

Tidings



September 2023

Autumn

MINISTER

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TREASURER

Mr Alan Blue

PROPERTY CONVENER

Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson

CHURCH - vacant

MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr David Young
Mrs Wendy Culross

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Andrea Davidson
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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm



Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

“Full Steam Ahead”

Recently, I was talking to our friend and Elder Bill Wilson about the SS Politician and the film “Whiskey Galore”. It struck a chord, given that I’m from the Western Isles and had spent many a happy hour driving boats around the coast and scuba diving under the crystal clear waters of those isles. But it also got me thinking about boats, and the inevitable difficulties that can be incurred in navigating the sea and shores.

So much of life can feel like travelling the seas. We have our ups and downs. We need to make course corrections, often by consulting the charts and compass of scripture and the unseen guest who swings the needle in the direction we need to go. We experience this in our daily lives, our church life, and also in the life of the wider church. The latter, of course, is weathering some intense storms, and we are not immune from that in Hamilton. We trust that some clarity will be gained as the clouds lift in the very near future.



Of course, if a boat is to be seaworthy it needs a sound hull. It also needs good engines if it is to get under steam, whatever the mode of power. We could draw analogies to our individual and congregational Christian life. But, we also appreciate the need of our tangible resources in having a church building that allows us to worship together and from which to exercise the mission of God in our town. It is with some concern, then, that I need to draw to your attention another kind of “steam” that has the potential to restrict our progress.

Recently I intimated the poor condition of the church boilers. In exploring the issue, it was of intense historic interest to find an underground coal bunker and oil tank as well as the expected defunct gas boilers in the basement of the church. Needless to say, the environmental risk of oil spillage necessitates the removal of more equipment than originally expected. However, the proposal to replace the boilers is progressing nicely, having gone out to tender. Already well over £10,000 has been pledged to the Project Fund. We are also exploring what might be done next year to improve our environmental footprint. I hope that we might have a congregational meeting sometime soon, to discuss this matter further.

This is just one more of the vagaries of life, to which we are all subject. However, we trust that God continues with us as we weather the storms, under the captaincy of our Lord Jesus. I trust and pray that we might all pull together in our collective church life to support one another in everything we experience so that we might travel full steam ahead in His service.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Monday Club

Hope that everyone has managed a holiday and found some decent weather. The club will resume its new session on Monday 9 October, meeting in 'The North' Hall at 1.30 pm. You are very welcome to join us any second Monday from this date and bring a friend or neighbour for a presentation by a guest speaker; a wee chat with other members and of course a cup of tea/coffee/biscuits/cake etc. Here is a list of speakers booked up till the end of our first session.

- 09/10/2023 The Rev Ross Blackman ;
23/10/2023 Chris Simpson will speak to us on Mental Health;
13/11/2023 Kilbride Hospice will do a presentation and also bring a selection of Christmas cards; which will be on sale to support this very worthwhile charity.
27/11/2023 Our Christmas Lunch is at 1pm. (The price has still to be advised by the caterer in October)

The programme for the new year will be advised in the next article. Just a reminder if any member has a speaker or a venue they would like to advise for our bus trip next year, please speak to myself or any of the committee members. Hope to see everyone on 9 October at 1.30pm.

Best wishes

Charlie Duguid



The Scottish Bible Society

In September, Bibles for Bairns project is being launched, giving families in Scotland the opportunity to register their child to receive a free toddler Bible on their first birthday as a gift. Every birthday up to the age of five, an early years resource pack will also be gifted which will help the child and their family to read the Bible.

Muriel Eadie



Finance and Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme allows us to claim tax back on donations of £30 or less up to £8,000 from sources where no gift aid declarations are in place. These can be from the plate, donations or from Weekly Freewill Offerings. This year we were able to claim £1,450.75 on donations of £5,803.

As you will have heard from the minister in the pulpit, the cost of replacing the boiler in the church is going to cost around £75,000. This work is badly needed to heat the church to a suitable temperature. A project fund has been set up to help raise some of the money required and we already have donations in excess of £10,500. In doing this we may also be able to apply for grants for some of the work. In the past when projects like this were being undertaken grants were not available as we were not raising any funds ourselves and at the time of writing this is being looked into. Any donations can be handed into the office, to the minister or myself.

Marilyn Henderson



Drama Kirk's next adventure will be a Harvest bible study – why not join us for the adventure?

The resources have been written for an event exploring intergenerational ministry, organised by the URC and the presbytery of Glasgow. The event will take place on Saturday 2 September and there is a full programme of innovative and exciting ways to deliver intergenerational work – with the Drama Kirk presentation at 10.30am. We will share a good overview of the Drama Kirk initiatives that you have supported over the years and discuss how this has allowed a range of age groups to work together. We'll introduce the new bible study resources which each attendee can take away and – should they wish – create their own Drama Kirk bible study. And no Drama Kirk initiative would be complete without some performance... so we'll be performing a couple of pieces from the study, including a new sketch "God's Greengrocer" and an opportunity to ask a rich man some interesting questions.

We'll then have an evening to enjoy the harvest study together in full. This will take place at Hamilton Old Parish Church on Thursday 28 September at 7pm. All are welcome, whether you wish to participate fully or simply enjoy how God's word enfolds through the drama.

Following the Harvest study, we'll be heads down into Christmas. We have received a small grant to support a community nativity and look forward to seeing how we can best use this in Hamilton. There are always endless ways you could help. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch. dramakirk@gmail.com

Sunday Live!

Before heading on our summer holidays, the children of Sunday Live! had been busy with a variety activities from our older members showing off their experiments, our annual sports' day and planting seeds in the pots in the church grounds. It has been wonderful watching the flowers grow over the summer months.



By the time you are reading this, Sunday Live! will have resumed after the summer break with our "Ice Cream Sundae Live!" to start off another fun filled session for our children.

Thank you to our parents and members of our congregation for your continuing support.

Sunday Live! Leaders

"Big Sea Adventure" Holiday Club

What a fantastic time our children had on our "Big Sea Adventure" along with Captain Ross (aka Jack Sparrow), the Admirals of the Fleet, our Lifeguards and not forgetting our mascot, Olly the Octopus. Great fun was had by all with crafts and games, dancing and singing, and our daily bible story. The holiday club was well attended by 54 children over the course of the week. Most of the children stayed for the afternoon and enjoyed films and cartoons.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making our "Big Sea Adventure" such a success, in particular our very enthusiastic children who joined us each day and to the parents for supporting the holiday club.

The following review was posted on social media, which the holiday club leaders would like to share with you:

"Just want to write a really positive post about Hamilton Old Parish Church of Scotland and the impact they have had on so many little people and their families this summer. I should stress I am not a member of this church so this is absolutely not a PR stunt.

My little boy goes to their Anchor Boys on a Wednesday night. In June, we were told of the Under the Sea summer programme the church would be running from the 31st July - 4th August. It would run from 9.30am-3pm for children in the community age 4+ and.....it would be free!! We signed up for it for my little boy and he started the club on Monday past....

To say the club has been incredible is a huge understatement. The number of volunteers (teenagers to a wonderful 81 year old lady who comforted my shy child) who have helped make this (week long free club) possible is unbelievable and shows how strong a community group this church is. They welcome the children every morning with huge smiles, they have a vast amount of activities set up ready to go and they entertain the children all day long - even the minister gets dressed up every day as Jack Sparrow 😊❤️ when you collect them at 3pm, the children are buzzing, armed with crafts and the staff are still smiling.

I have absolute no links to this church (except from anchor boys) but I just couldn't get to the end of the week and not publicly post my appreciation for this group and it's members. In a day and age when everything is costing more and parents are stretched to the max, it's been wonderful to see a church group - so selflessly - pull something like this together for all the parents and children in the community.

Thank you Hamilton Old Parish Church of Scotland for putting on a fantastic week for our children ❤️ our kids have had a ball....and it all came from a group of volunteers with a shared passion for kindness, friendliness and community spirit.

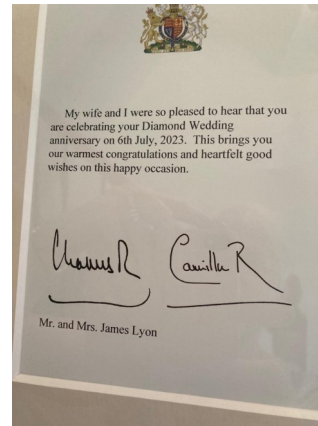
It's more of what we need in the world 🌍"



Choir

We are now moving into the new Church year when organisations and meetings resume. Choir will start the session with our Annual Dinner in the Avonbridge Hotel on Friday 1st September at 7 p.m. We will start our mid week meetings on Wednesday 6th September at 7 pm in the Session room and the new planners are now available to collect any Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing everyone back again to prepare introits and anthems supporting worship Sunday by Sunday.

The choir are delighted to congratulate Helen and Jimmy Lyon on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrated in July. Among many cards received a particular one takes pride of place in their home.



At the end of May we learned of the death of a former member, nonagenarian Miss Margaret Gilbert of Montrose Crescent. Margaret was a member of the Soprano section of choir for many years and was a regular worshipper until stepping down from choir ten years ago. During her time of service she rarely missed rehearsals and diligently gave of her time and talent in supporting choir music. Her funeral took place in the Church in June and we send our sympathy to her extended family throughout the country.

An appreciation - Mr Iain Keir

Iain sadly died at the end of May. He was a stalwart in every way - rarely missing rehearsals, always willing to commit to any additional choir services and dependable to the nth degree. When ill health prevented him coming along on any Sunday morning, he would call me with his apology - "I don't like letting you down".

Iain's life centred around his love of animals, many social interests, but primarily choral involvement. The animal world of Earnock and beyond, seemed to know which house to turn up to for help, and the phrase "All creatures great and small" seems appropriate where all found care, food and a warm bed as required. Some never moving on!!

His love of singing found him participating in large ensembles, to choral church groups, and from Denny in 1949 he accumulated over 70 years of vocal involvement. He had a rich Bass voice with beautiful tone and a repertoire for every occasion. We will miss his constant banter, his courteous manner and his caring heart, and send our condolences to Gavin, Mhairi and their extended family.

My thanks to David Young who so willingly provided taxi support for Iain to continue to enjoy the fellowship of Choir over many difficult months when he felt less able to travel.

An appreciation - Mr Armour Morrow

In the month of July we were also saddened with the death of Armour Morrow. Armour had been in the Church choir from 2005 and also sang in the Bass section. Armour was meticulous in his preparation and he never arrived without the correct music Sunday by Sunday. He was one of the very best time keepers – walking from Silvertonhill for exercise and always arriving well before we started our mid week rehearsals.

Although unable to be in choir in person over these last few years, Armour maintained a keen interest in church life and continued to enjoy worshipping with the service on line where he could share in hymns and anthems which he knew well.

Armour was a private humble man, but his quiet disposition belied a keen mind and a wealth of knowledge. Ever the gentleman, and willing to participate in any additional responsibilities for Choir at any time, we shall miss his quiet reliable presence in choir.

I feel privileged to have shared life's journey with Armour through music in the Church choir. We send our condolences as a choir to Kate, Alistair and Gordon and their extended family.

Helen C Simpson
Organist



Old Kirk Reflections

How many little proverbs, or sayings can you remember - perhaps from your childhood? I'm sure coming to your mind are sayings such as - "blood is thicker than water", "look before you leap", "still waters run deep" - I could go on! One that has always puzzled me is "a stitch in time saves nine". The meaning of the others I've mentioned is fairly clear but I've never understood this one. One meaning I discovered is "if you sort out a problem immediately it may save a lot of extra work later."

In a biblical context, a proverb is described as "a short saying that expresses a universal truth for practical, righteous living." The book of Proverbs, written mostly by Solomon, is a book of thought provoking pronouncements, principles and teachings. Each one intended to encourage the reader to live a Godly life.

"A problem shared is a problem halved" is another saying we're all familiar with. We know the value of talking things over with others; often getting a different perspective. What, however, if there's no-one to share your problem with. For the Christian, there's always someone. We should never forget we always have someone to share our problems with - Jesus himself. In Philippians 4:5-7 we read "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be known to God."

*"Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer."*

Douglas



Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
03/09/23	Flower Fund	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs H Brown
10/09/23	Mrs A Davidson	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs H Troop
17/09/23	Flower Fund		Mrs S Craig
24/09/23	Flower Fund		Mrs A Davidson
01/10/23	Mrs H Blair		Mrs H Blair
08/10/23	Flower Fund		Mrs M Green
15/10/23	Dr & Mrs H Wyllie		Mrs L Smith
22/10/23	Flower Fund		Mrs A Henderson
29/10/23	Flower Fund		Mrs K Hunter
05/11/23	Mrs M Gilroy		Mrs S Samson
12/11/23	Flower Fund		Miss G Davidson
19/11/23	Flower Fund		Miss M Richardson
26/11/23	Mrs H Simpson	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs H Simpson
03/12/23	Mrs A Whitehill		Mrs A Gibson
10/12/23	Mrs M Henderson	Mrs N Barr	Mrs M Henderson
17/12/23	Mrs H Troop		Mrs H Troop
24/12/23	Mrs M MacLean		Mrs M MacLean
31/12/23	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs A 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



Thank You

Kate Morrow and family would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the phone calls, letters of condolence and flowers received following the death of Armour. The messages on the cards were a great comfort and very much appreciated.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank members of the congregation for their support during Betty's struggle with her health.

She passed away peacefully into God's care with her family all around her on 17 January.

Thanks also for all the cards, phone calls and prayers which sustained us throughout these difficult times.

Betty is now at rest, but it wouldn't surprise me at all if she was already organising a cleaning rota for everyone's room to be sparkling.

Dan

PS - I no longer have a landline. My number is 07930 321648



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*

*May 2023
Jean Findlay*

*18 May 2023
Iain Keir*

*18 May 2023
Margaret Gilbert*

*29 May 2023
Joseph Pollock*

*14 July 2023
Armour Morrow*

*9 August 2023
Iain Macrae*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*28 May 2023
Sonny Jonathon McKay*



PRAYER

Almighty God,

We trust in you to direct our lives,
as Psalm 119:105 confirms that you provide light for our route.

In all that we experience in life,
including the vast seas of Psalm 107:23
we ask that you would prove our safe harbour,
for you are our desired haven.

We ask this for ourselves and our neighbours,
for our fellow children of God, the church.

Help us to open our eyes and our hearts
to expend ourselves in any way that you see fit,
so that we might be united in your work
under our Captain who is Christ.

It is in his name that we make our pleas.

Amen.

