



# Tidings



June 2019  
Summer

**MINISTER**

Rev Ross Blackman Bsc MBA BD(Hons)  
 Parish Halls, Strathmore Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 640185

**SESSION CLERK**

Mr Louis Munn JP DL

**DEPUTY SESSION CLERKS**

Mr Alistair Butterly  
 Mr William Craig  
 Mrs Linda Smith

**ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS**

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music) (Hons)  
 138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston, G71 7DD ☎ 01698 815360

**CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mrs Marilyn Henderson

**TREASURER**

Mr Alan Blue

**PROPERTY CONVENER**

Mr John Downie

**Vice Conveners**

HALLS - Mr George Robertson  
 CHURCH - Mr David Leishman  
 MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

Mr David Young  
 Mrs Wendy Hay

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

Mrs Andrea Davidson  
 Parish Halls, Strathmore Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 281905  
 Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Dear friends,

They say that change is as good as a rest. However, change can strike fear or excitement into the steadiest of hearts. No wonder it is suggested that the changes associated with changing occupation, moving home, or a change in relationship status, are among the most stressful things we can do. Yet change is all around us, in the public sector and church, as much as in private business.

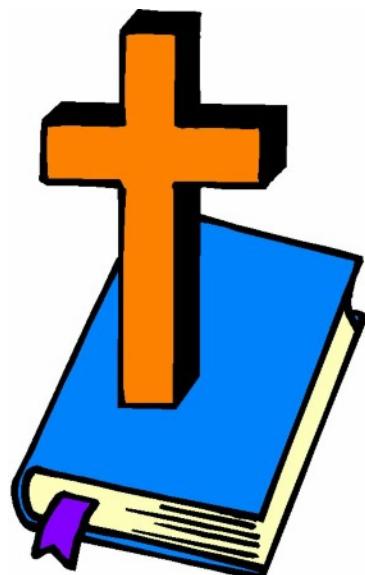
My most recent experience of this was in becoming your Minister. Although well over three years ago, it remains a fresh memory. A new home, a new congregation, the responsibility of the charge. A time of excitement and a time of trepidation. Coming on the back of several years of Higher education and a variety of placements and ecclesial experiences, it was lovely to think of some stability on the horizon. I vowed to remember the journey, to the best of my ability, to help support and assist those making similar journeys.

This journey isn't unique to Ministry, of course, but I hope you will permit me to be a little parochial and think of those exploring a call to the various avenues of service in the church. Whether it is those training to lead public worship or funerals, or Readers, full and part-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Deacons, or the wide range of volunteer roles that support the church and in turn need their own support. It was for this reason that I recently embarked on training to supervise candidates for Ministry. I hope it will keep me sharp, as I attempt to sharpen others, as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17).

But just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a congregation to support and encourage a student. I know that such an experience is in the reasonably recent memory of the congregation. I trust that in the changes experienced you will bring your own memories to bear, as we support others in these endeavours. Memories of excitement and trepidation, for self and others, as we continue to build God's kingdom together in a variety of ways.

*Your Minister and friend,*

*Ross*



## What's On

### **June**

Sunday 02	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 09	9.30am	Family Service
		Sunday Live Trip
	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday 16		<b>Father's Day</b>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 23	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 30	10.45am	Morning Worship - Douglas Hogg
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



### **July**

Sunday 07	10.45am	Morning Worship - Rev Norman McKee
Sunday 14	10.45am	Morning Worship - Rev Norman McKee
Sunday 21	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 28	10.45am	All Age Service
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



**\*\*\*Holiday Club\*\*\***  
**Monday 5 August - Friday 9 August**  
**Keep your eyes peeled for more details**



### **August**

Sunday 04	10.45am	All Age Service - Pre Holiday Club
Sunday 11	10.45am	All Age Service - Post Holiday Club
Sunday 18	10.45am	All Age Service - Back to School
Sunday 25	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Sunday Live Big Breakfast
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

### **Crèche**

A crèche is held in the Church Halls every Sunday from 10.30am until the end of the Church Service. If you would like to have a baby or a young child looked after during this time please come and see us in the room next to the Office.



## Finance

The 2018 accounts were presented and approved by the Trustees on 17th March and presented to the congregation on 24th March. These showed that although there was a drop in our General Fund income of more than £15,000, we still managed to meet the every day running costs without dipping into our reserves. Due to economic uncertainty there was a substantial reduction of £58,000 in the value of our investments however, it is pleasing to see that the report from the stockbrokers for the first quarter of 2019 shows a slight recovery.

Under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, we have been able to reclaim £1968.50 in tax on donations in the plate of £20 in value or less.

*Marilyn Henderson*

*Finance Convener*

01698 427892

finance@hamiltonold.co.uk



## Property Committee

The heating system in the Parish halls is being renewed over the summer months. The nursery will continue to operate during this period but the Halls will be closed for general use while the contractor is on site. The Church office can be contacted by telephone during this period.

A disabled toilet is being installed in the Church at the side entrance next to Cadzow Glen and should be complete by the end of the Summer.

The training in the use of our defibrillator and CPR was attended by 18 people over two sessions, with thanks to Stuart and John from St Andrews First Aid giving their time. Our defibrillator is situated in the Parish Halls on the wall between the Long Room and Session Room.

*John Downie*

*Property Convener*



## Christian Aid

I attended the Christian Aid AGM in early February. It was reassuring that despite not doing door-to-door or supermarket/street collections that over £10,000 was sent to Christian Aid during 2018. Funds were raised by the tearoom at St John's which we helped run during Christian Aid week and various other organised events/donations.

Thank you for your continued support. Look out for further intimations in the coming months for requests for bakers/servers to help out with the tearoom during Christian Aid Week in May.

If anyone would like further information on the work of Christian Aid or would like to know how to get involved, please contact me.

*Amanda*

## The Scottish Bible Society



Work continues around the world to provide Bibles to countries where people cannot afford to buy one for themselves.

Money raised in Scotland provides paper for the Amity Press in China so that increasing numbers of subsidised Bibles can be produced. Demand for God's word still outstrips supply!

Thanks to all who continue to support this work.

*Muriel Eadie*

**Guild**  
 One Journey, Many Roads  
 Year 2 Companions on the Road



The Guild completed last year with an afternoon tea.

The syllabus has been prepared for 2019/20 session, more details in September Tidings.

I hope everyone enjoys the break and hopefully good weather like last year.

*Avril Boothroyd  
 Coordinator*



**Brownies**

We started back in January with our new session and started work on our Friends to Animal badge. We had a very enjoyable and informative visit to Pets at Home in February with the girls getting lots of information about their own pets and pets which they have in the Hamilton store. They were given the opportunity to handle some of the small animals too. They have now completed all the points and were awarded their badge. They are currently working on the Disability Awareness badge finding out about different disabilities that people have and what they sometimes have to live with from day to day. We had a visit to Hamilton Townhouse in March where we watched the Ups and Downs show which was very good.

This year is the 90th birthday of Brownies in Hamilton Old Parish Church. We are holding a birthday party to celebrate the event on Tuesday 28th May which is our last session of this term. Brownies will start back on Tuesday 3rd September at 6.15pm .

*Helen, Lynn, Eilidh, Rachel*



**Anchor Boys**

At the time of writing we are preparing for our Parents' night. The evening will take the form of a normal night with stories, games and a craft. We are looking forward to welcoming our guests for the first time using this format.

We have had a very busy session with our boys showing a keen interest in the Easter story, making an Easter garden and making Spring flowers to decorate our notice board.

The awards earned by the boys are as follow:

**GREEN BADGE & 1 YEAR SERVICE BADGE**

Kyle Blackman

Nolan Dickson

Kalan Duncan

**RED BADGE & 2 YEARS SERVICE BADGE**

Arron Hughes

**BLUE BADGE, 3 YEARS SERVICE BADGE &  
 PROMOTION CERTIFICATE**

Gregory Blackman

Elliot Dickson

Blair McIntosh

Caleb Nicol

Our very best wishes go to the four boys who are promoted to the Junior Section and we wish them every future success in the Boys' Brigade.

Sincere thanks to members of the congregation who continue to support us throughout the year.

The new session will begin in September and all boys in p1-3 and aged between 5 and 8 years of age will be made welcome.

*Nanette McLean*

## Junior Section

We have just broken up for the holidays after another busy year.

We recently trialled an alternative to the Display Night and Prize giving in the church, with a parents evening where families were invited to come down to see what the boys got up to on a Wednesday Night. We presented the awards at the conclusion of the evening, with thanks to Frank Gardiner whom kindly agreed to present the awards.

The Junior Bible award was won by Stuart Davidson with 85%, narrowly beating Charlie Finlayson who had 80%. Calum Ewart won the Senior Bible award with a score of 90%, with second place going to Nathan Leisegang with 70%. Congratulations to all boys who did extremely well.

The May Walker memorial trophy for Best Attendance and the John Walker memorial trophy for overall Best Boy were both won by Stuart Davidson, who had a perfect attendance, both on Meeting nights, and representing the company at Battalion competitions and events.

Due to only having four boys this year, we have not followed our traditional badge program. Instead the boys have completed various Art & Craft projects with Graham Horne, and science experiments with Ross Smart. Combined with community projects such as building shoe boxes for the Christmas shoe box appeal, and bible study for the competition, the boys still qualified for their badges. Stuart Davidson earned the Junior Target award, Charlie Finlayson earned the Bronze badge, Nathan Leisegang earned the Silver badge and Calum Ewart earned the Gold badge and was awarded his promotion certificate to the Company Section. He goes with our best wishes, and I'm sure will prove to be an asset to the Company Section.

Finally I would like to thank Graham Horne & Ross Smart for their work & support throughout the year. On behalf of all of us, we hope you have a great Summer and we look forward to welcoming the boys back in September.

*Alan Brown  
Leader in Charge*



## Old Kirk Dancers

We have had a good year dancing under the tuition of teacher Alison Robertson with good steady numbers each week. Thanks to all the dancers for their continued support.

We finish the year with the RSCDS dance in Stonehouse Lifestyles Centre on 26 April with the Ian Muir Band.

Our class reopens on Tuesday 10 September at 7.45pm in 'The North' Hall.

Come along and join us . Its is good exercise for mind and body.

Thank you

*Irene Mathieson*



## Saturday Fellowship

Saturday fellowship continues this year and as ever a big thank you to existing volunteers and new ones as we couldn't run it without you.

Everyone is welcome to drop-in for a cuppa and a chat on Saturday mornings from 10-12. Look forward to seeing you.

*Amanda*



## Link Committee

The Easter Service for our members of the Link Committee was held on Easter Saturday with an afternoon tea held in the North Hall. Our thanks to Rev Ross Blackman, Helen Simpson and the Choir for a lovely service.

If you are 80 or over and would like to attend any future events, please pass your details to the Church office.

My thanks to our Committee for providing a lovely afternoon tea, the brownies who provided an Easter gift and our volunteer drivers who assisted our members to attend the event.

*Helen McGreevy  
Link Committee Convener*



## Saffronhall Singers

Our winter session came to a very satisfactory conclusion at Bothwell Castle Golf Club where over fifty of our members enjoyed a lovely meal together. This was followed by a sing-a-long, which must have sounded good, as we have now been invited to return in December to lead some carol singing.

In February, both our engagements were well received, Uddingson Old Parish Church Guild and then our own Monday Club. It was a real pleasure to see the North Hall filled to capacity. Hospitality at both events was superb, always guaranteed to please our male section!

Now, all our efforts are focused on summer pursuits – holidays, bowling, gardening etc. Our practices will resume on Monday 16th September.

Best wishes to all for the summer.

*Campbell Barr*



## Fellowship Committee

Unfortunately due to a lack of numbers, the Lunch with Burns had to be cancelled. We will try again next year but a bit closer to Burns Day.

The early breakfast on Easter Sunday went well with some 50 odd people enjoying the rolls.

The trip to Dundee on 18 May is now finalised with 43 people going, An update will be provided for the next issue of Tidings, but to those whose names are down and are going, many thanks for your support.

Please remember if you have any ideas or suggestions for places to go or things to do, let any member of the committee know and all ideas will be considered.

*Iain McLean  
Convener*



## Monday Club

The club held its annual outing to Dumfries house on Monday 8th of April. We had an excellent day out with weather to match. Members had a guided tour of this historic house and its famous Chippendale furniture. The main living room had furniture in it valued at over 26 million pounds. This house must be visited by anyone interested in antique furniture as the contents in it are second to none. The tour takes about 1 hour and that gave us just enough time to have a quick walk round the gardens and visitor centre before leaving for the Royal Hotel in Cumnock for a splendid high tea.

Our first meeting in the new session will be on Monday 14th of October in ‘The North Hall’ at 1.30pm.

A list of speakers will be advised in the next edition of Tidings. Enjoy the summer break.

*Charlie Duguid*

## Choir

Choir met for their final mid week meeting at the end of April. It has again been a busy few months preparing weekly Sunday Introits and Anthems with new and known material from well known writers and also enjoying more modern composers' arrangements.

Attendance has again been excellent and we have been fortunate to have no weather issues during the session. The new session of choir will begin on Wednesday 4th September at 7 p.m. and we continue to meet Sunday by Sunday from 10 to 10.20 a.m. in the Session Room.

On 19th May we celebrated the 99th birthday of Peter Condie our longest serving Tenor Chorister. Peter joined The Old Parish Junior Choir in 1932 and has maintained his love of music and singing for 77 years from early Operattas in the Parish Halls, to becoming a boy soprano with St Mary's Episcopal Church and joining the Tenor section in The Old Parish Choir in 1948. His musical involvement has extended to entertaining at Ceilidhs and concerts either singing or playing his "mouthie".

He has enjoyed a very active life and following service with the RAF he worked in a variety of jobs culminating with the Local Authority in Hamilton as Town Officer till he retired in 1984.



In his free time Peter has an impressive record of community service extending to different groups where he used his time and talents in a wide variety of areas as a youth leader and volunteering in community service to benefit many young folk.

His sporting prowess has ranged from early years enjoying badminton, darts, skittles and continuing into later life with country dancing and swimming, all contributing to giving him his sprightly gait and a healthy lifestyle he still enjoys.

Peter we congratulate you in your longevity, and wish you every blessing in your 99th year. You are a star.

*Helen C Simpson  
Organist*

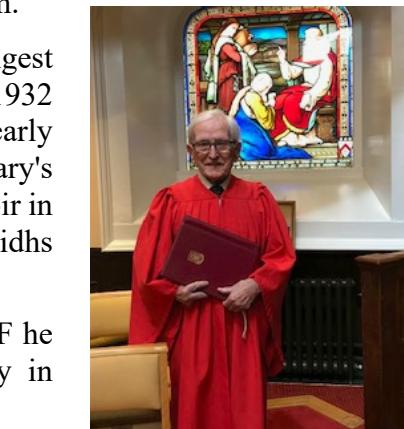
## World Mission

This year, we are marking 50 years of the World Mission Council's Stamp Appeal. In its 50th year, the appeal is supporting the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi, who are also celebrating their 50th anniversary. The Chigodi Women Centre is delivering a broad range of skills training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi.

Why not join us in celebrating 50 years and take part in the 50 stamp challenge? Can you collect 50 stamps (or more) in a year? We have designed a post van which you can create out of paper and use as a donation box. Stamps can be handed in to the Church Office.

Thank you.

*Nessie Garrett*



STAMP  
2019  
APPEAL

50  
YEARS  
1969-2019

The Church of Scotland

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

Join with us in celebrating  
the 50th anniversary of  
both the World Mission  
Council Stamp Appeal and  
Chigodi Women Centre  
(Blantyre, Malawi).

By collecting stamps we will be  
supporting the Chigodi Women  
Centre to deliver a broad range  
of skills training to address the  
challenges faced by women in  
Malawi. The Centre aims to improve  
the women's socio-economic status  
and increase their future chances of  
employment.

CAN YOU COLLECT 50 STAMPS?

Join with us in celebrating 50 years and take part in the 50 stamp challenge.  
Download and build our fun post van collection box from the website.  
For more information visit: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps)

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## Drama Kirk Update

HOPC's Fresh Expression of Church launched officially on the 11th of January, funded by GoForIt. Our Committee and Steering Group are now well established and we have an exciting three-year programme of work ahead. So, what have we been up to?

### The People's Passion

What a Holy Week we had, touring Wishaw, Motherwell, Lanark, Carlisle and of course Hamilton. We were joined by more than 1,000 people, including a wide range of congregations, a BB company from Dunblane, the Presbytery Clerk, a GoForIt rep and the Provost.

The play, devised by Riding Lights Theatre Company, was indeed a Passion Play with a difference, including the congregation as part of the story each night. Feedback showed this was something the churches appreciated – indeed for many this was their favourite thing about it. One person commented, 'I felt as if I was, indeed "part of the story"'.



This year we had a range of participants, acting and behind the scenes. They included folks from our own congregation, from St Johns, Cadzows, St Mary's (Motherwell), Dalziel St Andrews, Stephen Gaughan School of Performing Arts, Motherwell College and also a local student minister. We enjoyed a great deal of support from each of our host congregations.



We were certainly successful in bringing the Gospel to life as the wonderful feedback demonstrates:-

"The feeling of being right there, not just reading words about what happened but living them."

"The realism - it brings the events to life. Jesus' suffering is portrayed so realistically that you feel you are there watching."

"I was lucky enough to get a hug from Jesus and the tears we're running down my face".

A huge thanks and congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this possible. So, what's next?

### The Word in Action

Our series of one-off events, using drama techniques to explore scripture together begins of Tuesday 28th May at 7pm in church, looking at the book of Ruth. The focus will be on considering the bible together rather than on performance. Why not come along and try it?

### Walk With the Word: Exodus

Our exciting summer project gets underway shortly, focusing on the journey the Israelites took from Egypt to the promised land. We will use drama and storytelling to bring this to life as part of a guided walk in Chatelherault on Saturday 10th August.

Could you help make the Ark of the Covenant? Could you join us as a grumbling Israelite? We would be so delighted to hear from you.

There is much to look forward to as our Fresh Expression develops. I remain grateful to those who help in so many ways to bring the gospel to life, including our talented cast and crew and our supportive Drama Kirk Committee and Kirk Session.

Please continue to support us in prayer and in deed.

*Liz Blackman*



### Flower List 2019

June	02	Mrs Irvine
	09	Mrs Gordon
	16	Mrs Taylor
	23	Mrs Mair
	30	Mrs Elder
July	07	Mrs Butterly
	14	Mrs Brown
	21	Stenton Family
	28	Mrs Bell
August	04	Mrs McKinnon
	11	Mrs Morrow
	18	Mr Robertson
	25	Mrs Nelson
September	01	Mrs McLean
	08	Mrs Downie

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers. A space has become available in January if anyone is interested please let me know.

*E Gardiner*

01698 427852



### Flower Delivery

June	02	Mrs E Irvine
	09	Mrs E Gardiner
	16	A Cunningham
	23	L Clayton
	30	K Hunter
July	07	M Gilroy
	14	H McGreevy
	21	L Smith
	28	H Brown
August	04	M Latimer
	11	H Lyon
	18	C McCrudden
	25	B Stoddart
September	01	M Baird
	08	M Eadie

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

June	02	M Gilbert
	09	E Harley
	16	I Garrie
	30	J Orr
July	07	F Hunter
	14	L Craig
	28	I Samson
August	11	G Robertson
	18	N Meek
	25	M McGlynn
September	01	P Scott
	08	G Keir



### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped at Easter with flowers and decorating and clearing the Church.

*E Gardiner*

*Carole and Alasdair Gordon* wish to thank the many kind people in the fellowship who came forward to offer practical support after Carole broke her right wrist and cracked her left elbow in a fall. Carole is making a good recovery after surgery and is glad to be back in her usual seat in the choir. They have both felt quite overwhelmed at the number of people who have come forward to help them over a difficult time.



Thank you for all of the good wishes on the occasion of our Golden Wedding.

*Frank & Elizabeth Gardiner*

*Grasping the Nettle*



*Greetings from us all at Grasping the Nettle (GTN)  
and on behalf of our Chairman, Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison. We would be delighted  
to have your support and involvement in what has become a major  
inter-denominational initiative in the church in Scotland!*

Following on from Ross's recent Sunday morning message and linking on the Science/Religion theme, the related events - listed below and provided by GTN - would be of great benefit in expanding your understanding and interest levels! Please do join us for any – or all! – of the following:

- **A mini-version of What a Wonder-Full World on Sunday 19 May from 4pm-4.45pm** during Heart and Soul - at the Parish Church of St Cuthbert in Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh, where you can learn from the wisdom and knowledge of our own Dr Chris Packard, enjoy the entertaining dramatic vignettes delivered by Sandra and Bill Craig (in the role of 2 scientists) and Mhairi Maclean (in the role of the hairdresser); and be inspired by the musical content. This is a free event.
- **The Annual Grasping the Nettle Dinner on Wednesday 5 June at 6.30pm** at the Alona Hotel, Motherwell where the keynote presentation “*Do You See What I See?*”... *declaring the Glory of God*, will be given by Dr Deborah Haarsma, President of BioLogos USA who will provide a whistlestop lightning and enlightening tour of the universe!

Tickets: £30 per person including drinks reception, three course dinner, tea/coffee.

For more information and to book online, visit: [www.graspingthenettle.org/dinner](http://www.graspingthenettle.org/dinner)

- **What a Wonder-Full World! at Kay Park Parish Church, Kilmarnock on Saturday 8 June at 7pm** An entertaining evening of music, drama and conversation with guests contemplating the wonders of the universe, life and the big questions. Featuring Dr Deborah Haarsma, Astronomer and President of BioLogos; dramatic vignettes performed by Mhairi Maclean, Bill and Sandra Craig; musical entertainment by the Drehorn Music Society.

Tickets: £3 via [www.graspingthenettle.org/wonder-full](http://www.graspingthenettle.org/wonder-full). If you have friends or family in Kilmarnock and the Ayrshire area, please encourage them to book up.

- **A special service for Pentecost Sunday in association with the Presbytery of Glasgow at University of Glasgow Memorial Chapel, Glasgow, on Sunday 9 June at 3pm.** The service will be led by Very Rev Dr John Chalmers and featuring music of the Chapel Choir. Astronomer Dr Deborah Haarsma will present an illustrated talk entitled “*And the Spirit of God moved...*”.

This interdenominational public event is free of charge but booking your free place is important since it helps attendance to be managed. Please reserve your place at: [www.graspingthenettle.org/pentecost](http://www.graspingthenettle.org/pentecost)

- The Grasping the Nettle October/November events calendar is also filling up and, already available to book on the GTN website is this special conference featuring the Pope's Astronomer! **“All is One”: Science, God and Purpose in Creation** at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, **on Saturday 2 November (10am-4pm)** with special guests – Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory; and Dr Denis Alexander, Emeritus Director, the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. Book your place now at: [https://www.graspingthenettle.org/events/gtn\\_national\\_conference\\_2019](https://www.graspingthenettle.org/events/gtn_national_conference_2019)

Tickets: £30 including lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments

We do hope we can look forward to seeing you!

**Karen Rollins for Grasping the Nettle**



***Entered into Eternal Life.***  
***"I am the Resurrection and the Life"***

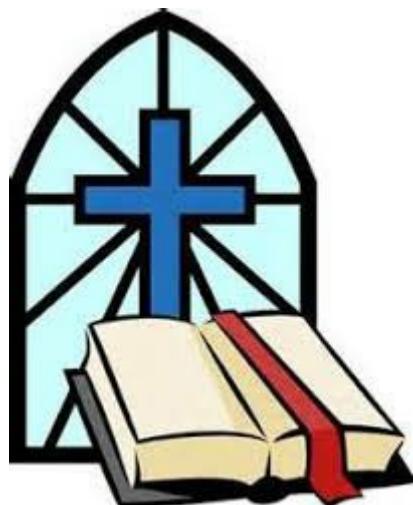
*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ  
You have given us new birth into a living hope.  
Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection  
and keep us united with our loved one  
from whom in death we are not divided;  
for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen*

*26 December 2018  
James Hamilton*

*3 February 2019  
Donald Braidwood*

*14 February 2019  
Margaret Hay*

*2 April 2019  
Janette McLuckie*



## Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we work our way through the seasons of the year  
and the seasons of life,  
we give thanks for your goodness to us.

Each, in turn, bring you glory,  
and we would not wish them away  
as we wonder at your design.

The folly and enthusiasm of youth,  
through to the wisdom and dependability of seniority  
is seen throughout your creation.

May we ever ponder  
the hand of God in every turn,  
in every shadow and every blazing light,  
as we dwell on your presence  
beside us in it all.

You are our God  
and we are your people,  
giving thanks for your goodness to us.

Amen.

