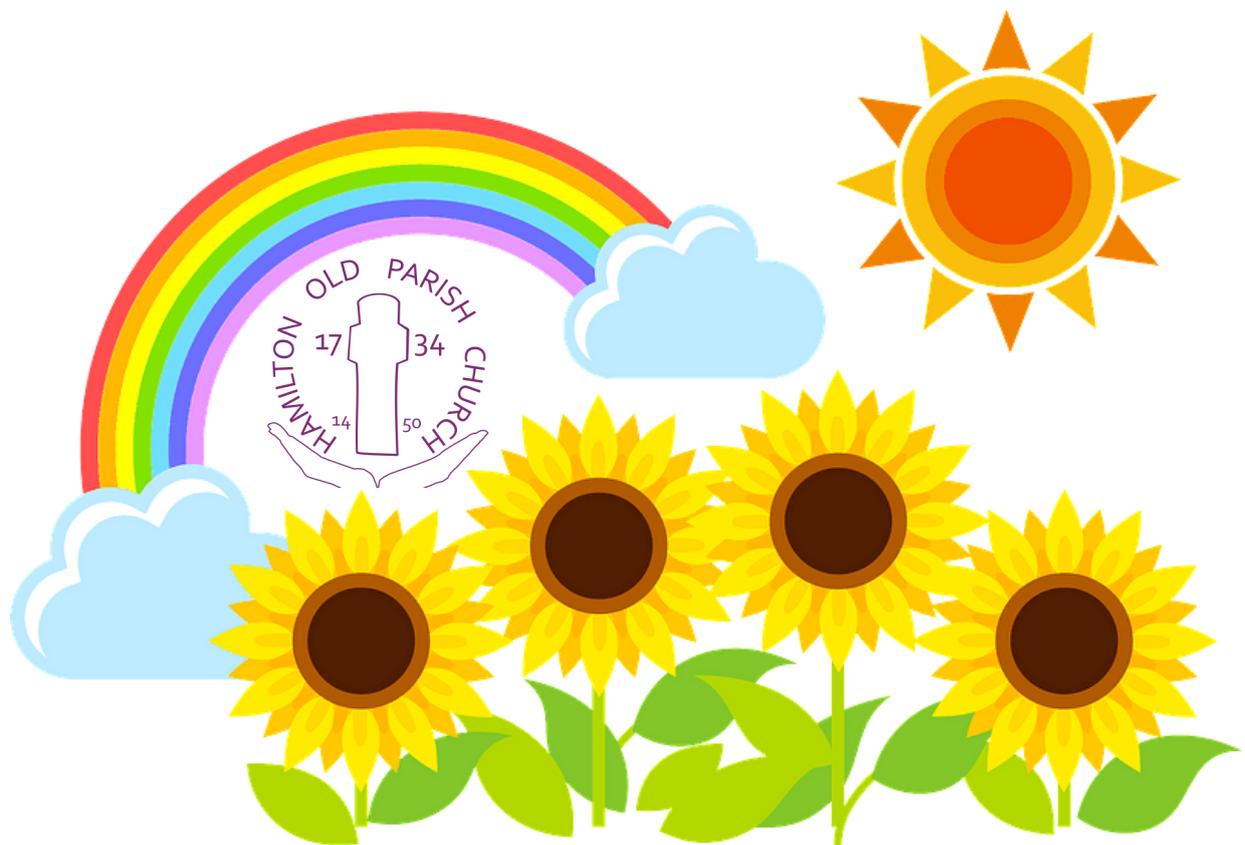


# Tidings



Summer  
June 2020

### **MINISTER**

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

### **SESSION CLERK**

Mrs Andrea Davidson

### **DEPUTE SESSION CLERKS**

Mr Alistair Buttery

Mr William Craig

Mrs Linda Smith

### **ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS**

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music)  
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  
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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

**Scottish Charity SC010855**  
**office@hamiltonold.co.uk**  
**www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org**

## **The flower of humanity.**

Despite all the challenges of CoronaVirus, or Covid19, as it is also being called, I trust you are coping well. I also hope that you would not hesitate to contact your Elder or Minister if you needed assistance or even just a chat. While the church buildings may be shut, we still have access to one another by phone, email, or the services via the internet. Be they our Sunday worship or the daily reflection, it would be great to get some feedback as to how you feel about the support you are receiving.

We're fast moving from Spring into Summer, and it feels like we've already had some fabulous weather. The thing I like best about the end of Spring is the cherry blossom. It doesn't last long. It appears rapidly and instantly cheers us up. In a few cultures, it is used as a metaphor for life that springs up quickly but is so often cut down in its prime. This can be the prime of fitness and strength or the prime of knowledge and wisdom. It is epitomised by Kurosawa or "The Last Samurai", with Tom Cruise. Life is precious, fragile, and woefully short. No wonder, scripture likens human life to flowers (Psalm 37:2; 103:15; 2 Kings 19:26; Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24; especially Matthew 6:25-34).

Three years ago, in Hamilton's first Passion Play, we set the scene for Gethsemane under a blooming cherry blossom tree in the churchyard. Footage is still available on the HamiltonOld YouTube channel. Who could have imagined that this year rehearsals would be cut prematurely short, finishing with some hurried camera recording before lockdown curtailed our usual activities? Thousands of views later, the story of Jesus still as compelling, nearly 2000 years after the original events.



We are told that Jesus lived a human life to show that God loves us, wants to be with us, and demonstrates that this short life is not all there is. He was cut down in his prime by the sin and wickedness of humankind, but God is greater than our best and worst. Whatever our experiences, this period after Easter reminds us that we are more than just flowers.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*

## Monday Club

Several speakers have agreed to come and speak to us in our next session, but due to the current situation, they have been put on "hold".

The two dates that have been agreed are the outing to New Lanark on Monday 21st September and the Christmas Lunch on Monday 30th November.

At time of writing I do not know of any member with the Covid virus. I hope that this continues and would urge everyone reading this, to comply with the current lockdown legislation.

You may consider this harsh. Remember the situation that Terry Waite was involved in, a lengthy four years plus; prison/lockdown situation. Chained up virtually 24 hours per day, in dark and damp conditions, with one ten minute toilet break per day. When you consider this compared to our current situation, we only need to be a bit more patient?

Please keep in touch with each other as we are currently doing and do not hesitate to contact me on Hamilton 423274 if I can help in any way.

Keep safe!

*Charlie Duguid*



## Film Club

It seems at this moment in time that this lockdown has been going on for ever and I for one am missing the fellowship of our bi-weekly meeting, and as there is no sign of this ending soon and little idea how things will look when it does end this might seem like a pointless update.

I would just like to assure all of you that during these trying times I have kept my nose to the grindstone and have been watching films and eating popcorn so as when the situation changes, we are ready to go.

It's a hard job but I will soldier on for the good of the group.

But seriously, during these scary times there are many true heroes and we watch their efforts with awe everyday but this will end and we will be back together watching films and enjoying each other's company.

Until then follow advice and stay safe and when this ends we will be back.

You are all in my thoughts.

*Graham Horne*



## Girlguiding

The Brownies, Guides and Leaders would like to thank everyone for the support on Thinking Day and our Coffee Morning which raised a fantastic £208.87. This money was used to subsidise the girls annual census to Girlguiding. The girls also enjoyed a fun Shrove Tuesday making pancakes and of course eating them. (We've never seen them so quiet!!!!)

We hope all our girls and families are safe and can't wait to plan lots of new activities together when we can.

Take care!

*12th Hamilton Girlguiding Leaders*



## Finance

I have been asked about the fact that some of our offerings are not being received due to the closure of the church, and how this will affect our ability to pay our bills. We are also losing the income from hall and car park lets. At the time of writing we have enough cash in the bank and if the regular standing order level was to remain the same, we could survive for around 5 months before I would need to cash in some of our investments. This would not be a good time to do this as the values have dropped tremendously over the last few months. If you pay by Weekly Freewill Offering and wish to make a one-off payment to bring your offerings up to date or indeed wanted to set up a regular standing order then please contact me using the email or phone number below. I can either send you a standing order form which you would need to send to your bank or give you the bank details if you have access to online banking. Unfortunately the Royal Bank does not support taking photos of cheques as the Bank of Scotland does so sending cheques is not really an option.

This is a worrying time for a number of churches but we are in the fortunate position of having reserves to keep us going.

*Marilyn Henderson*

*Finance Convener*

[finance@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:finance@hamiltonold.co.uk)

01698 427892



## Saffronhall Singers

Our session came to an abrupt halt in the middle of March as the impact of coronavirus became apparent. Our final two evenings were cancelled as was our end of session meal at Bothwell Castle Golf Club. You can imagine the disappointment all round!

We are trying to keep in touch with all members by email and by telephone for those with no internet access. It is good to note that so far, everyone is well and coping as best they can in these difficult circumstances. Some have taken advantage of the online choirs that have popped up, while others are enjoying the open life in the garden. At least on the daily walk, we get a chance to talk to some others, although there is a limit to what you can say when every day is much like the day before!

As far as plans for the future are concerned, who knows! We had hoped to reorganise our meal for the end of September and restart our session towards the middle of September. We have a concert in the diary for October – a return visit to Auchlochach – and had decided on Friday 11th December as the date for our Carols by Candlelight. All plans are now flexible as we wait to see what we will be allowed to do as time passes.

In the meantime, we are thankful for all the supports that have become available online and on television and for the care and concern shown by all our friends and family. Stay well everyone!

*Campbell Barr*

## Sunday Live

We hope all of our children are well and staying safe and making the most of their time at home with their families. A Sunday is just not the same and missing seeing you! Each week we are posting a craft on Facebook for Sunday Live from Home to keep you busy. We're always delighted to see your pictures.

Take care and hope to see you all soon!

*Your Sunday Live Leaders*



## Guild

One Journey Many Roads  
Year 3 - The Extra Mile

We are living in strange times and, as I think of putting some notes down, where do I start? It is doubtful if we will meet as a Guild before the end of 2020.

I hope you are all coping with the lockdown and staying indoors. At least the weather has been good, which makes the permitted exercise more pleasant.

At this time I would normally be telling you what has been arranged in the syllabus for next session. However, I'm sure there will be stories to be told of things accomplished during our time at home!

Remembering Whose we are and Whom we serve.

Until we meet again, take care and stay safe.

God Bless you all.

*Avril Boothroyd*  
*Coordinator*



## Choir

It seems quite some time since our mid- week choir meeting on 11th March when we prepared for our last morning worship in the Sanctuary way back on 15th March.

Our daily lives have changed in so many ways, some for the better, and some more difficult to handle. The time to get around "tuit" certainly has come, and household and gardening chores have become the focus and order of each day.

The recycling!! of previous choir anthems has been appreciated by many of you and it is indeed good to see familiar faces in the setting of the chancel area on a Sunday morning live stream over these past weeks.

There may be limited choir news on the music front, however there is plenty of good news firstly on the arrival of "little feet". We can welcome five new babies, who have arrived into the world over the past number of weeks to family of choir members.

- Jim and Rona Maxwell welcomed two new great grandsons – twin boys Sami and Raffi.
- Bill and Sandra Craig welcomed their first grandchild – Reuben
- Robert and Linda Smith have welcomed their first grandson – Reid McPherson
- And finally Peter Condie has now become a great great grandfather to Mac Steven Fraser who was born on the Isle of Wight.

Congratulations to you all.

By the time the Newsletter is circulated Retta Mullen, a retired choir member, with many years faithful service to the Church and choir, will have reached her 99th birthday. Peter Condie will have become a centenarian, celebrating the wonderful milestone of his 100th birthday. He continues to sing with us on a Sunday morning. To both friends we send our love and warmest congratulations.

The summer months are likely to continue to see changes in our way of life, but lets pray we can begin to have limited contact again with each other in the not too distant future.

*Helen C Simpson*  
*Organist*



## Drama Kirk Bible Studies – “Calling the Disciples” Continues

Drama Kirk’s interactive bible studies continue online, with the second of our “Calling the Disciples” series planned for 19<sup>th</sup> May. This will be our first online study and we look forward to hearing what you think. We hope the evening will still be a fun and informal way to engage with scripture.

Throughout 2020, our studies will be a series “Calling the Disciples” when we will look at how Jesus called his disciples – not just the original 12 but also those who followed them, and the women who were so much a part of the early church. We started with Andrew, Peter, James and John; the four closest to Jesus who responded so quickly in following.

Our next study is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> May. We will begin by considering how their families might have responded. Then we consider how Jesus began to equip these first four. We will then look at the calling of some of the other disciples. This will include the very different responses Jesus received from Philip and Bartholomew and the scandal of calling the tax man (who had the cheek to throw a party!).

So please do join us as we explore these themes and understand afresh the calling of the disciples. For those who have joined us before, this will be a different experience. We still hope to make it interactive through the use of the chat functionality on YouTube where you can provide comments or ask questions. However, all performances have been recorded in advance so there is not the same opportunity for you to become involved. If you’ve never joined us before, why not try it from the comfort of your own home?

I am grateful to everyone who has given their time and talents to help record this.



Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, [www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld/live](http://www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld/live)

Join us as we embody the Word!

*“Enjoyed every minute, learned lots and laughed lots!”*

*“So very enriching. A lovely relaxed and joyous atmosphere”*



### Drama Kirk Update

In a time of isolation, it is more important than ever to engage with the hope of the gospel message. In the months ahead, as social distancing measures continue, we are unlikely to meet in person. The Drama Kirk Governance Committee has identified a role for Drama Kirk in bringing scripture to life for us, bringing unity to us in a time of separation. The creative team have been tasked with considering how the work might be taken online to provide a range of virtual gatherings. This will start on 19<sup>th</sup> of May when the planned bible study evening goes online. Please do support this and consider how you might like to be involved in the months ahead as we use our own fresh expression of church to bring something new to our worship.

## Filming the Passion

Thanks to everyone who watched our Passion Play on YouTube this year. It was a scaled-down version of what we had hoped to present in the heart of the town, but the positive feedback we have received indicated that it still brought the story to life for us and helped us journey with Christ.

I thought you might like to hear a wee bit about those few days we had before lockdown to film the Passion – and how Hamilton Old became the backdrop for this powerful story.

It was a week of many changes. Our rehearsals had been in full swing. We had just been joined by some drama school graduates, who were joining us primarily to play roles we could not fill from the local community. We ended up very much in their debt for all their hard work alongside our Drama Kirk regulars, as you will see.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, we were all still in church. Warnings around coronavirus were escalating and were impacting on how we lived. After church that day, our Drama Kirk Committee reviewed our plans and agreed that we should not continue to plan for a live performance but should instead focus efforts on filming as much as we could, in the hope we could still share a performance. We shared this information with the team and began to contact people we hoped could film it. We also planned our locations.

Restrictions continued to tighten; and time was against us. We realised we had to film as much as possible, as quickly as possible.

We filmed in two days. I am not sure it is possible to convey how frantic those days were. We should have had another month to rehearse – and of course build set, make costumes, bring props together. To shoehorn the activity into two days was quite a feat. I am proud of the team for all they achieved.

An important first step was building a “black box” to give us a blank canvas within HOPC against which to film. Give a thought for those who arrived at church for a 10am bible study and were roped into helping set this up...they ended up leaving church at 11pm....

I was also really worried about food. At a time when shelves were empty, how could we find enough materials for Jesus to cleanse the temple, sweeping items off the market stalls? And how could we justify taking food from the shelves to throw away? Alan Young came to the rescue and I am so grateful that Asda supplied food that was not going to be sold, so there was no waste in what we did.

Many amongst our community cast were unable to continue for a variety of reasons. We had to make significant cuts to the script to accommodate this and people played a variety of roles they have not planned to play and took on lots of lines they had not planned to say! We also had to hire an additional professional actor who astounded us all by coming in on day two of our filming to play Pilate. With an hours' notice he shaved off his beard, found the church and got on with it – never having seen the script before.

Everyone turned up when they could. Straight from work or school. It was frantic and stressful but with God's grace we got through it cheerfully and managed to film enough to tell the story. Our efforts were blessed and our play was watched by over 3,800 people over the Easter weekend. Heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible.

As far as I am aware, no other Passion Play in the UK was able to film the story. Others involved in the One Good Friday project filmed certain scenes which formed part of a documentary screened on Good Friday. It included some of our scenes and an interview with “our” Jesus as well as Ross and I. The documentary was seen by over 28,000 people on Good Friday.

We hope to be part of the One Good Friday Project again next year; when, God willing, we can take the Passion into the heart of our town.

*Liz Blackman*

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

### PETER SHARP CONDIE



Peter was born on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1920, the eldest son of John and Jean Condie and brother to Jim and Lottie.

He was baptized in the Old Parish Church and grew up attending St. John's Primary School in Bent Road (1927) and St. John's Grammar School in Hope Street. A very large class of pupils with Peter strategically standing beside the teacher.



Peter has always found great pleasure in singing, and in this early picture taken in April 1933 with his late sister Lottie, he was centre stage in the performance of Princess Chrysanthemum, an Operetta performed in the Parish halls.



An active member of the Life Boys and Boys Brigade of 4<sup>th</sup> Hamilton attached to the former North Church, it was there he was awarded his King's Badge. He enjoyed many years with the Company, camping and taking part in gymnastic displays.

He continues to display an enviable energy for exercise which continues with swimming and country dancing. Peter regularly swims 40 lengths at the Water Palace.

The family have always been attached to The Old Parish with Peter attending Church and Sunday School from the family pew in the right transept. At the young age of 9, he became a boy Soprano in St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

After school Peter embarked in a career as an apprentice butcher with Baxters in Quarry Street, but with the outbreak of war he volunteered for the RAF in 1939 and served for 3 years in Rangoon and Burma.



Peter lived in the Old Gate Lodge in Hamilton (now the Bentley Garage) till he joined the RAF, but his parents and Lottie lived there till 1967.

At the end of the war he returned home safely, but work was hard to find and he eventually found employment with Singers in Clydebank as a tool grinder where he met Vera, an oxy acetylene welder and they married in 1949.

Peter's family tree soon began to grow with the arrival of three children Christine, Jean and Peter.

That tree now continues to blossom with

4 Grandchildren – Karen, Gregor, Lynne and Brian

6 Great Grandchildren – Steven, Sara, Sophie, Elliot, Nolan, and Megan



And with the arrival of Mac Steven Fraser earlier this year on the Isle of Wight, Peter has his first Great Great Grandson.



It was when Peter returned to Hamilton that he took work with the Local Authority. He was Town Officer to the Provost and Council officials till he retired in 1984.

Peter has many hobbies. A keen gardener, but foremost is singing – he is the longest serving member of the Church Choir, and still regularly takes his place in the Tenor Section. He joined the Choir in 1932.

Over the years he has enjoyed entertaining at Ceilidhs, The Festival of Remembrance in the Town Hall, and various church and community events, where his performance with his “mouthie” is well appreciated from an extensive repertoire. He attends art classes enjoying water colour painting – is a keen country dancer – and that combined with



swimming where he has tutored more than 100 children in life saving skills, keeps him trim, very fit and healthy.

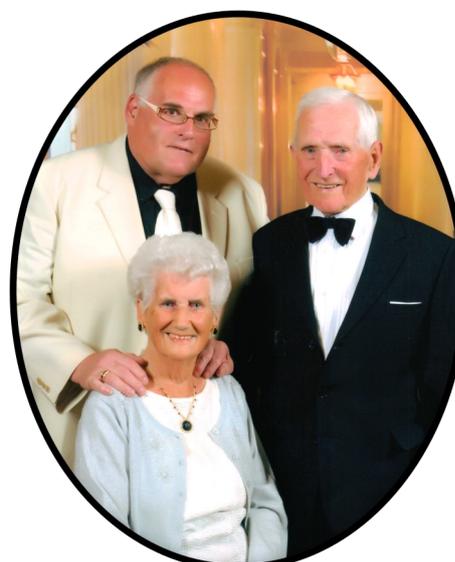
He has given outstanding service in the community during his working life, running youth clubs, woodwork classes, and youth sports events, as well as visits to care homes and hospitals .....accompanied by his “mouthie”.

Peter was ordained to the Eldership in the Church in June 1973 and although now inactive in this role, he has not retired from this office.

On the death of his dear wife Vera in 1987, young Peter returned home to live with his father, and over these many years they have been regular “cruisers” travelling to all parts of the world, accompanied by Lottie. It is right to recognise that the devotion in care and support of his father in every area of Peter’s life has been a mainstay for him and a source of great companionship.

I feel privileged to share in Peter’s life and sincerely thank him for the dedication and commitment he has given to the Church Choir over 88 years!! He is a remarkable, humble man, with a lifetime of memories in service to his country, community and fellow man, while taking great delight in the joy of his extended family.

On behalf of the choir and members of the congregation we celebrate this wonderful milestone that you have reached. Congratulations Peter.



*Helen C Simpson*  
*Organist*



***CELEBRATING A NONAGENARIAN***

***RETTA MULLEN***



**Helen S**

This month's newsletter allows me to recognise another important birthday milestone from within the Choir.

Retta's birthday was on 6<sup>th</sup> May when she reached her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, and it is wonderful to acknowledge these years, filled with a lifetime of commitment and service to her Church. She has been a stalwart in the soprano section of Choir, singing on the chancel until 1994.



**Carole Mc**

She has enjoyed a dedicated lifetime of service to the Guild both as a member and working on committee where she has made many long lasting friendships. With the union of Auchingramont Church, Retta became involved in the 1970 club, and again extended her group of friends, and enjoyed their meetings.



**Rona**

Her working life was spent with the Post Office, and on retirement she has found many activities to be involved with, from tending her garden, serving on Saturday coffee duty, baking for social events, and supporting every area of Church life in whatever way she could.



**David**

As I travel and reminisce with her through the decades of her life, it is fascinating to think of the many changes and circumstances she has experienced. From the hardship of war years, to the creature comforts, which we now all take for granted, she is truly grateful.



**Jim M**

Retta was born and brought up in Burnbank Road, and later moved to Cameron Crescent. She is now a resident of Crossreach Care Home, where she very much appreciates the support of the caring staff.



**Mhairi**



**Peter**



**Alison**



**Sandra C**



**Bill**



**Iain**



**Aileen**



**Armour**

Choir enjoy many excuses for a “cup of tea” and over the years these always included “praline cake”, willingly supplied by Retta. Delicious. Party plans are not possible at the moment, but I hope the faces of the choir surrounding these words will enfold her with the warmth of affection and high regard she is held – and we look forward to birthday cake at a later date!!



**Helen L**

Marilyn Henderson and Robert Smith’s pictures are missing, but they join with me in sending our love, congratulations and good wishes to our dear friend.

*Helen C Simpson  
Organist*



**Elspeth**



**Sandra N**



**Karen**



**Jim H**



**Tom**



**Avril**



**Campbell**



**Carole G**



**Margaret**



***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*

*31 January 2020  
Heather Menzies*

*3 February 2020  
Christine Taylor*

*13 February 2020  
Elizabeth Gardiner*

*2 March 2020  
Janette Wyllie*

*6 March 2020  
May Hathorn*

*11 March 2020  
Sheila Bell*

*17 March 2020  
Margaret Allan*

*24 March 2020  
Cathreen Prentice*

*9 April 2020  
Anne Peffers*

*12 April 2020  
John Prentice*

*20 April 2020  
James Naismith*

