



# Tidings



March 2015

Dear Friends

I write in the month of January and the New Year celebrations seem to have disappeared into the background. The nights are getting longer and hopefully, by the time you read this, the snow which January has produced, will have gone! We can but hope!

I have enjoyed sharing in all the festive seasonongoings in the Old Kirk and, given none of us knows how long the vacancy will be, I will enjoy just as much continuing the Interim Moderatorship and the Locumship for as long as it takes!

This time of the year gives us all an opportunity to look forward and I rather like the hymn that has the words in it; "Look forward in faith."

It is always good to look to the future when we have these things that attract and are pleasant, but we always have to be aware of the fact that there are folk for whom the future maybe is not as bright as they would have hoped it would be and we all have to take charge of that in our minds, in the understanding that we support the folk who need it most and commit ourselves to that, again, for as long as it takes.

"As long as it takes" involves quite a commitment and we genuinely say when we are asked to help with something, that we will positively respond, but we can forget that we then are challenged to fulfil what we have committed to do and the resultant realisation can make us feel vulnerable.

If though, we look to these things in the Faith and take the template that our Lord has given us, then anything with which we assist another person, will be helped by the power of the Spirit in us, for the person for whom we care.

I remember as a Student of the Ministry that we went through hard times and had it not been for the really close folk who utterly committed themselves to supporting us, then I would not be where I am today and so, it is my fervent prayer that that continues across the board of life.

I have hope for that in the Old Kirk, so that, when a new Minister comes and accepts the call to pastor to the people here, he/she will recognise that what I just have been talking about, is here and is obvious in this congregation and I have been impressed by it.....so.....let's take these attributes of the Spirit with which we have been blessed and use the power we have to the full, that this Kirk will continue as the charismatic place it is and through the commitment we make and demonstrate, let us make it appealing, not just to a new Minister, but to all who seek, because all are in it together for "as long as it takes".

So may God continue to bless His people here in the continuing Ministry in which all will share.

With every Blessing

*Norman*



## What's On

### **March**

<b>Sunday 1</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 8</b>	10.45am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Joint Communion Service in the Old Parish
<b>Tuesday 10</b>	7.30pm	Session Meeting
<b>Sunday 15</b>	10.45am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Morning worship
<b>Sunday 22</b>	10.45am 3.00pm	Morning Worship Woodburn Court
<b>Sunday 29</b>	10.45am 3.00pm	Palm Sunday Family Service Woodburn Court



### **April**

#### **Holy Week**

Holy week service will be held in St John's Church at 7.30pm.  
Full details will be available via the Intimation Sheets during March.

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
	6.30am	Dawn Service followed by breakfast
	10.45am	Easter Day Service
<b>Sunday 12</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 19</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 26</b>	10.45am 3.00pm	Morning Worship Woodburn Court

### **May**

<b>Sunday 3</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 10</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 17</b>	10.45am	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 24</b>	10.45am 3.00pm	Morning Worship Woodburn Court
<b>Sunday 31</b>	10.45am 3.00pm	Morning Worship Woodburn Court





## For Your Information

Life is never dull for the Session Clerks at 'The Old' and as we move on from our very successful union towards a new chapter in our history it is super to see a steady increase in our membership. Bill and I are aware that many of the folks who are new to us will be unaware of the more practical aspects of attending The Old Parish so I thought I would take this opportunity to provide some guidance on a couple of our more contentious issues.



### Parking

We are not blessed with the best parking facilities so we need to have some fairly tight rules. In addition we rent out 'reserved' spaces to local businesses to supplement our income and that cuts down the number of free spaces available during the week. Those spaces are used on a first come first served basis by our Nursery staff and individuals attending the wide variety of groups using our halls during weekdays and indeed at weekends. Those groups and organisations also supplement our income substantially. We do not routinely have spaces available for members who want to pop across to the shops, however if you are lucky enough to find one available then you are welcome to use it for a short time but not as an all day 'park and ride' for your trip on the X1 into Glasgow! If you are visiting the office on church business and there are only disabled spaces available then feel free to use one but only for the duration of your business. The minister's space must be kept clear at all times. We are also working towards preventing members of the public from using our premises as a free car park during the week and addressing the accompanying verbal abuse our Caretaker receives when she tries to speak to people about that and it may be that we will have to move towards more restricted entry in the future.

On Sundays we have permission to park in the bowling green spaces and on the yellow lines on the church side of Leechlee Road until 1pm, leaving the pedestrian crossing clear. In addition parking is permitted without payment until 1pm within the designated parking bays in Strathmore Road and Cadzow Street and in the Church Street car park. Parking is **not** permitted on the yellow lines at the entrance to Strathmore Road. They are there to keep the junction entrance wide enough to admit Council Utilities vehicles and more importantly Fire Service vehicles. If you park your car there you run the risk of having its side taken off by a heavy vehicle trying to negotiate the corner and you may also be issued with a ticket or worse still have your car towed away if it's causing an obstruction. Parking is not permitted on the red chipped paths around the church as access must be kept available for an ambulance if required. If you can't find a space on a Sunday there is a substantial multi storey car park just across the road in Leechlee Road which you can use for a very modest fee. Finally if you are unfortunate enough to get a parking ticket whilst parked within the permitted areas up until 1pm on a Sunday please hand it in to the office and we will do our best to have it cancelled.



### Complaints/Suggestions

In a busy church like ours we are dependent to a huge extent on our rental income, the good will and hard work of our full time staff and, above all, on a whole host of volunteers who willingly sacrifice a substantial amount of their personal time to ensure that everything runs smoothly, that our premises are fully and appropriately utilised and that everything, including our equipment, is maintained to a very high standard. Much of that work goes on unseen and is carried out in addition to personal/professional/business commitments and little, if any, is done for any form of reimbursement. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved as without their selfless efforts we would be in a sorry state indeed.

Now to the crunch! Nothing in life is ever perfect and we will always encounter hiccups and problems along the road. However there is, unfortunately, a very small minority of members who repeatedly complain to the extent that we are in danger of losing the services of those individuals we rely on so much. There can be nothing more discouraging than being on the receiving end of a constant stream of complaints when you are doing your best and our aim, particularly as office bearers, should be to support and encourage rather than constantly undermine

Consequently and with immediate effect we are going to introduce suggestion boxes at the Church doors and in the office. If you have a complaint or a comment about anything that you feel is not being addressed appropriately then please feel free to highlight it in a **signed and dated note** and place it in the box. Please **do not** approach members of staff or responsible Office Bearers/ Conveners/volunteers etc. personally with any issues you wish addressed unless it's an absolute emergency or extremely urgent as you will simply be referred to the suggestion boxes. Similarly we recognise that nobody has a monopoly on good ideas or suggestions so if you have one please share it with us by popping a note in the box. Contents of the boxes will be reviewed on a weekly basis by the Minister and Session Clerks and appropriate action agreed. Your support and understanding in this regard would be appreciated.

*Louis Munn  
Session Clerk*

#### **Property Committee**

The Poliflor Safety flooring has been installed in the Long Room.

Janitorial items for dealing with spillages and cleaning up in the Hall when staff are not present have been placed together in the half landing (off the passage to the Office).

We had water leaks in the North Hall in the storms. We are seeking quotations for repairs to the ventilation tower area of the roof.

*David Leishman  
Church Convener*



#### **Fellowship Committee**

Following the Festive Season, things are now just about back to normal. We are at the planning stage for taking a canal boat trip in June, going to Edinburgh to join the boat and being taken on the Union Canal to Ratho, from where we will have a meal somewhere, then back to the Church. We will also be organising the golf day in May, and making arrangements for a concert in August. Please remember if you have any ideas or suggestions we would be happy to consider them. Ideas etc. can be given to any member of the committee.

*Iain McLean  
Convener*

#### **Link Committee**



Our next event will be our Easter Service on Saturday 4 April, invitations will be sent out early in March and we hope to see as many of you as possible then.

*Your Convener  
Jim Naismith*

## Boys' Brigade



The Company was well represented at the World Mission Cheque Presentation at Dalziel St Andrew's Parish Church on 14 November 2014.

Ross Smart and Fraser Ewart spoke about the time spent by them out in the Czech Republic and the work being done by the project at the Comenius Camp. It was a proud moment to see two of our own lads give such an assured presentation. The assembled dignitaries were all extremely complimentary and left with a very positive view of the work being done in the Brigade both at home and abroad, and the quality of the young men coming through the ranks.

The evening included a live video link-up with a Boys' Brigade Company in Zambia playing instruments purchased from funds raised through the World Mission project run three years ago. It was great to see the joy and enthusiasm they showed for being in The Boys' Brigade and having their Company band.

A cheque for £11,000 was presented to the Moderator and this year's project was then revealed. More about that in due course.....



For the first time in years the Company Section took part in the National Seniors' 5-a-side competition. The team comprised Russell Anderson, Cameron Marks, Sam Walker, Lewis McParlane, David Anderson and Jack Anderson, and was managed by Andy Walker. We were drawn in a first round group at Greenock made up mainly of Companies in Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow. All the games - especially the "local derbies" - were played in the finest Boys' Brigade tradition – fiercely competitive with occasional skill and moderate violence.

Sadly the team didn't qualify for the next round but it was a good night and the boys were consoled with a visit to McDonald's.



The Company took part again this year in the Battalion Masterteam Quiz at Blantyre Congregation Church. Andrew Reynolds, Jack Anderson and Ewan McIntosh had to answer team and individual questions on general knowledge, sport, Boys' Brigade knowledge, Bible knowledge, and entertainment, all rounded off with questions from observation of a film clip played on the night. It was great to have Ewan take part since he only joined the Company recently along with Euan Baird.

It is always important for the Company to be involved with the Battalion competitions and by taking part the boys earned points towards other Battalion trophies.



Finally we are delighted that Louis Munn has kindly agreed to be the Liaison Elder for the Company Section. We look forward to Louis' visits and trust he will bear in mind that all reports back to the Session about the Company Section's activities should be good and not necessarily accurate!

*Alistair Butterly  
Captain*

## Junior Section

Since my last Tidings Report, as well as working towards their respective badges, the boys' have participated in three different competitions.

A full team in the Board Games competition comprises 9 boys. • Unfortunately, only three boys' participated. • Euan Davidson, Greg McIntosh and Colin Davidson did very well to come 2nd in our heat.

We had six boys' turn out for the PE competition in December, and we finished joint third.

Most recently we hosted the General Knowledge competition. • We had previously won this competition for three years in a row. • This year we had three teams compete, and two finished joint third. • Our other team finished in 2nd place. • I'm sure you will agree that despite not winning this year, the boys did very well.

Next up is the Bible competition which will take place in our halls during a normal Wednesday Night meeting.

*Alan Brown  
Leader-in-Charge*



### Anchor Boys and Bluebells

The Anchor Boys and Bluebells have settled back into "business as usual" following all the excitement of Christmas and all the activities that go with it. • The boys have made calendars and the Bluebells have made bracelets to take home.

At time of writing we are looking forward to the Battalion sports night which will be held at Holy Cross High School on 18 February.

We had to cancel our meeting on 28 January due to the forecast of very heavy snow.

All boys and girls of P1-P3 and who are 5 years and over are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings in the halls. (5.30pm-6.30pm)

*Nanette McLean  
Leader in Charge*



### 1970 Ladies' Club

Although still enjoying the new syllabus the ladies are already looking forward to our Coffee Evening on 12 March when once again we will be entertained by the Saffronhall singers. Last year's Coffee Evening will be hard to beat but that is just what we mean to do with great music, good 'banter' and a lovely supper of home baking. Anyone (gentlemen included) who would like to join us will be made very welcome.

*Margaret McKinnon*

## Old Kirk Dancers

The new session is now well the way and doing well. Recently an Improvers Class was held with 64 attending, hopefully interest shown from those wishing, and keen to learn Country Dancing will have the knock-on effect of improving the attendance at the regular classes. All are welcome.

*Irene Mathieson*



## Crèche

If you would like to have a young child looked after while you are in Church, you will find us in the Halls in the room next to the Office.

All babies and children too young for Sunday School will be made very welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

*Catherine Southgate*



## Sunday Live

Involvement in the Christmas Family Service and “Christmas Pie” Sunday seem like a memory as we look forward to Easter and Mothers’ Day. We did raise £159.00 from the Christmas Pies which will go towards subsidising some of our activities. The children were ‘paid’ for their efforts with a selection box. Our thanks also to Santa who dropped in to pay us a visit! Dale Strachan is settling into his new role with Sunday Live. Our offerings for 2014 were transferred to Session to pass onto children less fortunate than ourselves. The amount was £290.00 so, thank you to all the children.

We have booked tickets to pay a visit to the matinee performance of “The Wizard of Oz” at the Eastwood Theatre on Saturday 16 May. The children all voted to go on this outing!

Our Liaison Elder, Kathleen Hunter, will be home from her break in South Africa and we look forward to hearing of her experiences.

Thank you for reading our contribution and your continued support for our young people who are the future of our Church.

*Sandy Messer*

## Guild

Whose we are & whom we serve  
Year 3 “A World to serve”

Firstly I would like to thank the congregation for their support on 16 November (Guild week). We raised £242 which enabled the Guild to give £400 to the Church.

Our first speaker of 2015 was Rev A Barrie when he talked about hymns that have been used down through the ages, giving us the history of their writers.

We were active with Jane Steel and her ‘Armchair Exercises’ with ladies participating.

The meeting on 18 March is a social with afternoon tea - Eleanor Kelly will entertain by singing and playing guitar. You will be made very welcome.

Syllabus planning on 1 April is open to all Guild members.

We look forward to springtime and Easter.

*Avril Boothroyd  
Coordinator*



\*\*\**Life with Christ is an endless hope. Life without him is a hopeless end*\*\*\*

## Monday Club

Our Christmas lunch was well attended, with everyone enjoying their lunch and we all enjoyed singing carols. The last meeting of 2014 consisted of a musical quiz hosted by Naida Meek; who asked us to name Christmas number one's from the 1950's to present times. Music clues were played and both teams engaged in what tended to be a real challenge, but at the end of the quiz, a draw was agreed!! We then had our financial AGM which went well, we agreed to refer a possible membership fee, to our main AGM to be held on 30th March. A donation of £200 to the Church was agreed.

The first meeting off the new year got us round the world with Allan Joyce in just over one hour, no check in, security, customs or baggage reclaim!!!! Allan showed slides of the trip of a lifetime, he undertook with his wife and two friends to Germany, Dubai, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Moira Condie gave a very interesting talk on Burns' Women, which was well received by a very large attendance of members.

In February we have a visit from " Mercy Ships" and our own Alasdair Gordon on "Introducing N.L.P."

Margaret and Billy Falconer visit us on 2 March with "Hearing Dogs". We have a visit from Thorntons on March 16.

Towards the end of April we intend to have a visit to the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh with a high tea on the way home, dates and costs will be confirmed to members in due course.

Due to roof problems in the North Hall members are reminded that if it's a wet day we will meet in the Session Room, until repairs are completed. Many thanks for the donation of tins of biscuits.

*Charlie Duguid*



**Saffronhall Singers**

At the beginning of December we gave our first concert outwith the church when we sang at St John's Guild. The evening seemed to go well and we enjoyed fine hospitality afterwards. Our Carols by Candlelight was also very successful and we are grateful to the fellowship committee for the excellent supper afterwards. Anyone with access to the internet can go on to the church website and listen to the singing, thanks to the technical wizardry of Jim Henderson and Paul McCrudden. The money raised through the sale of tickets was shared between church funds and the Christmas charity appeal.

Rehearsals are now under way for our next events – we have two more concerts this session – one in Blantyre for the ladies of the bowling club and another at our own 1970 club. As time passes we are adding to our repertoire, always looking out for arrangements that will suit the various audiences while presenting each section with something challenging but enjoyable to learn. Donations received following concerts are added into the funds raised through members' annual subscriptions and profits from "tea money" and this is used to buy music and stationery.

We now have forty members, including conductor and accompanist and practices are well attended. Thanks are due to Janette Duguid who organises refreshments and to all those members who donate surplus chocolates and biscuits which are enjoyed by everyone.

*Campbell Barr*

## Choir

The new session of choir was due to start on Wednesday 14th January, but with a strong forecast of gales and snow, I decided that afternoon to cancel our meeting. The evening resulted in good weather conditions!! Such are the vagaries of predicting our weather. However, to compensate and keep to our planner, the choir gallantly met very early on the following Sunday morning. Weather conditions have continued to be challenging in January, and as I write we are in the middle of another snow trap. My thanks to everyone for their excellent attendance in turning out in demanding travelling conditions at the end of the month, when we met with snow falling!! That forecast was accurate, and I got it wrong again. Who would be a meteorologist😊

The music planner now takes us through the early months of the year, and we are working through a wide variety of repertoire to support introits and anthems, some known, some new, which will take us to the end of April. My thanks to the members of the congregation who regularly share their thanks for the choirs' input to morning worship week by week. It is encouraging to know the music is appreciated and that words can be meaningful and appropriate to the service. I am very fortunate to be supported by a highly capable SATB choir and we continue to share strong friendship and fellowship.

We have now taken delivery of two Yamaha pianos. They have been fitted with a trolley system, and anyone using them should be aware that the front runners have a lock on them, which aids stability of the instrument. Please take care when moving the piano as it can topple very easily if not handled correctly. The bottom centre support frame above the pedals has a small stabiliser pin. This should be slackened off when moving and then tightened to support the pedal bar. Protective covers for the instruments have been ordered, but will not be available for a few months. Obviously it is unwise to place any items, such as coffee cups on them.

Our final meeting for the session will take place on Wednesday 3 May when all music from December to that date should be returned. A reminder also to include your index reference on copies. My thanks again to Sandra Nicholson and Helen Lyon for keeping our library files up to date. Their persuasive powers😊 mean all the music can be gathered that evening and filing completed in one exercise.

*Helen C Simpson  
Organist  
helensimps@sky.com*



## Thank You

Most sincere thanks to Rev Norman McKee, Elizabeth and Kate for arranging to send the Church flowers to me following a small operation.

*Lila Ferri*

*The shortest path between two people is a smile.*



**World Mission**  
**Prayer Focus: Christians in Minority Situations**  
**Christians in Gaza**

We have heard many Jewish and Muslim accounts of the situation in Gaza, but so often the voice of the small Christian community is not heard.

Christians in Gaza are a small minority among 1.76 million Palestinian population and their numbers are decreasing. In 1997 the total number of Christians in Gaza was 1688 and today they number 1303. The majority are Greek Orthodox (89%), but 9.3% are Roman Catholic and 1.52% belong to other denominations.

Life for these Christians is severely limited. It will come as a shock, but Christians in Gaza have not been permitted to visit holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem since 2007; key Christian sites that we can visit freely. This is having a negative impact on their ability to uphold their religious faith. Suffering due to the occupation, Christians in Gaza, as all Palestinians, aspire to freedom and an independent Palestinian state.

The WMC seeks to attentively accompany Christian communities in the Middle East on behalf of the Church of Scotland and does so through working with partner churches, the Middle East Council of Churches, supporting schools and initiatives across the region.

**Please pray for them**

*We pray for all victims of torture;  
 For those placed in prisons and dungeons,  
 maltreated through solitary confinement and cruel punishments  
 because they express criticism of harsh regimes.  
 For those who are taunted and attacked  
 because of discrimination on grounds of colour, sex or race.  
 For those who have been deprived of rights or homes  
 and who demonstrate for justice and freedom.  
 Lord, give them courage, strength and faith  
 in their continuing stand for what is just and right.  
 Spirit of compassion,  
 you gently comfort those who have experienced violence,  
 those whose lives are shattered by conflict,  
 who experience oppression or persecution,  
 You guide those who tend the wounded,  
 who seek to heal memories and to encourage hope,  
 inspire people in all nations of our world  
 to show your fruit of love and joy, of kindness and goodness,  
 Of gentleness and peace.*

*Amen*



**World Day of Prayer**

This year is on Sunday 6 March at 7.00pm in Quarter Parish Church in in sheltered housing complexes in the afternoon. More details will be in the Intimations nearer the time.

# Olá, Amigos da Casa Semear

## (Hello, Friends of Casa Semear)

Hi Everyone.

Can I just take this opportunity to say what a delight it was to be back among you all at the Old Parish over Christmas and the New Year. I felt like a returning missionary myself, as I was welcomed, greeted and hugged by so many of you. With my time in Brazil last year taking up all my holidays and then some, I wasn't able to be back with you following my trip. Hopefully later this year I will get the chance to put that right.



January has traditionally been the time for the Casa Semear Team to take a holiday. With all the increased activity at the end of the year culminating in the Christmas period, January has become a time to recharge the batteries. For Robert, Silvanna and the family it's a time to get away from Casa Semear, the city and find some quality family time of their own.

Having been in the position to witness first hand the demands on their time in a normal day, which of course doesn't fall within a 9 to 5 timescale, the only way to truly break from Casa Semear, the children, their families and the many social problems that arise daily, is to actually get away and break from normal surroundings.

You will also see from the photos that the large kitchen in Casa Semear has continued to be worked on. This is the benefit of supplying funds beyond what is needed for any specific visits, the work just keeps on going.

The photos show the walls all newly covered in large white tiles and of course cover all the new construction that has been done within the space giving the room a clean fresh look. The new black marble worktops are in place, even although at this stage the wooden cabinets have not yet been fitted. The double sinks, large cooker and the space in general looks like its being used already, which is obviously great news and will be a welcome change to the smaller kitchen in Dora's flat that was previously where all the preparing, cooking and clearing up was done.

The wooden cabinets are being specially made by another organization within the Abba family, namely "Solido Moveis", (look for them on Facebook), so this very much keeps the business and the money within Christian organizations, which is great news for everyone. It's kind of amazing to think that the funds sent are then benefiting more than just our own Casa Semear.

Caio and Dorothee (Supporters and workers with Casa Semear) have at long last been successful in adopting a child. Dorothee, pictured, who took the female teenagers group will now take some time off from Casa Semear to look after her new 7 month old son, Mikael.



[www.casaabbaproject.co.uk](http://www.casaabbaproject.co.uk)

For further information or to receive newsletters or to arrange a presentation either at home or for an organisation, please feel free to contact me either through the website, on facebook or by email on [craig.garrett@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:craig.garrett@blueyonder.co.uk) or call Craig Garrett on 00966 556802655.

## Gift Aid

At the time of writing I have almost finalised the main gift aid claim for 2014 and the good news is there is a slight increase on last year's figures. Gift Aided income is £77,265.95 (£77,032.58 last year) which will result in a payment of £19,316.49 from HMRC (£19,258.15 in 2013). Please remember these figures only refer to income that is gift aided – there is other income donated by members who, as non-tax payers, are not eligible to gift aid their donations. This year I have analysed the figures in more detail as follows:

<b>Method of Giving</b>	<b>Total Donated</b>	<b>Total Donated</b>
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
FWO	£17716.15	£13881.44
Annual Chqs	£2050.00	£3240.00
Standing Orders	£57499.80	£59911.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77265.95</b>	<b>£77032.58</b>

*giftaid it*

As you can see there has been a considerable decrease in the payments by standing order and cheque, but this has been offset by a large increase in giving through Free Will Offering envelopes. It is encouraging that even in these challenging times, our members maintain their commitment to the work of the church, local and national.

### **Reminder**

Please remember to let me know if you stop paying tax as I cannot make a claim on your behalf if this is the case. Also, as I have to give HMRC names and postcodes, it is important that I have the correct address for each donor.

Finally, thanks are due to the counting team who record the figures week by week and to Bill Nelson, the FWO convenor, who collates the FWO records and passes them to me. Together we are able to maximise financial resources for the benefit of the church.

*Nesella Barr  
Gift Aid Convener*

Tel: 01698 329177, e-mail: [nesella.barr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:nesella.barr@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Safeguarding

Our congregational register for 2014 has been updated and handed over for attestation. We are delighted to tell you that David Young has now completed his training and has received his verifier code; he is now able to process PVG applications and has been added to the register as a coordinator.

Over the last few weeks we have been working to complete the PVG process for those who were still operating under Disclosure Scotland, the previous system and by the time you read this article, we anticipate the changeover will be complete, well ahead of the October deadline set by Edinburgh. There are thirty eight members of the congregation who are members of the PVG scheme, which means they have been cleared to work with young people and /or vulnerable adults, mainly Sunday Live staff, BB officers and the pastoral care team. As a congregation we are grateful to these volunteers for so willingly agreeing to comply with the procedures. Our next task will be to encourage all volunteers, who have not already done, so to attend a training event. Information will be made available through the Sunday Order of Service when training events are being held.

David and I were very disappointed to learn that a Safeguarding Roadshow for Hamilton Presbytery was cancelled due to lack of interest. As relatively new coordinators we both feel we would have benefited from such an event and have asked to be notified if a similar event is to be held nearby. In the meantime we will continue to do our best with the information available.

*Nesella Barr / David Young (Safeguarding Coordinators)*

### Flower List 2014/2015

March	01	Mrs Renwick	17 Nethan Gate
	08	Mrs Laird	9 Portwell Mews
	15	Mrs Wright	20 Rowellan Avenue
	22	Miss Mullen	47 Cameron Crescent
	29	Mrs Hunter	55 Wellhall Road
April	05	Mrs Gardiner	16 Lilac Hill
	12	Mrs McLean	2 Hepburn Hill
	19	Mrs Shearer	34 Lauder Court
	26	Mrs Condie	23 Brouster Hill, East Kilbride
May	03	Mrs Cunningham	19 Luss Brae
	10	Mrs Ronaldson	31 Calderglen Avenue, Blantyre
	17	Miss Adams	1 Brandon Court
	24	Mrs Gibson	5 Scott Grove
		Mrs Wilkinson	29 Iona Ridge
	31	Mrs Dick	16 Chantinghall Road
June	07	Mrs Irvine	25 Forrest Gate
	14	Mrs Graham	32 Udston Road

**Donations to the fund are always welcome since they assist with the special occasions such as Harvest.**

**Thank you for your generosity and co-operation.**

**E Gardiner**

01698 427852



### Flower Delivery

March	01	Mrs H Simpson	20 Oak Lea
	08	Mrs G Keir	6 Mauchline Court
	15	Mrs M McKinnon	61 Silvertonhill Avenue
	22	Mr B Clarkson	35 Cameron Crescent
	29	Mrs C Gordon	13 Auchingramont Road
April	05	Mrs C Elder	4 Pine Park
	12	Mrs M Henderson	67 Sycamore Drive
	19	Mrs F Moffat	101 Townhead Street
	26	Miss E Sorbie	11 South Park Grove
May	03	Mrs P Scptt	Marshall Grove
	10	Mrs N Garrett	7 Bent Road
	17	Mrs L Macintyre	1 Lilac Hill
	24	Miss D Hastie	60 Cameron Crescent
	31	Mrs A Cunningham	19 Luss Brae
June	07	Mrs E Gardiner	16 Lilac Hill
	14	Mrs E Irvine	25 Forrest Gate

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

**Kate Morrow**

01698 420748

## Rose Bowl List 2015

March	01	M Wilson
	15	E Reid
	22	B Stoddart
	29	E Hunter
April	05	E Irvine
	19	M Eadie
May	03	B Smith
		E Sorbie
	17	V MacLean
	24	F Hunter
	31	G Dobbie
June	14	E Harley



## Flower Circle

Would the members of the Flower Circle please meet on Friday 3 April to decorate the Church for Easter. Anyone who would like to help is very welcome. Expertise is not required! Greenery please.

*E Gardiner*



## Scottish Bible Society

I attended a meeting of Hamilton Bible Society on 12 January. We had a visit from Norman Liddle, Community Fundraising Manager at Bible House in Edinburgh, to give us an update of their work. He had visited Rwanda on behalf of the Bible Society distributing Bibles and visited the Presbyterian General Hospital where the ‘Good Samaritan Group’ manage to feed the 150 patients once a week – patients rely on family or friends to feed them! Norman’s Group helped with the food preparation! The February Project hopes to enable patients to receive more help as families are very poor.

There has been a wonderful reconciliation between groups who once opposed each other during the terrible genocide around 20 years ago – children are told about it and told that it must never happen again.

We are now all set for the visit from Bible World during the week 16 March and ask you to pray for its success and that it will let many children and their families know of God’s love. We thank the Church for their contribution of £200.00 to help finance the visit. We also thank the Church members who have so kindly and willingly offered their help during the visit. Thank you for all your continuing support!

It is hoped to put a “Read and Pray around Hamilton” in your magazine listing readings from Luke’s gospel and ask you to read and pray for schools and Churches involved in the visit. The children will be given Luke’s gospel during their Bible World visit.

*Muriel Eadie*

*Now, faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see*



**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*

*29 November 2014  
 Janet McEwan, 6 Whiteford Court*

*3 December 2014  
 David Gibb, 127 Chatelherault Crescent*

*8 December 2014  
 William McGilliard, Flat 3/5, 101 Townhead Street*



**God's Gifts**

Our society depends a great deal on lending and borrowing. Indeed our whole economy depends on lending and borrowing. The old saying "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" is not always helpful nor is it even true in practice. Lending can actually bring great blessings. When Jesus walked the earth he had nothing of his own in terms of ordinary possessions even though he was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. "*The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head*" were his own words.

Jesus often borrowed. He borrowed a boy's dinner on one occasion and used it to feed 5,000 people. He borrowed many other items such as a house, a boat and a donkey. In every case the lender received a wonderful dividend. But the greatest reward of all was to know that the Master himself had used them.

God gives all of us gifts, even those of us who believe we are unimportant and have little or nothing to give.

If we keep God's gifts to ourselves - whether these gifts are spiritual or material - they are unlikely to prosper. But if these same gifts are freely used in the service of God and others, they will prosper and increase to God's glory.

In the words of the old hymn

*I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be*

From "Dial Good News" - A Short Collection of Inspirational Message" by Alasdair Gordon.



### Easter Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for all you are day after day and again, as now we think about the example of Jesus, we are led in this time of the year, to fix our minds on the sacrifice he made for all who would take him at his word.

We know he died willingly and freely for all and the fact death was not the end, brings us a hope that is immeasurable; hope of the resurrection, knowing that the power supplied to raise Christ from the dead, equally is here and now for us and offers us new hope, new horizons and a continuation of a faith founded on love.

We pray that as your Church in this place, we may be assured that any effort we make to publish the truth of what we know as our faith, will be enlivened by the Holy Spirit and that the electricity of resurrection will be such as will empower all who come to you, that Your Name may receive all glory and praise, always and ever through the Lord who saved us, even Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, Amen.