide experience .

If anyone knows of any girl who is 7-10years Brownies or 10years plus guides, please say to them to come along on a Tuesday evening

We are holding our annual Halloween party this Tuesday 29th October so hopefully the girls will enjoy it as they took part in the planning of it.

We are planning a visit to Motherwell civic theatre at end of November to see the annual pantomime Beauty and the Beast .

We are still awaiting ideas from the girls as what they want to do at Christmas possible party/bowling/movie night.



Brownie/Guide Leaders

Saffronhall Singers

It was great to welcome everyone back at the beginning of October and, because we started a bit later than usual, we began right away to work on our Christmas music. This year, we have two engagements in December, one at Bothwell Castle Golf Club on Sunday 1st December and our own Carols by Candlelight in the church on Friday 6th December at 7.30 pm. Once again, this is a fundraising venture to support church funds, run in conjunction with the Fellowship Committee and Betty's Tea committee. We are really grateful to everyone who helps make this a joyful start to the festive season.



We were delighted to welcome one new member into the alto section this session, but very sorry to lose one of our sopranos, Isobel Neilson, who has been a member since very early on. We wish her well. Our numbers remain very healthy and attendance has been excellent so far.

Our final meeting of 2019 will be on Monday 9th December (with some festive goodies) and we will recommence on Monday 6th January 2020 at the usual time. In the meantime, best wishes to everyone in the congregation for a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Campbell Barr



Prayer

God of all grace,

forgive us when our sense of justice

overtakes the need for grace.

Grant us grace to meet the trials of life,

and grace to be humble in the successes.

Help us to accept your grace to us and others,

even when we feel it might not be deserved.

For grace is grace

and you are gracious.

Amen.

Choir

Choir continue to meet each Wednesday evening when we have a busy time covering Introits and Anthems generally over a five week period of planning. This does involve a big commitment from all the sections and I appreciate their attendance particularly as we come into the winter months. With four anthem books and a hymnary to transport, music cases, in various forms, can be weighty!!



During the past months we have had changing circumstances in our group.

Robert Buttery died in August, and had 75 years of involvement in choirs in Churches in Cleland from 1944, through to Auchingramont in 1965 and then into The Old Parish. Bob possessed the now rare talent of reading by solfa, and this saw him diligently work through, in pencil, every new piece helping him sing his music accurately in any key. A wonderful skill, which allowed his beautiful tenor voice to sing out on a Sunday morning. He was always a willing and competent singer to take on a solo part at any time. Bob found immense pleasure in singing, and gave sterling service to Choir over many many years. On behalf of Choir we give thanks for all that he meant to us as a very dear friend.

Alasdair Gordon died in September and was a relative newcomer to Choir in 2012. Alasdair joined the Bass section and for any church choir having 5 basses is the bedrock of confident harmony. Alasdair was meticulous in his music involvement in Choir, and I know worked at his preparation of each new piece with diligence, and perseverance. He was an ideal member to help us read our Latin texts with accurate pronunciation. Alasdair continued to receive his music folder during the time of his illness to share in the weekly involvement of Choir in the service. On behalf of Choir we remember him for the fortitude he showed over many months and the warm friendship he shared with us.

The final meeting of Choir this session will be on Wednesday 18th December when all music covered to 15th December should be returned for filing. We will resume our meetings on Wednesday 8th January at 7.00pm.

Helen C Simpson
Organist

Monday Club

The club has met several times now in the new session, with a good turn out from the membership. We have gained several new members and we have also room for a few more! So do not hesitate to join us on a Monday afternoon, as we have plenty of space yet to fill in 'The North' Hall.

We have two more meetings left in the current session, on the 11th November we have J.Rexter with "A Child's view of WW2" and on 25th November we finish the first session with our Christmas Lunch.

13th January our speaker is the Rev Christopher Rankin and we will have our Financial AGM

27th January Roy Johnstone will speak about Burns.

10th February Liz Vasey's subject will be the Hamilton Food Bank

24th February TBC

9th March we have a musical afternoon with the Cadzow Quartet.

23rd March is the AGM and Jim Henderson will give us a presentation on his visit to China.

6th April we hope to run our annual outing; final details to be advised.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year from myself and the committee.

God Bless

Charlie Duguid



Drama Kirk

The Drama Kirk Governance Committee continues to meet in advance of each Kirk Session meeting to oversee the delivery of the three-year programme of work that is HOPC's Fresh Expression of Church. As well as the projects outlined in more detail in "Tidings", the Committee would like to highlight to you the many opportunities to enjoy scripture with Drama Kirk throughout 2020, including our summer walking project "Walk with the Word: Emmaus" which will follow in the footsteps of Christ and his followers in the days after the crucifixion, leading up to the ascension. This is planned for Saturday 8th August. We will again offer three interactive bible studies, on Sunday 2nd February, Tuesday 19th May and Tuesday 29th September, all at 7pm.

As we draw close to the end of the first year of the project, the Committee would like to extend its thanks to those who have given so much of their time by supporting this work, ensuring that we can deliver fresh and innovative ways for our local community to engage with God's Word.



Fellowship Committee

At the time of writing, we have had a charity lunch where a sum in excess of £500 has been raised for Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust. The exact sum will be known once the final bill has been paid.

The planning for the annual Carols by Candlelight on Friday 6 December, at which we will be assisting, is under way and more information will be given in the intimation sheet.

The congregational Christmas Lunch is fixed for Sunday 8 December following the morning service and menu choice and payment of £15 for over 12's can be made in the Pillar Hall on Sundays until 1 December.

We are looking at holding an informal "lunch with Burns" meal on Sunday 2 February after the morning service. Again more information nearer the time in the intimation sheet.

Can we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year when the time comes.



Iain McLean
Convener

World Mission

Our Convener, Very Rev Dr Susan Brown shares her thoughts on having faith like a mustard seed.

With nothing more than a little water added, a tree sprouted. I used the avocado stone as an illustration at a recent baptism. The children being baptised were, through the water being sprinkled on them, being watered in the faith. I told the congregation in the hope that one day that faith would take root and flower and go on to bear fruit.

Jesus had a much better illustration. He talked of faith even as tiny as a mustard seed being able to produce a bush big enough for birds to perch in it. For us in our congregations, there are many little ways in which our faith as individuals and as Christian communities can be encouraged to grow and the Church's world mission council would humbly suggest that one way is to involve ourselves, in partnerships and relationships with the wider Christian body throughout the world. It offers opportunities for people of all ages to make connections, to find inspirations and encouragement in our Christian journey and to help others to do the same.

Nessie Garrett

Creche

Our creche, which is held in the halls next to the office, is available every Sunday morning from 10.30am until the end of the Church service.

All babies and young children up to the age of three will be made very welcome.

Catherine Southgate



Guild

One Journey Many Roads Year 2:- Companions on the road

It has been a difficult start to the 19/20 session due to holidays and illness. We had to cancel the dedication service.

At the second meeting the speaker, Kevin Simpson, gave an interesting talk on one of our projects "Growing the Future" all about Malawi.

Our next meeting we have 2 paralympians who will tell us about their journey. This is an open meeting so come along and be our "Companion on the Road".

Second half of the syllabus is printed below:-

January 15th	DVD of Annual Gathering at Dundee
January 22nd	Mike Taylor - "Looking at Art"
February 5th	John Hughes - "From Erskine ..."
February 19th	Ewen Donaldson - "Glasgow Botanic Gardens"
March 4th	Business AGM
March 18th	Tea Party
April 1st	Syllabus Planning - All Guild members welcome



You are welcome to join us at any of the above meetings in the Session Room at 2pm.

With best wishes for the Festive Season.

Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator

One Good Friday

Our Passion Play 2020 is a wonderful testament to Christian Unity as we perform the same play at the same time as eight other UK towns and cities. It is really exciting to be part of this project and offers us opportunities to learn and grow with other teams. We remain the only Scottish location and (as far as we are aware) the only full-scale Passion Play planned for Scotland next year.

Our performance in Hamilton will be on Good Friday at 3.15pm. The cast will have some involvement with the evening services during Holy Week. It is hoped there will also be a performance in East Kilbride on Easter Saturday however we are still working to find a suitable location.

Nicholas Elliott joins us again to lead our cast in the role of Jesus. We are all very much looking forward to working with him once more.

Please do consider how you might support this; either by getting involved yourself or by helping us to involve others. You don't need any experience – you just need a heart for sharing the Gospel. If you could help with sewing, painting, hammering, catering, stewarding, acting or in fact anything, please let us know.





Congratulations to Eilidh McCrudden who was presented with the Baden Powell Award, the highest award in the Guide Section of the Girlguiding Movement. Well done!

Thank you!

Thank you for the Church flowers, lovely cards and good wishes I received whilst in hospital.

Lettie Craig

The Buttery family were quite overwhelmed by the kindness, cards and flowers received when Bob died. We would like to thank all of our friends for their support at this sad time.

May Andrew would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, calls, cards, visits and of course the church flowers. She is very appreciative and is now home regaining strength and hopes to return to worship in the very near future.

Carole Gordon wishes to thank everyone for expressions of sympathy and support, and a huge thank you to all who contributed to Alasdair's funeral tea. The offering at the Church in aid of Kilbryde Hospice amounted to £772.00.

Nessie and Craig, would like to thank you all for the good wishes, cards and gifts we received on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Everything went well, especially our holiday afterwards to Dubai to visit our son Craig, and Jill and Scott.

World Mission Prayer

Mustard seed faith, Lord Jesus,
is faith your quiet presence and
unseen Spirit can grow
until it is being enough for all to see
and strong enough to move mountains.

Give us the courage, we pray,
to let the faith we have increase in us.
Let its roots deepen as we find
the goodness we need for growth
in our relationship with you, Lord:
With your Word and through you,
with your people - wherever they may be.

Water us well through our involvement
with our sisters and brothers
so that we and they,
may bear fruit for all to see
that points to your love and goodness.

In Jesus, name we pray.
Amen



Faith

You know just every care we have,
- our fears and worries too.
Help us to grow in depth of faith
as we bring our thoughts to You.

We often cannot find the words
to say what's in our heart,
but You can see our every need
- and faith and trust impart.

Strengthen us in our darker hours,
refresh our lives anew.
Remind us that our constant hope
lies in our trust in You.

Flower List 2019/2020

December	01	Mrs Maclean
	08	Mrs Macintyre
	15	Mrs Wilson
	22	Mrs Kinsman
January	29	Mrs Garrett
	05	Mrs Maxwell
	12	Mrs Whitehill
February	19	Mrs French
	26	Mrs Hunter
	02	Mrs Simpson
	09	Mrs Scott
March	16	Mr Murphy
	23	Mrs Renwick
	01	Mrs Laird
	08	Mrs Nicholson

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers.

E Gardiner

01698 427852



Flower Delivery

December	01	N Barr
	08	M Henderson
	15	A Henderson
	22	N McLean
January	29	N Naismith
	05	M Richardson
	12	A Cunningham
February	19	K Shearer
	26	A Gibson
	02	A Smart
	09	R Downie
March	16	S Samson
	23	B Smith
	01	H Simpson
	08	H Troop

Flowers are usually delivered after the Morning Service. If the date is unsuitable, please try to re-arrange or contact:

Andrea Davidson

01698 281905

Rose Bowl List 2019

December	01	F McIntosh
	08	E Reid
January	05	H McGreevy
	12	J Henderson
	19	F Young
	26	L Munn
February	02	A Girasoli
	09	M McCartney
	16	J Mathie
	23	M Wilson
March	01	M Eadie
	08	E Reid



Church Christmas Tree

The group who normally erect the Church tree has become depleted this year and is desperately looking for semi fit persons to help with the task.

If you could give about an hour for this please contact the Office or David Leishman.

Thank you!



Flower Circle

Would the members of the flower circle and anyone else interested please meet in the Halls on Friday 29 November at 9.30am. This is to decorate the Church including the tree for Christmas.

E Gardiner



Entered into Eternal Life.

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ
 You have given us new birth into a living hope.
 Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection
 and keep us united with our loved one
 from whom in death we are not divided;
 for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen*

*8 August 2019
 Georgeanne Moffat*

*20 August 2019
 John Hathorn*

*24 August 2019
 Robert Buttery*

*20 September 2019
 Alasdair Gordon*

*20 September 2019
 Jemima Condie*

*21 September 2019
 David Bryce*

*23 October 2019
 James Gordon*



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas*



*and a
Happy New Year*