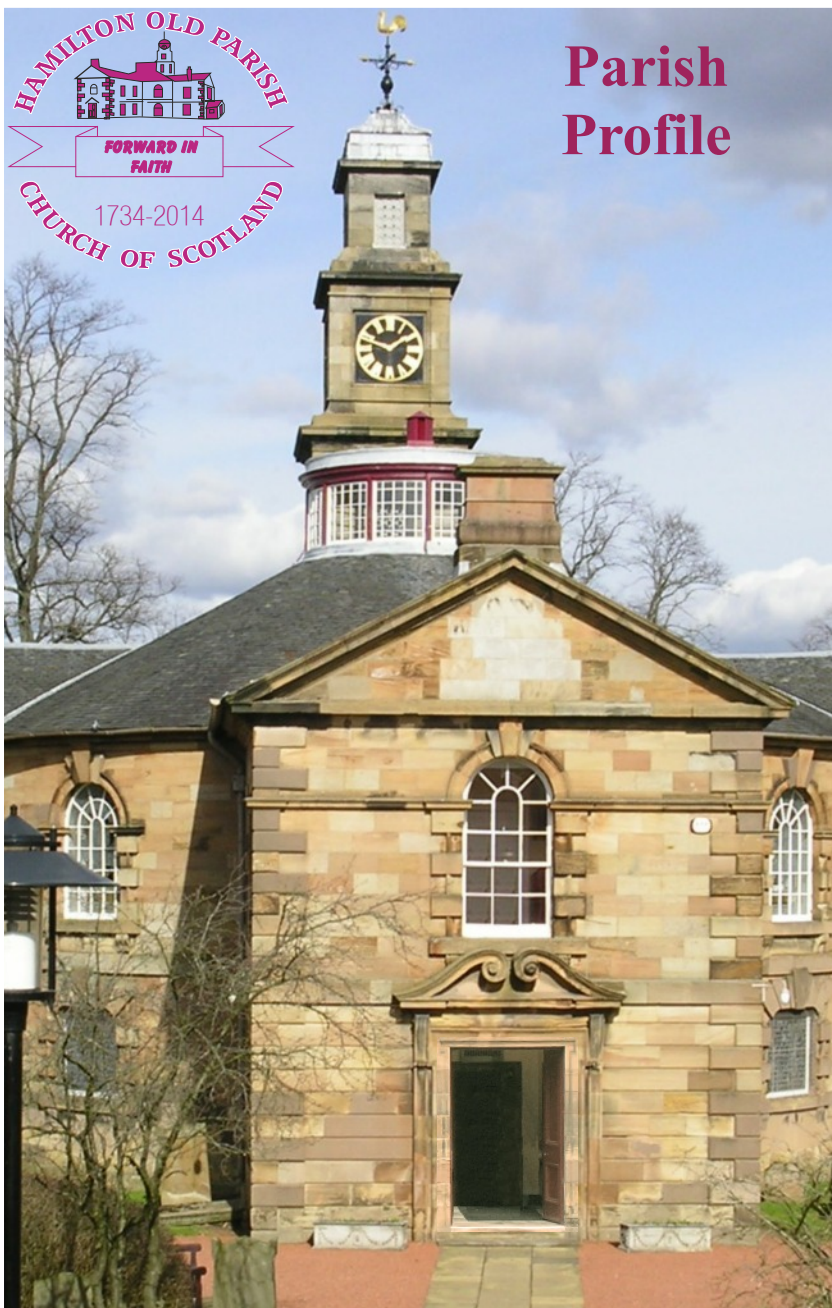




Parish Profile



General

Hamilton Old Parish Church of Scotland serves, with neighbouring churches, the town of Hamilton in South Lanarkshire. The historic nature of the Congregation has placed it at the forefront of Local Authority events and occasions.

In recognising that Mission is about the Church developing links with the wider community, it would be our hope that we can, in practical terms, further a desire to see others come to Faith and join in the worship of God.

Further information on the church and its day to day activity can be sourced from our website <http://hamiltonoldparishchurch.org/>



Parish

The parish map is shown below. If you have Google Earth (free to download from Google.com) download the Hamilton Old Parish Map from the publications page of our website to show our parish in relation to Hamilton in general and our neighbouring Church of Scotland churches.

The Church of Scotland analysis of the 2011 Census indicates that there are 2,859 households occupied by 5,474 people within the Parish boundary.

The same census reveals that over 3,500 of those people claim religious affiliation. There are approximately 3,000 people of working age and about 1,000 eligible to retire/retired, the balance undergoing education or of pre-school age.



Parish

Primary and Secondary Schools

- Hamilton Grammar (secondary)
- Hamilton College (private)
- St John's primary
- St Mary's Primary (RC)

Opportunity for Chaplaincies may exist but will require discussion with the relevant school principal.

Elderly Care Centres and Sheltered Housing provision

- Well Hall
- Woodburn Court (regular service conducted)

Neighbouring Churches

The following Churches of Scotland are in our direct geographical area and we have a good ongoing relationship with them

- Wellhall (West united with Gilmour & Whitehill)
- Trinity
- South
- Cadzow
- St John's
- Hillhouse
- Motherwell North
- Bothwell

There is a ministers' forum which organises combined services throughout the year. It is ecumenical in nature, drawing from many of Hamilton's churches and denominations.

Congregation

There are currently 535 members on the Roll. There are 78 elders in the Kirk Session with a good mix of men and women, and we operate under a Unitary constitution.

During 2013 the Minister conducted 1 baptism, 5 weddings and 30 funerals.



A celebratory meal in the North Hall

In the main we have a mature congregation and would hope in future to attract and retain more young people and families without losing sight of the needs of our older members. The average Sunday attendance exceeds 200.

Worship

Morning worship is led by the minister with music provided by the organist and choir. Members regularly participate in Bible readings.

Communion services are held quarterly, with home communion available to the housebound if required. There are united ecumenical services during Holy Week hosted by rota among the participating congregations. The Christmas Watchnight service and the dawn Easter service are favourite traditions. During the year several special services are held, underlining our commitment to the local community.

Music is an integral part of our worship, with the organist and choir of 26 members presenting an introit and anthem at morning service.



Congregation



Flower arrangements enhance the church with flowers distributed to members following the service. At Easter, Harvest and Christmas there are special decorations throughout the sanctuary.

Children

Within the church we have a committed team dedicated to various aspects of youth work. A crèche for the under 3s is provided, while school children enjoy Sunday Live.



Youth organisations include BB Anchor Boys and Bluebells, Brownies and a particularly strong Boys' Brigade in both Junior and Company Sections.

Organisations

Many other church groups and associated clubs occupy our premises on a regular basis. The Guild, 1970 Ladies Club, The Monday Club, Old Kirk Dancers, Saffronhall Singers, the Badminton Club and the Banner Group all enjoy considerable support.

Non church groups renting our premises include the Montessori Nursery, a Fitness Class and a Decoupage Club.

Many activities and outings are available to the congregation - from golf and bowling for the sports minded, to concerts and flower shows for others. These all contribute to the social side of church life.

A full calendar of all Church activities and details of the Sunday service are available weekly on our web-site.

Congregation

Magazine

A comprehensive report on all church activities is produced quarterly and distributed to all members.



Wider Work

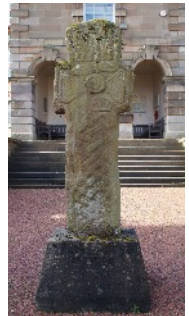
The congregation is noted for responding promptly and generously to international emergency appeals as and when they arise, and for supporting Christian Aid on a regular basis.

History

Historic background of Church

Our roots as a congregation go back to the establishment of Christianity here in the 6th Century in the time of St Mungo and Rydderick, King of Strathclyde.

One sign of the presence of an early Christian settlement is the 10th Century Netherton Cross, which stands at the main entrance to the Church. The Cross is regarded as one of the most valuable pre-Norman Christian relics in Scotland.



It was in 1451 that the beautiful Collegiate Church was built to replace the Church of King David's time. This Church was itself demolished in the 1730's to enable the Duke of Hamilton's Palace to be enlarged.

As compensation, a new Church was built by the famous architect, William Adam, on what were then the outskirts of Hamilton, which is our present building.

Since 1734 the Old Kirk has welcomed people from its parish and beyond to worship in its friendly atmosphere and historic setting.

History

A highly successful union with the congregation of Hamilton North took place in January 2013 with 80% of the North church membership joining. The organisations from the North have integrated well into Old Parish Church life to the benefit of all.



Professional Staff Appointments

The continuing work of the Congregation is supported by a small professional Staff Team, under the guidance and direction of the Minister:

- Church Office Secretary
- Organist and Choir Mistress
- Depute Organist
- Church/Hall Steward

Buildings

Church

The Church, which is a "Grade A" listed building, was designed by the architect, William Adam, and opened for worship in 1734. It is the oldest building in Hamilton still being used for its original purpose. The Church has a seating capacity of 720.

Over the years the Church has seen many modifications and in recent years, the roof has been refurbished, the Chancel Area remodelled to allow greater use for worship and the Vestry has been upgraded and new lighting installed..

The Ingram Organ was constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century and is still in use today through upgrading. Also used in worship is a Clavinova Digital Piano.

Seats are provided in the Gallery for the Kirkin' of the Provost and members of South Lanarkshire Council, a practice which has continued for many years.

New sound amplification and inductive loop systems have been installed within the last year.



Buildings

Parish Halls

The "Grade C" listed well maintained suite of Halls is adjacent to the Church. The main North Hall, well equipped Kitchen, Meeting Room and Ladies Toilets are on the Upper Floor, the smaller Pillar Hall, Long Room /Kitchen, Session Room, Ladies and Gents and Disabled Toilet are on the Ground Floor.



The Church Office and Committee Room is situated at Mezzanine level.

Plans have been prepared and approved for an access lift to all floors and work is due to start over the summer months.



Manse

The Manse is a modern single storey detached dwelling built in 1992 situated in a quiet residential area within walking distance of the Town Centre, Bus and Railway Stations, Primary and Secondary Schools.

The Manse comprises 3 Public Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, Study, 2 Bathroom/Shower Rooms, Toilet, new Kitchen and Double Garage.

The Manse has a well maintained garden and is situated on a corner site.

Finance

The principal source of income is the offerings of the congregation. Following the union with the North Church at the beginning of 2013, these increased by 17% to £103,506. Tax recovered on contributions increased by a similar percentage. The success of the union has meant Church groups making greater use of the halls which in turn has allowed fewer opportunities for third party lets and our income from the halls and car park fell by about 11%.

Following a Stewardship campaign in 2010 our income has increased year on year, resulting in our ministry and mission contributions increasing also. Our expenditure continues to exceed the offerings of the congregation. However increased returns on our investments, along with donations and hall lets, has seen our funds at the end of each year increasing.

We are in a position to give financial help to theology students through the Orr Legacy and the Dick Award. Ministers studying for a PhD at Trinity College, The University of Glasgow can apply for funding for each year of study from the Orr legacy and students accepted as candidates for the Ministry under the supervision of the Presbytery of Hamilton can get help purchasing books and/or computer software or other educational material from the Dick Award.

Along with other town centre churches we continue to support the Hyzone Youth Project and the congregation are generous in their giving to special collections for various charities, local and national.

The Annual Accounts for 2013 are available on request from the Church Office:

Hamilton Old Parish Church of Scotland
Church Office
Parish Halls
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Hamilton
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