



March 2020

Easter

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 Buttery
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

Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

What are you eating? Do you try to eat fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables, or do the all-year-round varieties that the Supermarkets provide make it difficult to know when is the best time to eat certain things? I definitely prefer the taste of a Summer strawberry, to those we see in the winter, whether they accompany Wimbledon or not.

Similarly, what do you like to consume, spiritually? Do you like to follow the seasons of the Christian year, with Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and then Trinity or “Ordinary” time, all the way through to Christ the King Sunday, at the end of November? Do you enjoy Harvest Thanksgiving, dedication services, and other occasions? Do we have a routine for the staples of bible reading and prayer?

I am delighted that we have returned to the New Testament for our Bible Reading Challenge, and I have attempted to mingle the Gospels and Letters, so it doesn’t feel stale. I am also delighted to be preaching about bible characters and significant stories, which takes out of the cookbook of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) that many churches follow. Instead, we have been looking at some of the characters that we may have rarely seen since Sunday School. How do these stories taste, now, with more experienced taste buds?

The basic ingredients of a spiritual life have not changed. So, sometimes we need to prepare them in new and exciting ways. Sometimes, this works for us. Other times we might push things around our plate with a little bemusement. But I trust that together we will be nourished and will help each other digest what life might serve us, in the church and out of the church. Surely that is one of the strengths of church, that it has it’s seasons, and we have company while we eat. Bon appetite!

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



What's On

March

Sunday 01	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 08	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Tuesday 10	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 15	9.30am	Early Morning Family Service
	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22		<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 29		<i>British Summer Time Begins</i>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



April

Sunday 05		<i>Palm Sunday</i>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Holy Week in Hamilton
Sunday 05	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion in Praise, St John's Parish Church
Monday 06	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion in Chorus, St John's Parish Church
Tuesday 07	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion instrumentally, St John's Parish Church
Wednesday 08	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion in community, St John's Parish Church
Thursday 09	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion in torment, St John's Parish Church
	9.15pm	Gethsemane Vigil, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Friday 10	10am-1pm	Vigil of the Cross, St John's Parish Church
	3.15pm	Performance of "The Passion of Jesus" at Castle Street, Hamilton
	7.30pm	Playing out the Passion in sorrow, St John's Parish Church
Saturday 11		Performance of "The Passion of Jesus" at East Kilbride
	Noon	Playing out the Passion in sorrow, St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	Renewing Our Baptism Vows, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Sunday 12		<i>Easter Sunday</i>
	6.30am	Dawn Service at the Old Parish and Chatelherault followed by breakfast
	10.45am	Easter Day Service followed by Communion
Sunday 19	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26	9.30am	Early Morning Family Service
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



May

Sunday 03	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 12	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 17	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24	9.30am	Early Morning Family Service
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 31	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



One Good Friday

One Good Friday is a UK-wide initiative to perform the same play at the same time in various towns and cities. It is led by Wintershall, the team behind the Trafalgar Square Passion Play, which has been a part of London's Easter celebrations for ten years.



We are delighted to be the only Scottish production, which will be performed in Hamilton on Good Friday, 10 April, and in East Kilbride the following day. Both performances will commence at 3.15pm, the same time as the other locations. I have every confidence that God will bless this display of faith and Christian unity.

The script is a traditional re-enactment of the Passion which will last 90 minutes. Rehearsals are in full swing and we are all loving how simply the script moves us through that fateful week. We are delighted to have Nicky Elliott join the cast once

more in the role of Jesus. He is also really enjoying the new script which he describes as “delicate” – and it is certainly very close to the Gospel texts.

There are lots of ways, still, to get involved. We have a number of gaps in the cast – so if you would like to join us for a smaller role, without having to commit to weekly rehearsal, then please do get in touch and we will arrange something that can work for you.

As well as acting there are so many other ways you could get involved in taking the Gospel into our local community. Could you help with some painting or building? Could you steward or help set up on the day? Could you help raise awareness? Could you help with catering and look after our cast and crew?



Only by working together as a community of faith can we realise our part in this national project. Please do join us and be part of something special. You can join us any Tuesday at 7pm at Hamilton Old Parish Church or – if that doesn't suit – please contact dramakirk@gmail.com



ONE GOOD
FRIDAY
2020

Saffronhall Singers

At the time of writing this article, we are already benefitting from extra hours of daylight and Christmas is but a fond memory. The highlight for our Singers was our annual Carols by Candlelight, early in December, when the church was well filled with friends from within the congregation and the Singers and from the wider community. (We have several folks who contact us each year to find out the date so they can come along and participate!). As ever it proved to be a very happy evening, a mixture of carols, old and new, interspersed with some choral pieces (and a few jokes). It was followed by a superb supper in the halls, thanks to Betty's Tea Committee and the Fellowship Committee. This is a really impressive example of what we can achieve when we work together – thank you to all the volunteers who coped with the arrangements so well. Thanks too are due to our minister, Ross, who welcomed everyone, dealt with the housekeeping arrangements and then did the vote of thanks. We are also fortunate to have support from Paul McCrudden on the sound desk. With his help, we made a recording, the previous year, of the choir pieces we sang and thanks to Jim Henderson, they are now available on the church website.

By the time you read this, we will have given our final concert for the session, a return visit to Wishaw South on 17th February. Thereafter, we will be concentrating on adding to our repertoire before finishing the session on 30th March with a dinner at Bothwell Castle Golf Club. And that is how the time goes!

I am grateful to all the members for their continued support over the session and must give a special mention to our accompanist, Lilian Barrie, who works tirelessly on behalf of the Singers. Thanks too must be given to the folks who prepare and serve the refreshments each week and help clear up afterwards. What a great team!

Campbell Barr



Link Committee

Our next event will be our Easter Service which will be held on Wednesday 8th April 2020 at 2pm in the Church with refreshments in the North Hall after the service.

Invitations will be issued shortly. If you are 80 or over and have not received an invite, please pass your details to the Church Office or phone Andrea on 01698 281905.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Helen McGreevy

Link Committee Convener

Drama Kirk, our Fresh Expression of Church, successfully completed its first full year with very positive feedback for all its projects, including the interactive bible studies, "The People's Passion", our summer walking project "Walk with the Word: Exodus" and finally our nativity. The Governance Committee have reported regularly the positive progress to Kirk Session, including completing raising the required £10,000 for the year ahead.



In 2020, you can expect similar events from Drama Kirk. Please see separate articles in Tidings for this year's Passion Play and the bible study series.

We are delighted to welcome the producer of the Wintershall Passion Play, Charlotte De Klee, who will visit HOPC on Tuesday 18th February to support our rehearsals. As the producer of the UK's biggest Passion Play, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to benefit from her expertise and guidance. Charlotte's father, Peter Hutley, wrote and initially produced the Wintershall plays. In 2014, she took over the role of producer of the plays, carrying on with her father's life's work and taking inspiration from his dedication. We look forward to welcoming her.



Girlguiding

With our new session now in full swing the girls have been working hard making their new notice board. This will be filled throughout the year with crafts and pictures. So watch this space!!

Thinking Day is just around the corner and we're looking forward to our service in the Church on 23 February followed by our Coffee Morning over in the Halls. Everyone is welcome to join us and as always your support is greatly appreciated.

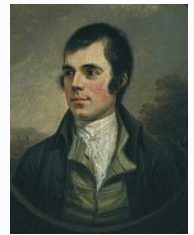


Girlguiding Leaders

Fellowship Committee

Since that last issue of Tidings, we have held the congregational Christmas Lunch. Despite the numbers being a little lower than in the past, it seemed that everyone enjoyed the day. No doubt Santa's visit and the gifts for the youngsters helped a bit.

On 2 February we held a "Burns Lunch", when we had a meal of soup, haggis, neeps and tatties and oat cakes (or bannocks) and cheese with tea or coffee. This was followed by some entertainment featuring Bill Craig, songs by Sandra Craig, poems by Stuart Davidson and Colin Davidson and a final poem, Tam o' Shanter performed magnificently by Hugh Campbell, an elder from Avondale Church, Strathaven.



Everything again seemed to be enjoyed by those present and to them the committee extends their warmest thanks.

If anyone has an idea of a place to visit or something they think would be enjoyed by members of the Church, please speak to any member of the Fellowship Committee and it will be looked at.

Iain McLean
Convener

Anchor Boys

The last session ended on a happy note with Santa paying a visit to our Christmas party and a film show being held following the party.

2020 has started with our boys being very busy. There is a Scottish themed picture on the wall which will be added to in the next few weeks.

Lack of snow didn't stop the boys making snowmen, They iced and decorated snowmen biscuits and we had reports that some biscuits did not make it home.

As a reward for excellent behaviour, we had a fun filled games night with basketball, curling and the old favourite dodgy ball. Colin and Stuart taught a new game which has been a huge success.

Our next big event will be Easter with stories and crafts.

Nanette McLean
Leader in Charge



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.

Catherine Southgate



Drama Kirk Bible Studies – “Calling the Disciples”

Drama Kirk has developed a series of interactive bible studies, where the focus is not on performing but rather on learning more about scripture together, using drama tools. The evenings are fun and informal and provide a completely new way to engage with scripture. As we embody the great characters of scripture, we draw closer to them and often deepen our understanding of their experience.

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 can also reflect on our own calling to follow Jesus through these sessions. Even when we see ourselves as weak or foolish, we have been chosen by our God. As I prepare these sessions, I am much reassured by 1 Corinthians 1: 26 – 28, which tells us:-

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world and put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world and put to shame things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen.”

So please do join us as we explore these themes and understand afresh the calling of the fishermen. In our first study, we will consider the calling of Peter, Andrew, James and John. You may find it helpful to read Luke 4 & 5 in advance. However; feel free to simply turn up on the night and enjoy!

Sunday 2nd February at 7pm, Hamilton Old Parish Church

Come along – embody the Word!

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

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

Subsequent studies will be held on 19th May and 29th September.



Company Section



Battalion Badminton

We entered two teams this year for the Battalion Badminton Competition with Euan, Cameron and Cameron in Team A, and Colin, Lewis and Callum in Team B. All the lads put in a great effort and played well, and we were runners-up in the team event. In the face of fierce competition Lewis battled through to win individual junior gold – a great result for him and hugely well deserved.



Company Film Night

We had our traditional Company Film Night before Christmas. Being concerned for the intellectual and emotional development of the boys, the movie this year involved several educational scenes of gunfights and hand to hand combat, some most thought provoking car chases, and a variety of very artistic and incredible stunts. Promoting healthy bodies and minds the night included a break for hot dogs, crisps, haribo sweets, coke and irn-bru. Thanks are due as always to projection maestro Graham Horne for working the wee black box, and by magic making pictures appear on the screen.



Battalion Table Tennis

Euan, Cameron, Lewis and Cameron took part in the Battalion Table Tennis Competition. All of the individual matches were played on a “round robin” basis rather than a straight knockout. It was another good competition and all of the boys played really well. We won the team event, but no individual golds. Both Camerons finished as runners-up in the Senior and Junior competitions. It was an enjoyable night with all of the matches being played in a competitive and good spirit – no gunfights or hand to hand combat required.



Battalion Masterteam Quiz

Euan, Colin and Callum represented the Company in the Battalion Masterteam Quiz, answering questions on general knowledge, Boys’ Brigade knowledge, Bible knowledge, entertainment, sport and observation of a short film clip. Some of the questions were extremely difficult, and the officers were glad to be marking the papers rather than having to take part. It was a very well attended by most Companies in the Battalion, and our boys finished a very creditable fourth.

Preparation and practice is now well underway for the Battalion PT and Vaulting competition and Battalion Bible Quiz - not held at the same time though it would make an interesting combination!

Alistair Buttery
Captain



Monday Club

On our first meeting of the New Year, Rev Christopher Rankine gave us an insight into his journey into the ministry, right up to present times. Christopher was very well received by the members who enjoyed his presentation very much. We finished our first meeting with our Annual Financial AGM. The meeting decided to donate £400 to the Church funds.

Our second meeting of the year was about Robert Burns. Our speaker from Edinburgh, Roy Johnstone spoke at length about the Bard, his life, work and poems. All were well received by a good turnout of the membership. We finished the afternoon by singing a few of the well know Burns songs, assisted by Campbell Barr on the piano. After that the members tucked into a spread of cheese and bannocks and some rather delicious shortbread!!

We look forward to a musical afternoon on 9 March with The Cadzow Quartet.

Our last meeting of the session will be the Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation by Jim Henderson on his recent visit to China.

Monday 6 April is our annual outing. We leave the Church at 1.15pm for New Lanark, visiting the New Lanark Hotel for Afternoon Tea and we should be home for 4.30pm.

We are still on the lookout for new members, anyone interested in joining us please have a word with myself, Nesella or any of the committee. You will be made most welcome.

Charlie Duguid



Finance

At the time of writing, the 2019 accounts are being finalised and will be presented to the Trustees on 10th March for approval. The date of the Annual Stated Meeting is 29th March when a full report will be given to the congregation.

The Gift Aid claim for 2019 has been submitted and paid by HMRC. The total gift aided income was **£90,464.08** which gave us a refund of tax amounting to **£22,616.02**. This is a drop from last year with the loss of members outweighing increases in giving.

The table below shows a breakdown of the different elements included in the return along with the previous years' figures for comparison. If you have any questions or would like any further information on the figures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Method of Giving	Total donated 2019	Total donated 2018
WFO envelopes	£21900.00	£23951.00
Annual cheques	£3335.00	£3740.00
Standing Orders	£65229.08	£67676.08
One-off donations	£0.00	£500.00
Total	£90464.08	£95867.08

At present we have 180 declarations in place representing 247 members. If you pay tax and would like to contribute extra to the church at no cost to yourself, please speak to me. For every £1.00 you contribute HMRC will refund us 25p of the tax you have already paid. Also if you stop paying tax or change your address it is important that you let me know.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the finances of the congregation, including yourselves, for your commitment in supporting God's work in the church locally and nationally.

Marilyn Henderson

Finance and Gift Aid Convener

01698 427892

finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

Choir

By the time the magazine reaches you we will be into the month of March and at the time of writing the weather has so far been kind to us for Wednesday evening meetings.

Choir continue to prepare 4 part Introit and Anthems on a weekly basis and I value the commitment everyone makes to achieve this.

Our congratulations to Jim and Rona Maxwell on acquiring the new title of great grandparents. We are delighted to hear of the safe arrival of twin boys.

The final meeting of choir for this session will be on 29th April when all music should be returned for filing and the planner for the summer months uplifted.



Helen C Simpson
Organist

Guild

One Journey Many Roads Year 2: 'Companions on the Road'

After a slow start numbers have increased slightly.

We have been fortunate having interesting speakers with a variety of topics.

At our financial AGM in November we disbursed monies to the following:-

Church:	£150
2 x Projects:	£120
Wellhall:	£30
Casa Semear:	£25



We look forward to Spring and Easter.

With best wishes

Avril Boothroyd

Sunday Live

Our last session was brought to a close with our very own Sunday Live Christmas Party. To make it even more special the man in a big red suit made an appearance. Great fun was had by all!

With 2020 now well underway, we have enjoyed a busy start to the year. Colin has kindly started a "Memory Jar". The idea being each week the children make note of a memorable event from the week just passed to put in the Memory Jar and at the end of the year the jar will be opened and we'll have a look at a selection of highlights from 2020.

The children have been have fun listening (not so much singing!!) to hymns and picking their favourites. Graham has compiled a list which has been sent to the Minister and hopefully we'll be hearing some of these hymns during our Sunday morning services.

Each week we have been hearing about a different character from the bible and enjoying a variety of games and crafts.

All going to plan we're looking forward to a Sunday Live trip on 14 June. Details to follow in due course.



The Sunday Live Team

The Scottish Bible Society

Work continues worldwide to provide bibles to those who cannot afford one and to spread God's word. Christians in Laos and Cambodia have been persecuted for their faith and find it difficult to get work as they are discriminated against! This is the case in many countries!

We are so fortunate that we can worship freely, hear God's word preached, and read it for ourselves.

“As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

Muriel Eadie

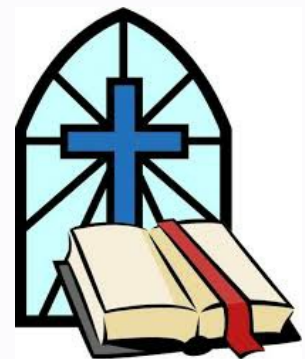


THE BLESSINGS THAT REMAIN Annie Johnson Flint

There are loved ones who are missing
From the fireside and the feast;
There are faces that have vanished,
There are voices that have ceased;
But we know they passed forever
From our mortal grief and pain,
And we thank thee, O our Father,
For the blessings that remain.

Thanksgiving, oh, thanksgiving,
That their love once blessed us here,
That so long they walked beside us,
Sharing every smile and tear;
For the joy the past has brought us,
But can never take away,
For the sweet and gracious memories
Growing dearer every day.

For the faith that keeps us patient
Looking at the things unseen,
Knowing Spring shall follow Winter
And the earth again be green,
For the hope of that glad meeting
Far from mortal grief and pain -
We thank thee, O our Father,
For the blessings that remain.



(From **The Best Loved Religious Poems**, compiled by James Gilchrist Lawson)



**CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL
2019**

**Just to let you all know that some
of our boxes went to Liberia.**

**Thanks once again for your
kindness and generosity.**

Alison



Flower List 2020

March	01	Mrs Renwick
	08	Mrs Nicholson
	15	
	22	Mrs Henderson
April	29	Mr McLean
	05	Mrs Gardiner
	12	Mrs Shearer
May	19	Mrs Condie
	26	Mrs Cunningham
	03	Mrs Ronaldson
	10	Miss Adams
	17	Mrs Gibson
		Mrs Wilkinson
	24	Mrs Dick
June	31	Mrs Gordon
	07	Mrs Irvine
	14	Mrs Taylor

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers.

**Flower Delivery**

March	01	H Simpson
	08	H Troop
	15	N Barr
	22	G Davidson
April	29	N McLean
	05	C Elder
	12	C Gordon
May	19	J McHarg
	26	M Richardson
	03	A Davidson
	10	N Garrett
	17	L Macintyre
	24	D Hastie
	31	E Gardiner
June	07	E Irvine
	17	A Cunningham

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 2020

March	01	M Eadie
	08	E Reid
	15	B Stoddart
	22	E Hunter
April	29	E Irvine
	05	E Gardiner
	26	B Smith
May		E Sorbie
	10	V MacLean
June	17	F Hunter
	02	M Gilbert
	07	E Harley
	14	I Garrie

**Flower Circle**

Would the members of the flower circle and anyone else interested please meet in the Halls on Tuesday 7 April at 10.00am. This is to decorate the Church for Easter.

Thank you



I would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown to me when Sam died. My family and I were completely overwhelmed by the cards, letters, flowers and visits. We were absolutely amazed by the amount of people who joined us to celebrate Sam's life, which was a great comfort. Many many thanks to Ross and our Church family for all the support at such a sad time.

Kind regards

Jean McHarg



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*

6 November 2019

Sam McHarg

18 November 2019

Janet Thomson

22 November 2019

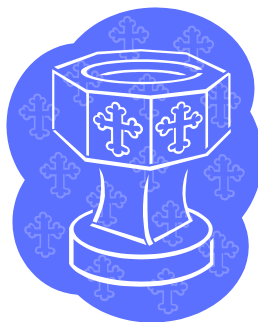
Agnes Clark

Baptisms

8 December 2019

Naomi Foster Aiton

Faith Foster Aiton



God of all variety,
while the basic ingredients of life
and the basic ingredients of what you provide for us
have never changed in all the aeons,
yet, your Word is new to us, day by day.
Help us to acquire an appetite and palate
for the rich variety that you provide,
in our experience
and through the provisions of your church.
For you provide us words and thoughts and people;
and most of all you provide Yourself...
Some hae meet and canna eat,
and some wad eat that want it;
but we hae meat, and we can eat,
sae let the Lord be thankit.
Amen.

