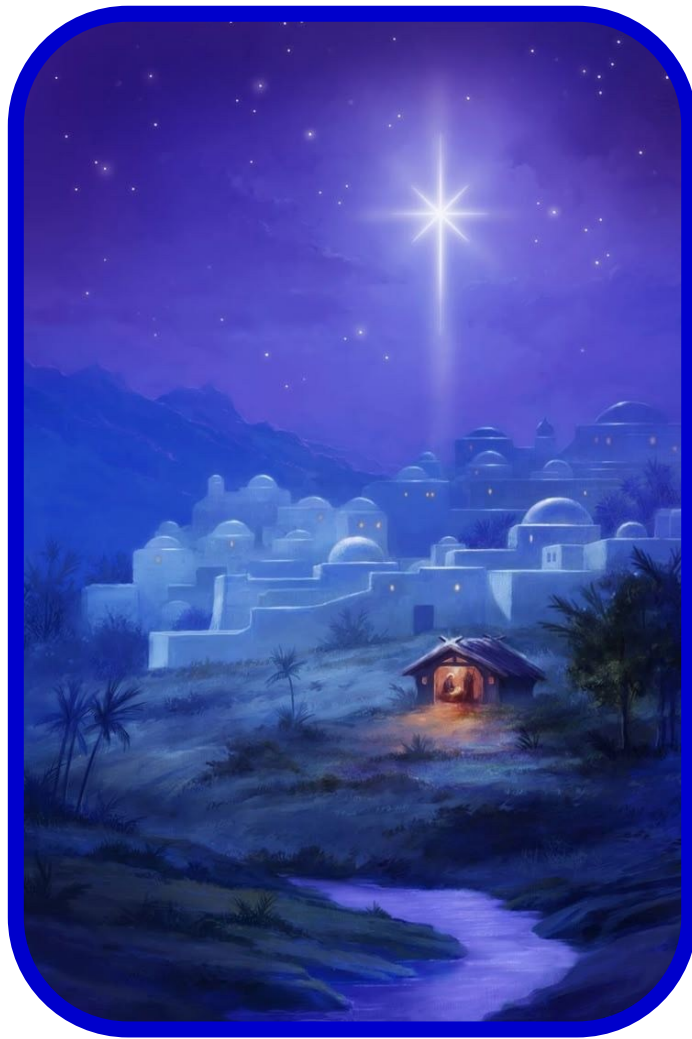


Tidings



December 2025

Christmas

MINISTER

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

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Andrea Davidson

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music) Hons
138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston G71 7DD ☎ 07768 655162

CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs Amanda Strachan

TREASURER

Mrs Marilyn Henderson
67 Sycamore Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7HF ☎ 01698 427892
Email: finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

PROPERTY CONVENER

Miss Gillian Davidson

PROJECT MANAGER

Mr Alastair Simpson

VICE CONVENERS

HALLS - Miss Gillian Davidson
CHURCH - Mr George Foster
MANSE - Mr Alistair Buttery
WEST CAMPUS - David Gibson

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Wendy Culross

CHURCH SECRETARY

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

CHURCH OFFICER

Mr Colin Davidson

ROLL KEEPER

Mr Colin Gibson



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

Dear friends,

I'm listening to fireworks, as I write this. People have been setting them off for a number of weeks, since they went on sale. The annual display in Strathclyde park has been cancelled for this year and next, allegedly due to building renovations in the area. Despite increasing legislation curtailing what can and can't be done regarding their purchase and use, they continue to be popular. Though I warrant that many pets and their owners would disagree.

It reminded me of the first time I recollect seeing firework, as a child. We were visiting my grandparents and my dad had acquired some. He was being incredibly safety conscious, keeping us back as he read the instructions, then ran forward to set up a single precious firework, shooing us back again before finally lighting it, then rushing back to us while we all waited for the touchpaper to fizzle away and explode. Rinse and repeat a few laborious times, and then struggling to maintain interest as a catherine wheel was painstakingly attached to my gran's washing line. It eventually lit, but was singularly unimpressive. The whole experience was a bit of an anti-climax, and nothing like the excitement many years later of the millennium celebrations, with each city attempting to outdo one another with their spectacle!



It struck me as an apposite analogy for much of the change occurring in the church across the whole of Scotland, a small part of which I've had the privilege of engaging with in my role as Interim Moderator in a number of congregations. There has been appropriate engagement, cost counting, and empowerment (Luke 14:28-30). But also, so much effort and care to allay everyone's concerns, to play it safe, and reduce offense. Dotting "I's" and crossing "T's". So much effort and nervous energy expended, that might have otherwise been utilised in the exciting mission of God through his church to all people. I pray that at the final accounting it will not resemble the words of T.S.Elliot's piece, "The Hollow Men", fearing that it "ends, not with a bang but a whimper". Indeed, despite any misgivings we might naturally hold, we each have a responsibility to ensure that it does not, through prayer and action! We trust in God, not the sparks of fireworks (Isa.50:10-11).

However, this country and our church was built on hard work. It was built on the backs of tired people who banded together to make a difference for future generations, and epitomised in the fighting spirit of two world wars and many other conflicts. So, I leave you with this thought: when we consider the mission presented to the church in our generation, what do we identify with and how might we work together to achieve it, for the glory of God and the good of our fellows?

Your Minister and friend,

Ross.



What's On

November

Sunday 23	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion at West Campus
Sunday 30	10.45am	Morning Worship - First Sunday in Advent



December

Friday 5	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Saturday 6	10.00am	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 7	10.45am	Morning Worship - Second Sunday in Advent
		Lessons & Carols
Thursday 11	7.00pm	Hamilton College Lessons and Carols
Sunday 14	10.45am	Morning Worship - Third Sunday in Advent
		Christmas Lunch
Sunday 21	10.45am	Morning Worship - Fourth Sunday in Advent
		Sunday Live! Nativity, Christmas Jumper & Christmas Pie Sunday
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service at West Campus
Wednesday 24	3.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Wednesday 24	11.15pm	Watchnight Service
Thursday 25	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship



January

Sunday 4	10.45am	Morning Worship
Saturday 10	10.00am	Elders' Conference
Sunday 11	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Afternoon Service at West Campus

Sunday 18	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 25	10.45am	Morning Worship

February

Sunday 1	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Afternoon Service at West Campus
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship





It's been an unexpectedly busy few months for Drama Kirk.

Our recent workshops for Glasgow presbytery went really well. We ran a session where we talked about our recent simple uses of drama, such as last year's nativity and our Passion Play in a Day, before performing the last supper with some of the audience in the cast. We then ran a fun session using a number of drama games to unlock scripture. Many congratulations to our cast on the day who displayed some wonderful talent.

October began our involvement in the monthly afternoon services. These will focus on the miracles of scripture and we began, as Jesus did, with the wedding at Cana. Fantastic to have Zoey Gibson join the cast as the bride. We performed a couple of pieces. The first was a sketch by John Beauchamp which really gave us a sense of what it might have felt like to be at the wedding. We had the drunk guests getting angrier as the wine ran out and the panicked servants with nothing to give them. How we turned water into wine will have to remain a secret, of course. We then performed an Abby Guinness monologue from 'The Word of the Wives' where we joined the bride after the wedding. Turns out she hadn't noticed the miracle and was mortified!

It was tremendous fun and a lovely way to enjoy scripture together. If you didn't join us you really did miss out on a treat. We'll continue to be involved in these services and look forward to uncovering what each miracle tells us of the character of Jesus.

Christmas is of course fast approaching and we look forward to our nativity. We will once again spend a day in Woodside primary school performing alongside the children, ensuring that the truly story of Christmas features in their celebrations.

As ever, we are grateful to all who support us. Don't forget, new (and returning) members are always welcome.

Liz Blackman

Boys' Brigade



We've had a busy start to the session with a total of 28 young people in the Company. We'd love to see more in all age groups but especially in the Anchor Section. If you know of any Primary 1 to Primary 3 boys at a loose end on a Wednesday or Thursday evening (or both!) then please send them our way. More details are on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/1st2ndhamiltonbb

We held our first enrolment service and service of dedication on 21 September followed by the Hamilton & District Battalion Founder's Day service on 26 October, with Remembrance, being the last parade of the year on 9 November.

I'd like to thank everyone for their kind donations at the teas and coffees after our enrolment service. £85 was raised for Company funds.

David Gibson

Captain

ANCHORS

We have had a great start to the session in the Anchors, with a regular attendance of 8 boys on a Wednesday night. Enjoying a great variety of activities and crafts (some of which can be seen displayed in the North Hall) and trying out some new games picked by the kids themselves as well as some old B.B. favourites.

There was a great turnout from the boys at the recent Founders' Day service and I have received several compliments from the congregation regarding how nice it was to have so many young ones representing the Battalion.

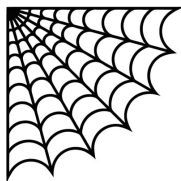
We are now getting into a really busy period (depending on when this issue comes out) with lots of exciting things to look forward to. We have already had a wonderful Halloween party {apologies to the parents for the inevitable sugar high} and are looking forward to a variety of upcoming events, including:

- Bonfire Night
- Preparing for Remembrance Day
- St Andrew's Day
- Christmas Movie Night
- Christmas Party (*and maybe even a visit from a VIP in a red suit*)

Everyone at the Wednesday night Anchors would like to thank the church for all their continued support. If you know anyone who you think would like to join us then please get in touch with the Church Office who can pass on the correct contact details.

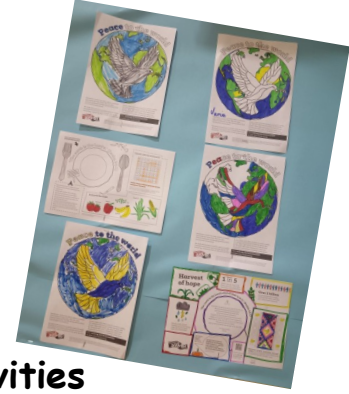
Alan Young

Officer-in-charge (Wednesday)



Halloween Fun at the Anchors





Wednesday Junior Section Activities

Choir

Choir continues to meet on a Wednesday evening at 7.00 in the Session Room and on a Sunday morning prior to worship at 9.50am. We have been pleased to welcome Zoey Gibson to Choir and delighted to have her join the Soprano section.

We have been making good use of the new supplementary hymnary "God Welcomes All" both in choir and also as congregational hymns. Several people have asked about the availability of individual copies of this and I am happy to order at a cost of £27.50.

In early August a Sowne of Organe survey took place in The West campus. This voluntary group present detailed surveys of surviving historic organs in Scotland, including technical and historical overviews, extensive photography from within the Church and organ loft, and recordings of appropriate repertoire. The instrument was built in 1902 by William Hill & Son, London, and the event provided an immense insight into its planning, specification and construction through the various archives and logs which were accessed by them.

The evening culminated in an excellent recital from several organists, and although their programme was restricted by several issues which the organ now has, it proved to be a wonderful evening of music celebrating the life of this historic instrument. The survey will support and direct the musical heritage this instrument has and hopefully reinforce a route for preservation of its historical value.

Last meeting of choir for 2025 will be Wednesday 17th December when all music should be returned. We will resume on Wednesday 14th January at 7.00 p.m.

Helen C Simpson

Organist



Scottish Bible Society

Please pray for the Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab Israeli Bible Society staff as their work continues amidst danger, trauma, and disruption to bring God's Word to bear on the suffering around them. More than 7,000 audio Bibles have been distributed to elderly in care homes, creating a source of connection and hope.

Sunday 26th October is Bible Sunday! There will be a collection at Church - thank you to all who support the spread of God's Word in this country and throughout the World!

Muriel Eadie

SCOTTISH
BIBLE SOCIETY
The Word for the world

Finance and Gift Aid

The total amount raised from the Harvest Thanksgiving and Harvest Boxes throughout the year was £675, which has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support.

We will be submitting a Gift Aid claim at the beginning of the new year. If you have had any changes in your circumstances - such as a change of address, no longer paying tax, or any other updates - please inform Marilyn Henderson (Treasurer).

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Church. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Amanda Strachan

Finance Convener



Freepost RUCY-XGCA-XTHU
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 791
York House
YORK
YO1 0NJ

Supporter Care Team: 0300 1000 200
Email: fundraising@macmillan.org.uk

Marilyn Henderson
Old Parish Church Of Hamilton
Strathmore Road
HAMILTON
Lanarkshire
ML3 6AQ
United Kingdom

21 October 2025
Reference: 4758612

To everyone at Old Parish Church Of Hamilton,



We appreciate your support

Thank you so much for your very kind donation of £675.00 to Macmillan Cancer Support from your Harvest Thanksgiving offerings. Please extend our deep thanks and appreciation to the kind people who contributed. As a community, your generosity and support will allow us to help people with cancer receive essential physical, financial, and emotional support. At Macmillan, we won't rest, and we won't settle for anything other than the best possible support for people living with cancer. We do whatever it takes.

To help put this gift into perspective, a contribution of £675.00 could help run our Online Community forum for one day. In this time, more than 1,000 people affected by cancer in the UK can share emotional and practical support to each other on anything to do with cancer - from treatments, to coping with everyday life, to the death of a loved one.

Whatever it takes

At Macmillan, we give people with cancer everything we've got. If you're diagnosed, your worries are our worries. We're going all out to find ever better ways to help people with cancer, helping to bring forward the day when everyone gets life-transforming support from day one.

Your generosity means so much to us! Find out more by scanning the QR code above.

Thank you again for helping those people living with cancer.

With best wishes,

M Khan

Macy Khan
Donations & Recognition Team

(This letter constitutes an official receipt)

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT: We have used your details to fulfil your request and recorded them on our database so that we can provide you with the best possible support every time you contact us. We promise to always keep your details safe, and we will never sell or swap your details. If you wish to update or remove your details, please let us know anytime by emailing contact@macmillan.org.uk or calling 0300 1000 200. Please see our privacy policy for more information at www.macmillan.org.uk

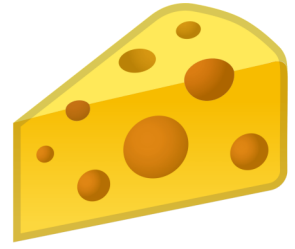
Macmillan Cancer Support is a registered charity in England and Wales (261079), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (144141). It is also operating in Northern Ireland. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 2600955. Isle of Man company number 4554F. Registered office: 81 Avenue Embarcadere, London SE1 7UJ. VAT no: 968265007. MSC17798_Supporter_0521

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Old Kirk Reflections

Like our very own minister, I love cheese. I like all kinds and I'm always up for trying a new one. Mild, strong, stinky – bring it on!

It's not only cheese I like though. As anyone who knows me will testify, my body is not of the shape that doesn't like food!!! I also enjoy cooking it and, though I say it myself, I make a mean chilli and a tasty minestrone.



We all need food to survive but other than cheese, chilli and minestrone, we need a varied diet to be healthy. There's another food we need however and that's the spiritual kind. As followers of Christ, we need to absorb the word of scripture to allow us to grow in faith and strength.

Let us ask God to provide for our daily physical and spiritual needs, not just food, but everything required for life to allow us to live according to His will.

As we read in Matthew 6:11, we pray that God will - "Give us this day our daily bread".

Douglas

Worship Team

On the 10th August 2025 we celebrated a very special occasion and held a service to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Hamilton West Parish Church, which was followed by tea and cake. Earlier that week Sowne of Organe presented a history of the West Campus's organ and treated a very busy church to an organ recital. Our young people have been the focus of other special services including the Holiday Club's Superheroes, Back to School Sunday and the Dedication Service of the 1st/2nd Hamilton Boys Brigade Company. The BB Founder's Day Service was held in the Old Parish Church and Drama Kirk really held everyone's attention with their memorable interpretation of the Last Supper during this special event.

The Minister has been well supported in services at the Old Parish Church by a number of different Local Worship Leaders, Bible Readers, presenters of Intercessory Prayers and All-Age and Children's Addresses. This provides the Congregation with experience of different perspectives and a rich diversity of thought to deepen our understanding of scripture. The Minister, Director of Music, Choir, Local Worship Leaders, Liz Blackman and Drama Kirk are especially thanked.

Café-style worship has been introduced in some of the services at the West Campus. This is a more participative form of worship where the congregation are invited to respond to the themes in the sermon with their own thoughts. This is not a test of biblical knowledge but an opportunity to learn and engage with scripture in a different way.

As we move through the late autumn, the church calendar gets increasingly busy with preparations for Advent. There are many opportunities to get involved. The Worship Team is keen to encourage further participation, so if you would like to help, please get in touch. Our thanks to everyone involved in Worship over the last few months.

Rhona Arthur and Bill Craig

Joint Conveners



Saffronhall Singers

We were delighted to return to Auchlochan early in October to perform to a very welcoming and appreciative audience. Unusually for us, it was a Saturday afternoon, and I am very grateful for the support given by our members.

Our thoughts now turn towards Christmas and our Carols by Candlelight, which will take place on Friday 5th December at 7.30pm but this year, the event is being organised by groups within the church, for which we are exceedingly grateful. Tickets, priced £5, will be available nearer the time. Proceeds this year are going to be split between the church and ourselves, with final decisions about where the money will go, still to be decided.

Over the summer, Jim has been working diligently on edits to last years Carols which will be made available on the church's YouTube channel as usual, thus allowing those not able to attend in person, to enjoy the happy evening, albeit from 2024! We have groups who use the recording to host a Christmas evening within their residential setting.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome a new member - Christine Young – into our soprano section. We have plenty of room in our new meeting place, consequently new members in any section are most welcome.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Campbell Barr



Fellowship and Special Events Group

Over the weekend of 6th and 7th of September both the Old Parish and the West Campus took part in the annual Doors Open Day Festival. Tours of the church buildings and grounds were on offer, with a varied selection of banners on display for visitors to enjoy.

On Friday the 19th of September we were delighted to host members of the Rock Choir who entertained an enthusiastic audience with a variety of songs to suit everyone. Money raised, totaling £750, for Children's Hospice Across Scotland (CHAS) will be presented to the charity at an upcoming meeting of the Monday Fellowship Group. Those attending a recent meeting enjoyed a games afternoon, chat and a cuppa.

On Saturday 25th October the Link Committee was delighted to hold an Afternoon Tea for our more mature members, aged 80 and over, the first one to take place following Covid and the Union. Many enjoyed a social afternoon of entertainment, good company and a fine selection of homebaking. It is hoped to repeat this in March next year.

Our Christmas Lunch will be held on Sunday 14th of December following the morning service. A three course lunch will be served in the North Hall at a cost of £20 (children 12 and under £10). Names and menu selection will be taken by the Fellowship/Special Events Committee following Sunday services on 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th of November.

Yvonne Adamson and Iain McLean



Mission Statement

Hamilton Old Parish Church's mission is to engage in the mission of God by serving and connecting inclusively with the wider community. It seeks to work together, linking the past, the present, and the future by fostering a desire to grow in faith and join in worship. The church focuses on practical outreach and spiritual development for both its members and the broader public.

- 1. Serving the community: The church, in its historic role, stands at the forefront of local authority events and supporting community activity.*
- 2. Connecting to the community: It seeks to serve and develop practical links with the wider community as a core part of its mission.*
- 3. Encouraging faith: The overarching goal is to further people's appetite for holistic wellbeing by growing in faith, personally and with others.*

Vision Statement

Building Community in faith and service - linking the past, the present, and the future.



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
You are the God of abundance and generosity,
the creator of extreme diversity
seen in the explosion of life on our planet,
and in the liberal scattering of stars in the universe.
We give thanks for the vastness of it all
but also for the care and attention to detail
and the grace extended to each individual creature.
We thank you for your goodness to us,
and for our opportunities to work hard for your Kingdom.
Help us to find our role within your greater work,
that we might seek your will and do it.
Give us strength for the task,
that you might be glorified in all things,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
07/12/25	Mrs A Whitehill		Mrs S Gosling
14/12/25	Mrs M Henderson	Mrs N Barr	Mrs M Henderson
21/12/25	Mrs M MacLean		Mrs M MacLean
28/12/25	Mrs H Troop		Mrs H Troop
04/01/26	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
11/01/26	Mr A Blue	Mr & Mrs D Young	Mrs S Craig
18/01/26	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
25/01/26	Mrs M Gilroy	Mrs M Henderson	Mrs M Henderson
01/02/26	Mrs L McIntosh		Mr E Baird
08/02/26	Mrs A Hunter	Mrs J Mathie	Mrs L Clayton
15/02/26	Flower Fund	Mrs M McCartney	Mrs S Samson
22/02/26	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson
01/03/26	Mrs M Eadie		Mrs M Eadie
08/03/26	Mrs S Nicholson		Mr C Davidson

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers, contributes to the flower fund and helps with delivery. This is very much appreciated. Dates throughout the year are still available and contributions to the flower fund always welcomed. If any dates are unsuitable and you are unable to organise a swap please contact Colin Davidson either via the office or on 07305 055924.



Andrea



Many thanks for the beautiful flowers received recently from the Church on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. The Autumn colours were stunning and gave great pleasure.

Irene and Malcolm Marshall

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and flowers after I broke my wrist at church. Everyone has been so kind. You will be glad to know that my wrist has healed and I have no lasting effects. Many thanks again to everyone.

Carole McCrudden.

Birthday Card/Thinking Of You Card Scheme

Maureen Taylor would like to request donations of birthday cards (male & female) and thinking of you cards. I would also appreciate donations of second class stamps. I realise stamps are expensive nowadays so money towards stamps would also be helpful. Members of the congregation tell me that they enjoy receiving a card from the church so I feel it is a worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your help.

Maureen Taylor



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

13 August 2025

Margaret Cross

25 August 2025

Kathleen Dickson

7 September 2025

Jean McHarg

9 September 2025

John (Jack) Forrester

19 October 2025

Robert Steven

22 October 2025

Jess Jack

24 October 2025

Anne Craig



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas*



*and a
Happy New Year*