

Tidings



March 2018
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

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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 Alex Stoddart

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr David Young
Mrs Wendy Hay

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Andrea Davidson
Parish Halls, Strathmore Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 281905
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Dear friends,

We have travelled through Advent, as things got darker; celebrated Christmas and Hogmanay together; and throughout Epiphany we have observed the light getting brighter. Spring has virtually sprung, and perhaps there is no other time in the year when we are so acutely aware of the passing seasons. What potential lays below the surface?

When the nights were darker, we naturally slowed our pace, though there was time to reflect and prepare for brighter, warmer days. We prune that which we expect to bloom in the summer. My grandfather, the only true gardener in the family, would prune his roses at this time of year. It allowed them to maximise the light and the rising sap, and the result was beautiful.



It is nice to have a wide variety of programmes and events in our church life. With a large congregation, like ours, it allows for differing tastes and gifts. But, that doesn't mean that we need feel obliged to get involved in everything.

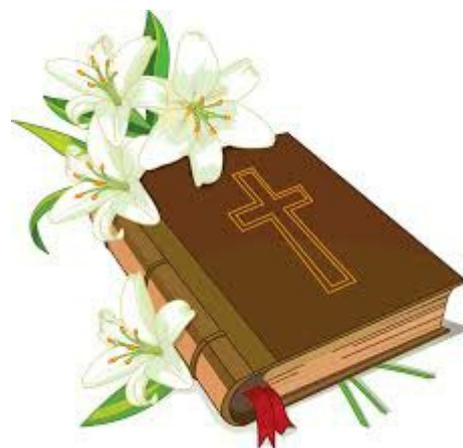
Churches are notorious for creating more and more programmes and never letting them go. I wonder if we have taken stock, not just of what we might be involved in, but also what we might prune away to allow fresh growth. We cannot do everything, nor should we feel guilty for it!

Now, that is not an excuse to avoid that which might be profitable to our spiritual health and Christian witness. But to be healthy, we need adequate rest as well as activity. Frenetic activity, chasing from one thing to the next, is perhaps a hallmark of our exhausted generation. This wasn't the way of Jesus or the Apostles. They were busy but not overburdened. They took time to rest, and there are only a few significant examples of where this was interrupted. Shouldn't we also enjoy balance in all things so that we can rejoice that the days are getting longer and apply our energy appropriately?

As individuals and as a congregation, it is my hope that our worship and our witness enjoy these seasons of energy and contemplation, of beauty and satisfaction, to the glory of God.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross.



What's On

March

Sunday 04	10.45am	Morning Worship
Friday 09		Church Concert
Sunday 11		<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Tuesday 13	7.30pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 18	10.45am	Morning Worship
Saturday 24	2.00pm	Link Committee Easter Service
Sunday 25		<i>Palm Sunday (British Summer time begins)</i>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



Holy Week in Hamilton

Sunday 25	6.30pm	Songs of Praise, Cadzow Parish Church
Monday 26	12 Noon	Lunchtime Series "Once You Know the M.O." at St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	Cadzow Parish Church
Tuesday 27	12 Noon	St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	Cadzow Parish Church
Wednesday 28	12 Noon	St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	Cadzow Parish Church
Thursday 29	12 Noon	St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	Cadzow Parish Church
	9.15pm	Gethsemane Vigil, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Friday 30	Noon-3pm	Vigil of the Cross, St John's Parish Church
Saturday 31	2.00pm	Performance of "Resurrection" at Bottom Cross, Castle Street (near Asda)
	7.30pm	Renewing Our Baptism Vows, St Mary's Episcopal Church



April

Sunday 01		<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 08	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Douglas Hogg
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Divine Service
Saturday 21	10.00am	Health Care Seminar
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 29	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



May

Sunday 06	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 08	7.30pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 13	10.45am	Morning Worship
Friday 18	7.00pm	Watoto Choir from Uganda
Sunday 20	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Douglas Hogg
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

Holy Week Here We Come!

With only a few weeks to go we are most definitely in the thick of planning and rehearsing the Passion Play. Hopefully you will start to see the striking publicity around town and of course in church. This covers all of the various Holy Week celebrations in the town centre, a wonderful demonstration of the Christian unity we enjoy.

There is no doubt that a full Passion Play is a huge undertaking and I am so grateful to everyone who has taken the leap of faith with us and to all who support us.

Rehearsals are progressing very well and you will have opportunity to meet new characters this year; including Pilate and John the Baptist. The cast and crew are doing very well and I hope you will give them great support after all their hard work.

We have also been richly blessed with support from Tunnocks, the Souter Trust, the Passion Trust, the Novum Foundation and Westhill Charitable Trust. Their financial support is helping to make this possible.



Meantime, I have been going around several churches speaking about Passion Plays in general and of course what we are up to. This has given me a wonderful opportunity to hear different experiences folks have had of Oberammergau, including one memorable story of a woman who had a last minute chance of a ticket but no accommodation. She went anyway and slept in the fields.

I have spoken about Oberammergau, the world's most famous Passion Play, a lot in recent weeks. It has got me thinking. In 1634, when their first play was performed, did they think that in 2010, over half a million people would travel to their tiny village to meet Jesus and walk to the cross with Him? No. I don't think so either. Which begs another question. What legacy might we leave with our work here in Hamilton?

As I've said it's a big undertaking and we need as much support as the congregation can give. Could you simply don a hi-vis vest whilst you are watching and steward on the day? If you would like to lend us your support we would be so grateful.

Our fellowship committee are organising a concert on 9th March to raise funds. My thanks go to everyone who is involved in organising it and I would ask that you come along and support this.

Here's a thought. If you had a friend you wanted to share your faith with, but you are hesitating to speak to them about it or to ask them to go to church; would it be easier to ask them to come to see a play with you? Passion Play represents a new opportunity for sharing our faith – whether we are in a costume or not, we are all disciples and we can all use this opportunity to share and grow.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Liz Blackman



PASSION PLAY LANARKSHIRE PRESENTS

RESURRECTION!

A PLAY TELLING THE STORY OF
THE FINAL WEEK OF JESUS' LIFE

BY KAMALA JANE SANTOS

SATURDAY 31ST MARCH AT 2PM

BOTTOM CROSS, CASTLE STREET (NEAR ASDA), HAMILTON

CONTACT: 01698 281905

Facebook: @Passionplaylanarkshire

Twitter: @Playlanarkshire

Westhill
make things happen

PASSION
TRUST



Souter
CHARITABLE TRUST

The Novum Trust

The Monday Club

Our "First Foot" speaker on 8th January was the minister, Rev Ross Blackman who gave us Chapter 2 of his experience in training for the ministry. His times at Carluke and Lanark, right up till he arrived here with us at The Old Parish.

The meeting ended with our financial AGM. We agreed to give a donation of £300 to the church. Our Treasurer Tommy Primrose is standing down at our AGM in March. Our thanks go to Tommy for his services over the last 5 years. I am happy to advise that we have a volunteer to take over the position.

On 22nd January we had Alex Baird speaking to us about Robert Burns and drawing comparisons between his writings and some of our modern day poets such as Pam Ayers and Roald Dahl. The members found this very interesting and quite funny in places! The afternoon ended up with Campbell Barr playing some of our favourite Burns songs which we all joined in with! Bannocks & cheese and shortbread were enjoyed by all to finish a very good meeting!!

12th February, we have an afternoon with Naida and Alex

26th February, Macmillan Cancer Support.

12th March, Shelia Bond (no relation to James!!) she is speaking to us on "Hums and Hummels"

26th of March is our AGM Social.

We intend to hold our annual outing to The Devil's Porridge Museum at Easttrigg on Monday June 4th. We leave around 1030 and arrive back to Hamilton for 1900, after stopping for a high tea on the way back. Final details are not to hand as I write but will be advised to members asap. The cost will be the same as last year £30.

Charlie Duguid



The Brownies

The Brownies once again enjoyed their annual trip to Motherwell Civic Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk in pantomime, and finished the last night before Christmas with their Christmas party which they always enjoy.

We have started our new session now and the girls are going to finish off their collectors badge. They have been working on this badge over the past few months each bringing their own collections weekly and telling the rest of the girls a bit about their collection, which is quite interesting. The next badge they are going to be working on is The Forest challenge, Scotland which covers the importance and magic of trees and Forests.

We would be grateful if you would come along and support our World Thinking Day coffee morning on the 18th February after the church service.

Helen/Lynn

Brownies

Property

A cracked pane to the Fraser window has been replaced and polycarbonate clear sheeting protection has been erected to the external face of all the etched glass windows.

A new dishwasher has been ordered for the long Room.

Two additional viewing screens are to be erected at the rear of the centre aisle.

A grit box and spreader to be obtained for the car park.

A defibrillator has been obtained and situated in the Hall's vestibule. Training to be given in its use.

John Downie

Property Convener



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



Anchor Boys

The Anchor Boys have been very busy since our last report appeared in Tidings.

We have a lot of Christmas cards to make in time for their delivery with the hyacinths to our over 80 year old ladies and gentleman, so from September the boys prepare a few cards each week.

Our Hallowe'en party was a great success with a variety of characters appearing. (Some scary and some less so).

The advent season was a very busy time which started with the annual Carol Service. The Congregational Church in Blantyre was the venue and Rev. Malcolm Anderson provided a very fun filled service with some of our boys starring in the Christmas story.

The following week saw us back in our own hall for the ever popular film night and we were joined by officers and boys from 10th Hamilton and 2nd Larkhall. Thanks to Mr Horne for all his hard work in transforming the hall into an amazing cinema and for showing the film and cartoons.

Our Christmas party was held on the week of Christmas and we were delighted to have a visit from Santa who gave up his spare time to gave gifts to our boys. Thank you very much Santa.

Our stories, games and crafts have been a usual feature during our session and our theme for the beginning of 2018 has been "The boyhood of Jesus", This ended with a quiz which proved how well the boys have listened to storytelling.

Sincere thanks to members of the congregation for their support in so many ways over the session.

All boys aged 5 to 8 and in primary school are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 5.30pm.

Nanette McLean

Leader in charge



Junior Section

We start off the new session by welcoming Charlie Finlayson to the Juniors.

Regretfully, due to low numbers, we have been unable to participate in several competitions such as the Board Games and the Marching competition. Due to the weather, the General Knowledge competition was cancelled.

We did take part in the Cross Country competition, where we were represented by Callum Ewart & Charlie Finlayson, and we came 4th in the Junior race. As last years winners, we hosted the PE competition where we finished 3rd, represented by Callum Ewart, Charlie Finlayson and Nathan Leisegang.

As well as preparing for the upcoming Bible Quiz, the boys have been working towards their respective badges.

We would encourage all boys from P4 - P7 to come along and join us on a Wednesday evening - Bring a friend!

Alan Brown

Leader in Charge

Boys' Brigade Company Section



Battalion Badminton

David Chisholm (Senior), Euan Davidson (Intermediate), and Colin Davidson (Junior), made up the Company's team for the Battalion Badminton Competition in November 2017. They gave a very good account of themselves in both the team and individual competitions. David played extremely well and won gold in the individual senior.



World Mission

We attended the World Mission Cheque Presentation held at Dunblane Cathedral on 17 November 2017. Euan and Colin Davidson came along with Frank Gardiner to represent the Company. It was a magnificent setting for what is one of the more high profile events in the Boys' Brigade calendar. It was a good evening with the local Boys' Brigade orchestra playing for the hymns and providing musical entertainment. They were excellent, especially a couple of the lads who played solo parts.

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, was presented with a cheque for £10,000 to support the World Mission project in Bangladesh. He then presented trophies to the Companies in attendance with Euan and Colin collecting the Company Section Trophy and the Best National Average Trophy.

The Moderator presented to each Company crosses brought back from the Holy Land. The crosses have been carved from olive wood, and represent the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. It was an unexpected but very meaningful gift in recognition of the effort made by the Companies in raising funds for the World Mission project. Perhaps not entirely in keeping with the spirit of the gift, but entertaining nonetheless, Euan thought it would come in handy for keeping younger brothers in check!

The Moderator spoke with appreciation about how well each Company had done, and in more general terms about the overall work of the Brigade. His theme was St Andrew, and he took the time to show the boys his chain of office. It came as a surprise to all present (except the Moderator who was wearing it) to see that the chain comprises a centrepiece in the shape of loaves and links in the shape of fish. It all tied in with the well known tale of St Andrew bringing to Jesus the laddie with the loaves and fish to feed the five thousand.

Refreshments after the Presentation gave to the boys the opportunity to meet the Moderator and have their photographs taken with him – and to the Moderator the chance for a few “selfies” with the boys. Undoubtedly that will be a highlight (if not the highlight) of his Moderatorial year.



Christmas Fayre

We had a Company stall again at the Christmas Fayre selling various items of craft work made by the boys and officers. I am grateful to everyone who supported us by purchasing from the stall. I am especially grateful to the officers who gave even more of their time in making items for us to sell, and revealing yet further hidden talents.



Company Film Night

We had our usual Company Film Night to round off the first part of the session. Thanks are due as always to Graham Horne for setting up all the equipment, and for bringing along his blu ray player to hook up to the big screen in the North Hall. It all works through some kind of dark magic so just as well we have our own technology wizard.



Battalion Table Tennis

The New Year brought the opportunity to take part in the Battalion Table Tennis competition. Over the past few years this has been a competition in which the Company has done well. This year we had a new team comprising David Chisholm, Cameron McIntosh, and Cameron Baird. Euan Baird came along as well to play in the individual senior event.

The boys put in a remarkable performance, and we won the team event. David went on to win the individual senior competition and Euan finished as runner up. Cameron McIntosh then went on to win the individual junior competition beating Cameron Baird in the final.

It was clean sweep and well deserved congratulations are due to all of them.

Alistair Buttery
Captain



Choir

Choir resumed their mid week meetings in January, following a busy session preparing weekly Introits and Anthems from September through to the Christmas season. This covered a wide mix of music from new composers to more well known sacred pieces.

We now begin a new part of the Church calendar with music following the Lectionary through Epiphany, Lent and leading to Easter.

My thanks again to Sandra and Helen for keeping the filing organised and up to date. We have an excellent library of music and with a large choir this generates a considerable amount of music each quarter.

Choir will continue their rehearsals on a Wednesday evening till the end of April. Music for this session should be returned on Wednesday 2nd May.

Helen C. Simpson
Organist



Saffronhall Singers

Our group continue to meet every Monday at 7 30pm in the Session Room. Attendance so far this year has been excellent and we are delighted to have two new members. We will be performing on two occasions in the next few weeks - once in East Kilbride and once in Motherwell. Our session will come a close on Monday 26th March.

Campbell Barr

Fellowship

Since the last issue of Tidings, arrangements have been made to hold a Spring Concert featuring the St. John's Singers in the Church on Friday 9 March at 7.30pm. Tickets for the concert, costing £5 are available after each Sunday service, and also from the Church office each Tuesday till Friday from 9.00am till 1.00pm. The net proceeds from the concert will go to help with meeting the costs of the 2018 Passion Play, so your support would be much appreciated.

Arrangements are also in place for the breakfast following the Dawn Service on Easter Sunday.

The annual golf day will be held towards the end of May, so if you are interested, please watch the Intimation Sheet from mid March for further information. The date has not yet been fixed.

We are looking forward to a trip to the Devil's Porridge early in June. This is a joint venture with the Monday Club, and is open to the whole congregation.

Other dates have been planned for later in the year, and more information will follow in due course.

Iain McLean
Convener



Film Club

Film Club

We have started a film club in the Church which meets every 2nd Thursday in the North Hall using the newly installed equipment.

The Club started in December 2017 when we kicked the whole thing off by showing classic Christmas movies like Miracle on 34th street and White Christmas.

On Hogmanay we screened the Classic Ealing comedy Whiskey Galore (A story about Whiskey just seemed appropriate).

The purpose of the club is for people to gather together and enjoy fellowship and enjoy some classic movies. Tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied.

Attendance is free to anyone who wishes to attend and any suggestions for films to show will always be entertained. With this in mind on Thursday 15th of February by popular request a musical from Hollywood's Classic era will be playing.

So if you want to sing along with Judy Garland, Doris Day or dance with Astaire, Rodgers or Gene Kelly be at the North Hall at 1:30pm on Thursday 15th February a good time is guaranteed.

Graham Horne

Guild Be Bold Be Strong Go in Love

We are halfway through the 17/18 session, we've had interesting speakers. Attendance has been low due to operations, illness and 'wet days'!

Guild disbursed over £600 to several Church of Scotland causes at their AGM in November.

The theme for 2018-2021 will be announced shortly.

Please remember Betty Smith and Wilma Primrose's family in your prayers.

Thank you to all in the congregation who support the Guild in many ways.

We look forward to spring, Easter and hopefully warmer weather.

Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator



Stewardship & Finance

At the time of writing, the 2017 accounts are being finalised and will be put to the Trustees on 13 March for approval before being presented to the congregation. We are hoping that for the first time in a number of years the accounts will show a surplus instead of a deficit.

We are delighted to welcome Amanda Strachan on to the committee and look forward to having her on board.

Around eighteen months ago the bank advised that charities with a turnover in excess of £100,000 would incur bank charges previously exempted. We reached this figure in the middle of last year and have been charged around £50 per month (£600 per year) since then. The breakdown of charges shows that the biggest charge is for the paying in of cash and cheques which is costing 70p for every £100 of cash paid in and the same for a single cheque. Could I encourage you to consider paying your offering by Standing Order which, at the moment, does not seem to be incurring any charge, although I am sure that will change!! I have a supply of standing order forms or I can give you the bank details if you use internet banking. The cost of the envelopes would also be a saving.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people concerned with the finances of the congregation:- the committee (especially Bill Nelson who takes charge of the cheque book on my many holidays!!); the counting team who meet every Monday to count the offerings (we could not do without them); and last but not least, **YOU**, the congregation for your continued support of the Lord's work in the church, locally and nationally.

Marilyn Henderson
Finance Convener



Gift Aid

I have just completed the Gift Aid claim for 2017 and I am extremely happy to report that there is a substantial increase in our claim. The total gift aided income was **£97,940.58** which will give us a refund of tax amounting to **£24,485.15**.

The table below shows a breakdown of the different elements included in the return along with the last two years' figures for comparison. The last quarter of 2016 increased over 2015 following the Giving for Growth campaign. The drop in annual cheques is due to the fact that we sadly lost a few members last year who contributed in this way, as well as 2016 including £975 from 2015. I am pleased to note that although a number of members who formerly gave by Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes changed to Standing Order, the value of those still contributing using this method has increased as well.

Method of Giving	Total donated 2017	Total donated 2016	Total donated 2015
WFO envelopes	24,818.50	20,241	18,906.11
Annual cheques	1,415.00	4,325.00	3,100.00
Standing Orders	69,607.08	59,522.48	56,054.80
One-off donations	2,100.00	5,630.00	0
Total	97,940.58	89,718.48	78,060.91

This has been a fantastic response to the appeal to bring our finances into a positive position bearing in mind these figures only relate to the gift aided contributions. **A very big 'thank you' to you all.**

At present we have 200 members with declarations in place representing 288 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 your already paid tax - can't be bad.

Marilyn Henderson
Gift Aid Convener

01698 427892

mjh_rtel@blueyonder.co.uk

Link Committee

Our next event is our Easter Service which will take place on Saturday 24 March at 2.00pm in the Church followed by tea in the Halls. Invitations will be delivered by your Elder with your Communion Card.

Jim Naismith
Convener



I can't believe it was the 11th December 2016 that I first took part an active part in a Sunday service and stood up to do the prayers of Intercession.

Since then, the number of times I've taken part in Sunday worship has crept into double figures. This year I can see that figure increasing quite a bit as Ross has already 'booked' me for various Sundays this year when he's on holiday. I'm really looking forward to these opportunities and I pray that God will give me the inspiration to come up with with something relevant and interesting to say each Sunday. As we'd normally have to pay for 'pulpit supply' to cover when the Minister's not available, I'm really glad I can also help to keep these costs to a minimum - I come for free!

Since receiving my accreditation, allowing me to lead worship within the Old Kirk, I've thoroughly enjoyed supporting Ross by taking part in the service or leading worship on a Sunday. Looking back at highlights of last year, one really stands out. I'm sure you'll remember Deborah, our Chinese visitor. It was a privilege to get to know her and listen to her preach when I conducted worship on Ascension Sunday.

The comments I get at the door continue to be very positive and I'm truly grateful for your words of encouragement. I'm keen to try some of the things we discussed at the workshop I attended and develop my own style, but don't worry, I won't be making any major changes. What we have works well and I'm reminded of something that was told to me many years ago - "if it ain't broke, why fix it?"

I look forward to continuing to support Ross throughout the coming year by taking part in services and also leading worship on a Sunday morning. I also look forward to your support throughout the coming year.

Douglas Hogg



Thank you to everyone for their messages of congratulations, flowers and cards received when I was recently awarded the BEM. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Beth Stoddart

Letty Craig would like to thank you all for your cards and good wishes and for the beautiful Church flowers which she received while convalescing after her knee surgery. Very much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to everyone for all your prayers, phone calls, cards and good wishes for Betty. She had her operation on 5 February and is now on a long slow road to recovery. My thanks also to Ross for his visits, prayers and support. God bless you all.

Dan and family

I would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to me following the unexpected death of my dear dad. I appreciated the many messages of sympathy, phone calls, visits and flowers received from the Church and friends at what was a very difficult time.

I would like to say a special thank you to Ross for all his time, care and support he gave my family and I, it means so much to me.

Marlyn Latimer

Flower List 2018

March	04	Mrs Laird
	11	Mrs Wright
	18	Miss Mullen
	25	Mrs Henderson
April	01	Mrs Gardiner
	08	Mr McLean
	15	Mrs Shearer
	22	Mrs Condie
	29	Mrs Cunningham
May	06	Mrs Ronaldson
	13	Miss Adams
	20	Mrs Gibson & Mrs Wilkinson
	27	Mrs Dick
June	03	Mrs Irvine
	10	Mrs Gordon

Thank you to everyone who has gifted flowers over the past year.

E Gardiner

01698 427852

Flower Delivery

March	04	Mrs H Simpson
	11	Mrs G Keir
	18	Miss M Richardson
	25	Mr B Clarkson
April	01	Mrs N McLean
	08	Mrs C Elder
	15	Mrs C Gordon
	22	Mrs J McHarg
	29	Miss E Sorbie
May	06	Mrs P Scott
	13	Mrs N Garrett
	20	Mrs L Macintyre
	27	Miss D Hastie
June	03	Mrs E Irvine
	10	Mrs E Gardiner

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

Kate Morrow

01698 420748



Rose Bowl List 2018

March	04	M Eadie
	11	E Reid
	18	B Stoddart
	25	E Hunter
April	01	E Irvine
	29	B Smith/E Sorbie
May	13	V MacLean
	20	F Hunter
June	03	M Gilbert
	10	E Harley

E Gardiner

427852

Flower Circle

Would the flower circle meet on Friday 30 March at 9.30am in order to decorate the Church for Easter. Anyone who would like to help in any way is most welcome. Some greenery is required.

E Gardiner



Prayer Focus for World Mission

*God of the joyous heart
who wants the mourning
to have roses instead of ashes,
and the poor to have the Kingdom of Heaven,
Give us the eyes to see the joy in simple things,
Ears to hear the message of the poor,
Hearts full of joy and expectations and courage
to make small changes and a big difference.*

Amen



*The happiest of people don't have the best
of everything -
they just make the best of everything they have.*

*The tongue has no bones but it is strong enough
to break a heart -
so be careful with your words.*



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 October 2017
Ellen Craig*

*22 November 2017
George Willox*

*27 November 2017
Margaret McNab*

*28 November 2017
Isobel Hyslop*

*4 December 2017
Margaret Haddow*

*6 December 2017
Fred Thorburn*

*8 December 2017
Mary Boyce*

*18 December 2017
Helen Pate*

*30 December 2017
James Bryson*

*4 January 2018
Robert Paterson*

*5 January 2018
James Adamson*

*14 January 2018
Margaret Hale*

*28 January 2018
Ella Thomson*

*5 February 2018
Wilma Primrose*

Heavenly Father,

Wintertime is often a period of reflection,
as our bodies reach a low ebb
and our spirits can, too.

For many it is a time of sadness
for others a time of rest and recuperation
yet others, the hope is for the Spring;
each in its created season.

Help us to fix our eyes on You, Lord,
for You are our Spring and Summer;
You are the best of our Autumn years and Winter;
Eternal God,
You are our past, our present and our future.

Give us grace to walk through all we face in life
content to walk by Your side,
for there is no satisfaction without You
and no true joy in the morning
unless You are there.
Give us grace.
Amen.

