



Tidings



March 2019
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 Butterly
 Mr William Craig
 Mrs Linda Smith

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS

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

CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs Marilyn Henderson

TREASURER

Mr Alan Blue

PROPERTY CONVENER

Mr John Downie

Vice Conveners

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

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr David Young
 Mrs Wendy Hay

CHURCH SECRETARY

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

Dear friends,

What, for you, makes church “church”?

Is it the building, the style of worship, or the friends? Certainly, these things all contribute to what we enjoy about coming together on a Sunday morning and on other occasions throughout the week and the year. There’s a warm familiarity to worshipping together in our place, even when we come across hymns with which we are less enthused. But public worship is merely one hour in the week. Is that what makes church “church”?

Undoubtedly, we know that the word church is better translated as congregation or people. However, there are other phrases in scripture that apply. The church is the bride of Christ. She is the people of God, not just in this generation but in every generation. I have made much of the continuity we have with our forebearers and those who will come after us. It is not difficult to set this within the context of our church buildings, which have been a house of worship to each generation of our families and we trust will continue so to do for many, many more. Yet, these generations are not the buildings and the buildings are not the people. They are just a convenient place to meet in warm, familiar camaraderie. The church has occasion to use such buildings for her use, as the season permits. What makes church “church”?

I am reminded of the words of the hymn (204), “You are the church, I am the church, we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together”. Depending on our personal theology, we might think of the children of God as either all of humankind or all Christians; or the people of God as either those who have a belief in God or specifically the Christian God. Similarly, we might think of Christians as those who live in a so-called Christian country, those who attend a church service, those who emulate Christ’s actions, or those who claim a living faith in God through Christ. Regardless, we may be comfortable in acknowledging that God knows His own, even if we cannot precisely identify what if any are the bounds of His recognition. Also, none of us are immune to some level of tribalism. What makes “church”?

Whatever goes through our heads, our hearts surely long to see health and growth in our community of faith. When our individual and collective faith is demonstrable, wherever we live and do business, there is an opportunity for each of us to respond to one another. That holds true whether we are enjoying the Palace Grounds, Chatelherault, Quarry Street, a drive in our car, time with neighbours, or worship in a church building. We provide a living testimony to what God is doing in the world, and what Christianity is doing, in particular. In faith, our interactions make us “church”. We are the church together.

I trust that, as winter gives way to spring and people emerge from hibernation just as the bulbs emerge from the ground, we might spare a consideration of how we might be “church” together, throughout all our intersecting communities.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



What's On

March

Sunday 03	10.45am	Morning Worship Quiz Afternoon (time to be confirmed)
Sunday 10	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Tuesday 12	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 17	9.30am	Early Morning Family Service
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	12.15pm	Lunch with Burns
Sunday 24	10.45am	Morning Worship - Annual Stated Meeting
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 31	10.45am	<i>Mothering Sunday (British Summer Time Begins)</i>
	3.00pm	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Woodburn Court
		Masonic Divine Service



April

Sunday 07	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14	10.45am	<i>Palm Sunday</i>

Holy Week in Hamilton

Sunday 14	6.30pm	Songs of Praise, United Reformed Church
Monday 15	7.30pm	United Reformed Church
Tuesday 16	7.30pm	United Reformed Church
Wednesday 17	7.30pm	United Reformed Church
Thursday 18	7.30pm	United Reformed Church
	9.15pm	Gethsemane Vigil, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Friday 19	Noon-3pm	Vigil of the Cross, St John's Parish Church
	7.30pm	United Reformed Church
Saturday 20	7.30pm	Renewing Our Baptism Vows, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Sunday 21	6.30pm	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
	10.45am	Dawn Service at the Old Parish and Chatelherault followed by breakfast
	3.00pm	Easter Day Service followed by Communion
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



May

Sunday 05	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12	9.30am	Early Morning Family Service
	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 14	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Saturday 18		Trip to Dundee
Sunday 19	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2018

Once again our Christmas Shoebox Appeal was an outstanding success and on Tuesday 6th November 2018 a fantastic total of 221 shoeboxes set off from ‘The Old Parish’ on their journeys to the hands of some very needy children across Eastern Europe, Africa and beyond.



I must confess as I watched the boxes being neatly stacked in the van I wondered where they would eventually end up and what the reaction would be from the children receiving them. When I prepared my shoebox I ticked the box asking to be informed of its eventual destination. However with so many shoeboxes involved from all over the UK and beyond I held out little hope of receiving much information. Perhaps you can imagine my surprise and delight when I received an email from Samaritan’s Purse very recently telling me that my shoebox had been delivered to a child in Central Asia!! Let me share their message with you as it conveys their gratitude far better than I ever could.

“Dear Alison,

Your shoebox gift was one of 51,534 that has been delivered to children in Central Asia. We thank God for the thousands of children that have received shoeboxes here since Operation Christmas Child began distributions. Your shoebox gift is also helping build goodwill between peoples of different faiths. It was part of a distribution that local church groups made to children of all religious backgrounds in their community. However while political and religious sensitivities continue within Central Asia and for the safety of our ministry partners living in restricted areas, they have asked us not to disclose details about the specific country your shoebox was sent to. The power of your gift can be summed up by this comment from one of our local representatives:

‘In very restricted environments local believers can’t be out being vocal about their faith. Your shoebox becomes the key to a closed door and in remote areas where people have nothing and are dirt poor, this box gives them hope. This is love, true love and this opens the eyes of the people. Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light that leads to life’. Through Operation Christmas Child God gave you the opportunity to penetrate the darkest places in this world.’”

May God bless you all at The Old Parish for your generosity and support.

Alison



Finance

At the time of writing, the 2018 accounts are being finalised and will be put to the Trustees on 12th March for approval before being presented to the congregation on 24th March.

I have just completed the Gift Aid claim for 2018 and unfortunately there has been a drop in the value of the claim. Although a few members increased their offerings during the year, the loss from deaths was greater. The total gift aided income was **£95,867.08** which will give us a refund of tax amounting to **£23,966.77**.

The table below shows a breakdown of the different elements included in the return along with the previous years' figures for comparison. The one-off donation received in 2018 was for the work of Drama Kirk.

Method of Giving	Total donated 2018	Total donated 2017
WFO envelopes	£23951.00	£24818.50
Annual cheques	£3740.00	£1415.00
Standing Orders	£67676.08	£69607.08
One-off donations	£500.00	£2100.00
Total	£95867.08	£97940.58

If you have any questions or would like any further information on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

At present we have 187 declarations in place representing 260 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. As ever if you stop paying tax or change your address please let me know.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people concerned with the finances of the congregation. The committee, for their support throughout the year especially Bill Nelson for keeping the WFO records and standing in when I am not available; Alan Blue who keeps the records and produces the accounts each year; the counting team for their dedication in counting the offerings every Monday morning and, of course, **YOU**, the congregation for your continued support of God's work in the church, locally and nationally.

*Marilyn Henderson
Finance and Gift Aid Convener
01698 427892
finance@hamiltonold.co.uk*



Anchor Boys

The new spring session got off to a good start with the boys making "thank you cards" for members of the congregation who were very kind to them at Christmas.

We welcome Max Murphy who joined us recently and is settling in well.

We are looking forward to Easter with all the stories, crafts and games.

Boys aged 5-7 are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

*Nanette McLean
Leader in Charge*



Boys' Brigade Company Section



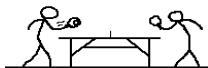
Battalion Badminton

David, Euan, Cameron, Colin and Lewis represented the Company in the Battalion Badminton Competition in November 2018. They all played well in some close matches, and finished third overall in the team event. We had no medals this year in either the Senior or Junior Individual Competitions, but that may provide motivation for next year! Taking part is always important, but as one of our officers (who should remain nameless but who is also known as Mr Iain Gray) said a few years ago: “We don’t reward failure!”



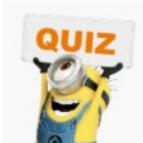
Company Film Night

We had our usual Company Film Night to round off the first part of the session. By popular demand the choice was a recent boxing movie. In keeping with the sports theme, and being extremely health conscious, the boys enjoyed a half-time break with hot dogs, chocolate buttons, haribo sweets, coke and irn-bru. Thanks are due again to our very own Graham “Sugar Blu-Ray” Horne for setting up all the equipment and running the film.



Battalion Table Tennis

Euan, Cameron, Colin and Lewis all took part in the Battalion Table Tennis Competition. Regrettably there were fewer Companies competing than in years gone by, but it meant that the individual matches were played on a “round robin” basis rather than a straight knockout, giving all of the boys more games. All of the matches were keenly contested with no quarter being asked or given. At times it really was a joy to watch, and the quality of the play from everyone participating was at the highest level it has been for many years. The boys were tremendous, and we had another clean sweep. We won the team event, Cameron won the Individual Senior and Lewis the Individual Junior. Huge congratulations to all of them for putting in such a great display.



Battalion Masterteam Quiz

Fresh from their success at the Table Tennis, Euan, Colin and Lewis went on to compete in the Battalion Masterteam Quiz, with rounds on general knowledge, Boys’ Brigade knowledge, Bible knowledge, entertainment, sport and observation of a short film clip. Set by officers in the Battalion the questions range from the more straightforward to the fiendishly difficult – but that’s part of the enjoyment of making the questions up. The boys did extremely well again, finishing third overall, and rounding off a very successful weekend.

*Alistair Buttery
Captain*

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



Monday Club

Attendance at the club for our first two meetings of the year has been in excess of 50 members.

On January 14th we had Joanne Whitely, who runs a small confectionery business in Hamilton, giving us a demonstration on making chocolates, which all members got a taste of and they were voted delicious! We concluded that meeting with a short financial AGM. A donation of £400 was agreed to be donated to the Church.

On 28th January we had a talk on Glasgow's Central Hotel from Jill Scott and Bill, who are ex Sunday Post employee's (now retired). They entertained the members with a comprehensive insight into all aspects of the hotel's past, including the famous people that had stayed in it.

The Sound of Music by Jim Vasey will be the subject on 11th February and on 25th February the Saffronhall Singers will be entertaining us with music and song. Betty Smith and her "catering team" have agreed to making this a special occasion, so DO NOT MISS IT!!!!!!

11th March Russell Crawford will speak to us about Malawi Fruits and our last meeting on 25th March is the annual AGM.

Our annual spring outing will be to Dumfries House on Monday 8th April, leaving at 1pm. On arrival we will have tea/coffee/shortbread prior to the guided tour of the venue. A high tea has been booked at the Royal Hotel, Cumnock around 4.30pm, so we should be back home for 7pm latest. There are still a few seats to fill on the bus and at a total cost of £30 it's a great day out. If you want to join us, please contact myself or Nesella Barr a.s.a.p.

*Charlie Duguid
President*



Guild

Year 2018 finished with our Financial AGM. We disbursed money to Church, Guild projects and Wellhall.

Earlier in year we collected socks, gloves, woollen hats and boxer shorts. These were given to Street Pastors in Glasgow who help out rough sleepers (over 150 items - well done).

Speakers for second half of session:-

6 February	Rev G Black
20 February	E Donaldson - Botanic Gardens
6 March	AGM & Projects update
20 March	Closing Tea

We have been delighted to welcome gentlemen (husbands of lady members) who help boost numbers when we have a speaker. A warm welcome awaits any member of the congregation if a particular speaker interests you.

Thank you to all who support the Guild.

*Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator*



Drama Kirk

HOPC was delighted to receive an award from Go For It funding for a programme of work bringing the gospel to life through drama.

The programme starts with the 2019 Passion Play and continues for the next three years. Each year Go For It will provide us with £10,000 which as a church we are required to match fund.

The Kirk Session has established a Committee to govern the programme. This is chaired by Chris Packard, with Marilyn Henderson, Alistair Butterly, Jennifer Dick, Bill Nelson and Mairead Ronaldson as members. The Committee intend to organise a launch Sunday in the near future when the congregation can hear all about what is planned.

We are very grateful to Go For It for the trust they have placed in us through this grant award; to HOPC Kirk Session for their strong support and to everyone involved for their hard work and good humour. An exciting time ahead as we drive forward our new dramatic ministry.



Choir

Choir are now well into our final part of the session. We have been fortunate, so far, to have favourable weather conditions for our mid week meeting and attendance has been excellent. This has given us the opportunity to work on new material and complete some challenging pieces.

A gentle reminder that our Sunday meeting time is 10 - 10.20, in order to give everyone space to be ready for a prompt service start. Our last meeting for this session will be on Wednesday evening 24th April, when all music should be returned for filing.



*Helen C. Simpson
Organist*

Saffronhall Singers

In our diary for this session we had two engagements, one on Tuesday 5th February at Uddingston Old Parish Church and one here in our own church on Monday 25th February at the Monday Club. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article, both events will have been enjoyed by all concerned.

In December, our Carols by Candlelight was well received by those who braved a wet and windy night to support us. As a result of the excellent turn-out, we were able to donate £805 to church funds on behalf of the Fellowship Committee, Betty's Tea Committee and ourselves. Grateful thanks are due to all those who contributed to the success of the evening and to those who helped clear up on the Saturday morning.

Attendance on a Monday evening has been excellent, for which I am very grateful, as this allows us to make good progress in the performance of our repertoire. Once our concerts are over we will be focussing on some new pieces before the session ends on 25th March. This year, we are celebrating a successful session by having a meal together at Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

Thanks to everyone for their loyal support over the winter months and best wishes for a relaxing spring and summer.

Campbell Barr



The Scottish Bible Society

A big “thank you” to all who supported the collection on Bible Sunday for the Scottish Bible Society. A marvellous amount of £396.00 was achieved and helps to spread the Word of God in so many countries.

In China the demand for Bibles is huge! Please pray for continued permission to print Bible in China.

Muriel Eadie



Fellowship Committee

In December the congregational Christmas lunch was held where a fair number of folks were present and Santa made his usual appearance and presents were given to the youngsters there.

A Burns lunch is being held on Sunday 17 March following the morning service. The format will follow to a certain extent the normal routine of soup, haggis neeps and tatties, oatcakes and cheese with tea or coffee. This will be followed by some entertainment, with songs and poems.

The early breakfast will be held on Easter morning with the usual rolls and sausage tea and coffee. Everyone present will be made welcome.

The plans for the trip to Dundee in May are pretty well advanced. The list of those who expressed interest has been oversubscribed and a reserve list has been created. Should your name be on the list and you cannot for any reason not be able to attend, please advise us as soon as possible.

If you have any ideas or suggestions of places to visit or things to arrange, please tell any member of the committee and the matter will be discussed at by them.

*Iain McLean
Convener*



John Knox

Even if we don't admit to it, most of us will occasionally stereotype certain people, races or professions. In the 19th century, John Knox was a folk hero. In the 20th century, he became a folk villain. In the 21st century, there are some signs that he is coming back in from the cold. In the meantime, here are a few facts:

1. Knox was no hater of women. Actually, he loved the company of women and was happily married. His diatribe against the “monstrous regimen of women” was directed against the rules of Queen Elizabeth of England and Mary Queen of Scots and certainly not women in general.
2. Knox was no kill-joy. His favourite recreation was going to the theatre.
3. Although he has been referred to as the “thundering Scots”. Knox actually spoke with an English accent.
4. In 1560, Knox introduced divorce into Scots Law giving equal rights of access to men and women, hundreds of years ahead of the position in England
5. Knox's dream was that there should be a school in every parish in Scotland, open to both boys and girls on an equal basis. This dream was not finally realised until the passing of the Education (Scotland) Act 1872.

Alasdair Gordon

The People's Passion

Rehearsals for this year's Passion Play are underway and I am delighted to tell you that Nicholas Elliott (pictured), who was so brilliant last year, is working with us again in the role of Jesus. Our wonderful community cast are drawn from local churches and are working hard on this new opportunity to take the gospel message out.



This year's script is a very different approach to a Passion Play. "The People's Passion" was devised by Riding Lights Theatre Company, based in York, who have a long history of supporting churches to use drama in worship. It is a wonderful mix of theatre and worship. My prayer is that you will enjoy being part of it as much as we are enjoying working on it.

The performances will take place as services of worship as follows:-

Palm Sunday	6.30pm	South Wishaw Parish Church
Holy Monday	7.30pm	Hamilton URC
Holy Tuesday	7.30pm	Dalziel St Andrews
Holy Wednesday	7pm	Lanark Greyfriars
Good Friday	7.30pm	Carluke St Andrews

This Passion Play is not simply an audience watching a performance. We are all part of His story and the script encourages us to see our own part in it. There are some responsive moments in the text where the congregation will join together as one voice, just as they did in the first century. There is also congregational singing at poignant moments in the action. This echoes what we have heard the minister say so often from the pulpit, "**We are not spectators. We are part of the story!**".

You will meet many familiar characters who are pivotal in telling the story of that fateful week. There are new people too, including Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Isn't it wonderful that even in our third year, there are characters we have still to meet, each of whom have something fresh to tell us about Jesus?



Each church we visit will have an opportunity for mission through The People's Passion. Through fliers, press and social media, they can promote the performances in a way that can be challenging to promote a church service. Perhaps these performances will create for other towns the same buzz we experienced for the first time in Holy Week 2017, with increased attendance and engagement – and of course for usual attenders a new way to look at familiar events.

I remain grateful to those who help in so many ways in bringing the gospel to life, including our wonderful cast and crew and our supportive Kirk Session.

Although we have started rehearsals, there are still opportunities to be involved. Perhaps you, or someone you know, might like to be involved? Whether you could be in crowd scenes, or help backstage or even help with some of the many production tasks that happen before Holy Week, there is always something you can do to help. We would love to hear from you.

You can follow our progress on Facebook ([Facebook.com/DramaKirk](https://www.facebook.com/DramaKirk)) or twitter (@PlayLanarkshire). Please do support us on social media.

Rehearsals take place on Tuesday nights at 7pm in HOPC's Sanctuary. We are not spectators; we are part of His story. What part will you play?

Liz Blackman

Flower List 2019

March	03	Mrs Laird
	10	Mrs Nicholson
	17	Miss Mullen
	24	Mrs Henderson
April	31	Mrs Gardiner
	07	Mr McLean
	14	Mrs Shearer
	21	Mrs Condie
	28	Mrs Cunningham
May	05	Mrs Ronaldson
	12	Miss Adams
	19	Mrs Gibson
		Mrs Wilkinson
June	26	Mrs Dick
	02	Mrs Irvine
	09	Mrs Gordon

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers.

E Gardiner

01698 427852



Flower Delivery

March	03	Mrs H Simpson
	10	Mrs G Keir
	17	Mrs N Barr
	24	Mr B Clarkson
April	31	Mrs N McLean
	07	Mrs C Elder
	14	Mrs C Gordon
	21	Mrs J McHarg
May	28	Miss M Richardson
	05	Mrs P Scott
	12	Mrs N Garrett
	19	Mrs L Macintyre
	26	Miss D Hastie
June	02	Mrs E Irvine
	09	Mrs E Gardiner

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 2019

March	03	M Eadie
	10	E Reid
	17	B Stoddart
	24	E Hunter
April	31	E Irvine
	28	B Smith
		E Sorbie
May	12	V MacLean
	19	F Hunter
June	02	M Gilbert
	09	E Harley

Easter Flowers

Would the members of the Flower Circle and anyone else who would like to help please meet on Friday 19 April at 9.30am. Greenery required.

E Gardiner

Flower Circle

The Flower Circle numbers are depleting and we are in need of new help to decorate the Church for special occasions. While we normally decorate on the Friday mornings this arrangement is not set in stone. Anyone who would like to help please speak to me.

Thank you to those who came to help at Christmas. It was much appreciated.

E Gardiner



On behalf of Hamilton District Food Bank I would like to thank all those who donated handbags, toiletries and cash to WomanKind. All the recipients were delighted..... And surprised to receive these lovely, thoughtful gifts at Christmas.

Helen Troop



Thank you for the Church flowers and to people who have been visiting. Also for the cards and all your kind wishes.

Bill Wilson



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 2018
 Margaret Henderson*

*11 November 2018
 Elizabeth Hunter*

*10 December 2018
 Irene Shearer*

Baptisms

*25 November 2018
 Alexandra Margaret Strain*

*2 December 2018
 Eilidh Rose McKie*

*3 February 2019
 Emma Catherine Young*



Almighty God,
our plans are not your plans;
our thoughts are not your thoughts;
but thy will be done!

You have a mission for the world,
that brings your love, through Christ, into public view.

You have a church to express and further that mission.

So, while we might talk of mission and plans,
and draw together our thoughts;
it gives us pause to consider
what are your plans
and thoughts.

Give to us a hearing ear
and a heart to follow;
that your love might be found
in our hearts
and in all our world.

Amen.

