

# Tidings



Summer  
June 2021

## **MINISTER**

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

## **SESSION CLERK**

Mrs Andrea Davidson

## **DEPUTE SESSION CLERKS**

Mr Alistair Buttery  
Mr William Craig  
Mrs Linda Smith

## **ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS**

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

## **CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

## **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 Hay

## **CHURCH SECRETARY**

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



**Scottish Charity SC010855**  
**[office@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:office@hamiltonold.co.uk)**  
**[www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org](http://www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org)**

Dear friends,

### “Roadmap”

In recent months, we have discussed the journey of life and faith. We have dissected all sorts of influences on travel, from directions to companions. The UK and Scottish governments have also been couching the measures to safeguard people during the current pandemic in terms of a roadmap towards some semblance of normality, taking tentative steps along the way. Similarly, we recently trialled services back in the church and it went very well, and in a recent Kirk Session meeting, a roadmap towards full worship was a topic for consideration.

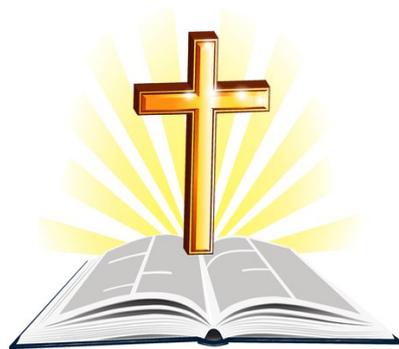
There have been all sorts of bumps in the road. We had hoped that the pandemic would be short-lived. At worst, perhaps we would be back to worship by Christmas... then Easter... then a shadow continued to hover over the possibility of public events. Quite understandably, there has been much frustration about these delays. Even wise King Solomon was familiar with the consequences of postponement. He wrote, “Hope deferred make the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12) Initially, people were told that facemasks were unnecessary, but then it became mandatory, and this persists. We were told that shouting and singing projected the virus further, and so singing in church was taboo, and for the moment that also persists. We were told that a physical distance of 6’ (2m) was necessary, except in extremely limited situations, and that also persists for the present. However, despite these unsightly potholes, the journey can be undertaken, as confidence permits.

Last year we took a poll of opinions about reopening the church, and replies were overwhelmingly in favour of waiting until a vaccine was available. Of course, now a vaccine is available, albeit new strains of the virus are emerging. Many have already received their double dose. By the end of the summer holidays this should include everyone over the age of 40 and virtually everyone under the age of 40 should have received at least one dose. This positive news has permitted us to reconsider the level of risk to those attending church, a duty of care that the Session has taken very seriously indeed.

I am delighted to inform you that the plan is that the church will open increasingly with immediate effect, with the anticipation that by mid-August we will be open every week. You will find the dates and times in this issue of Tidings. This will allow everyone to set their own pace as they gain confidence and familiarity with the way services need to be conducted, as the vaccination programme continues to progress. While there will likely be a few twists and turns ahead of us, it does seem that we may be on a straight section of the road. I, for one, am grateful, and cannot wait to see you again in person.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



## OPENING TIMES FOR CHURCH SERVICES 2021

Please book with the office on 01698 281905 for Track and Trace.

*09:30am 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Early monthly informal family service*

*10:45am 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Stated Annual Meeting*

*09:30am 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Early monthly informal family service*

*10:45am 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 Traditional Service*

*09:30am 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Early monthly informal family service*

*10:45am 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Traditional Service*

*10:45am 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Traditional Service*

*09:30am 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 Early monthly informal family service*

*10:45am 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Back to School / Church service*

Thereafter every week, 10:45am Traditional Service

Additional afternoon services may be conducted if capacity requires.

Thereafter, first Sunday of every month, 09:30am Early Family Service

Services are available every week on the internet: [www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld](http://www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld)

Audio recordings are also available by telephone on: 01698 533199



### **Covid 19 GUIDELINES SANCTUARY**

- Social distancing discs applied to the ground area at the entrance to the church and along the length of the path towards car park gates at 2 metre intervals.
- PLEASE NOTE:-Main front door and secondary front door from car park entrance to be left open at all times including during the service this will aid in circulation of fresh air within the building.
- Infra-red automated hand sanitiser placed at entrance to church building.
- Face coverings to be worn by all entering the Sanctuary at all times. Minister or official taking service only once in place can remove face covering if they are more than 2 metres from congregation.
- Offering plate // pouch to be available at entry door. No offering uplifted during service.
- Elders on door duty to record who attended service (Trace and Protect requirement). Pre booking encouraged through the office allows for list to be printed in advance. Advise attendees to enter sanctuary and follow guidance from elder within regards seating.
- On entry to sanctuary only seats marked for occupation to be used, all others are closed off with cord. Follow directions of Elder on duty regarding which seats are to be occupied first. On departure from the building leave by the side door indicated. With the attendees closest to exit door leaving the building first as directed. All to keep to social distancing that is in force at that time see markings on floor.
- Intimations, order of service all to be displayed on screens.
- Members of the congregation are not allowed to sing within the building. Suspended till guidelines change about this activity.



Our Fresh Expression remains active and vibrant despite lockdown restrictions. Activity so far this year includes our Passion Play “With Arms Wide Open” which has been watched by more than 1,600 people.

Also for Easter, we recorded a series of poems from the Rhyming Bible to tell the story of Holy Week for children. This has been very popular and used in schools and churches in Scotland and beyond.

### **Paul – A Man Changed Forever**

Drama Kirk’s bible study series for 2021 has so far had three episodes. A fourth is planned for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm when we explore Paul’s second missionary journey. Please do join us for that on [www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld](http://www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld)

The Committee are grateful to everyone who has given their time to make these activities possible. There are a few ways in which you could help Drama Kirk, as we are looking for the following support:-

#### **Social Media**

Might you like to be involved in engaging others in the Gospel through Drama Kirk’s Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages?

#### **Video Editing**

Would you like to join Jim Henderson editing the online bible studies? Please do get in touch if you would like to lend your technical skills.

#### **Props**

Could you help look after the Drama Kirk props? This role would include keeping track of where everything is stored and ensuring things are maintained.

If you would be interested in becoming more involved in Drama Kirk in these or any other ways please do get in touch.



#### **Scottish Bible Society**

The Scottish Bible Society Work is carrying on with spreading God’s Word. Sadly two of their workers in Cameroon were killed by Islamic militant group Boko Haram. If you can send a donation to the Bible Society Proclaimer Audio Bible boxes can enable a Church full of people in Mozambique hear God’s Word in their own language. As the box is solar powered and can be wound up it is easy to transport. Please send donations to The Scottish Bible Society, 7 Hampton Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5XU. Thank you for your support and I wish you all God’s Blessings.

*Muriel Eadie*



My sincere thanks for all the cards, flowers, gifts and telephone calls with good wishes which I received on my 90th birthday. Despite covid restrictions which has delayed celebrations of this milestone, my special day was magical! The sun shone and I was surrounded by love.

I have also appreciated the sympathy cards and messages of condolence on the recent death of my sister.

*Margaret Gilbert*

## Guild

Our new three year Guild strategy -“Look forward in Faith”  
Theme for first year – Lights and Bushels

Projects are an important part of the Guild’s commitment as we reach out to help others in need.

Guilds did not meet last year, but a total of £520,000 was raised over the last three years for the six projects.

The following are the projects for 2021/2024 –

1. BEAT – Blether with Beat, Scotland  
Raising awareness of eating disorders.
2. HOME for GOOD, Scotland  
Finding homes for vulnerable children.
3. PIONEERS – Chocolate heaven, South East Asia  
Supporting a sustainable chocolate production.
4. STARCHILD – Uganda  
Finding the light in every child by helping those with learning disabilities receive an education.
5. UNIDA – Hear our Voice, Brazil  
Training women for ministry and service in Brazil.
6. THE VINE TRUST – the KAZUNZU Village of Hope in Tanzania  
Helping to develop a self-sustainable village.



At this point it is difficult to say when we can meet again as a Guild.

Let us go forward in faith secure in the knowledge we have amongst us the watchful presence of Whose we are and Whom we serve.

Take care and God Bless.

### *The Guild*



### Saffronhall Singers

Well, this has certainly been the most bizarre session ever! In addition to learning and revising parts on YouTube, many of us learned to use Zoom which allowed us to meet weekly from October until the end of March. We were able to keep singing and enjoy fellowship, so much so that we are continuing with monthly meetings to we can keep in touch.

Over the summer months, I hope to continue to record accompaniments and get to grips with the new technology we purchased earlier in the year.

We do not know when we will be able to meet again as a group but will keep an eye on guidelines so we don't miss out!

Have a great summer wherever you visit.

### *Campbell Barr*



Congratulations to Ross and Lynn McKie  
as they welcome their new baby son,  
Callum James David, to the world.

Proud and loving big sister, Eilidh  
pictured with her brother.

## Finance

Our 2020 accounts were approved by the trustees on 23 March and presented to the congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting on 25 April. It was a pleasure to be in the church for this and to see some members in person and not in a little box on a screen. Our income was inevitably down in 2020 however, with members' contributions being received throughout the year, we did not have to use any of our investments to pay for expenditure. Thanks to our stockbrokers the investments which were hit so badly when the pandemic started actually gained in value by the end of the year.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support of the work of the church.

*Marilyn Henderson*

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



## Monday Club

Hopefully the majority of our membership will have had their second jab and ready to get back to normal routines in the very near future. Our visit to New Lanark is still under consideration and members will be advised accordingly.

One or two members were interested to learn more about the history of the club and I have managed to obtain some information regarding this.

The club originated in the North Church and was created by the Fireside Group. This was a group of folk who visited the housebound and folk in hospital. They decided to disband as Elders were appointed to do these duties by the Kirk Session. The group reformed as the Monday Club, as they wanted to avoid any unnecessary duplication. The Fireside Club was formed in the early 1960's and the Monday Club in the 1970's.

The first President of the club was a Miss Nanny Burns; she taught French at Hamilton Grammar School and moved on to Hamilton College. When Miss Burns retired, she decided to move down South to be with her family. The club was very popular and had a membership of 70; plus a waiting list. This was solely due to lack of accommodation.

The second President of the club was Bert Wilson who lived in Montrose Crescent and then moved down to The Furlongs. Bert was a very active Elder of the Church until ill health forced him to retire from the Session and he and his wife moved into Millar Park; where I used to visit them.

The third President of the club was Jim Leith, who continued the usual meetings of the club with various speakers and outings. Jim also organized small groups of single members to go on midweek bus trip holidays to various locations which were enjoyed very much.

I had the honour to be Jim's Vice President and when Jim took ill, he asked me to take over as President. I really enjoy the job and when we joined up with The Old Parish our membership doubled. The membership continues to grow and we are now nearly averaging around 50 members per meeting.

The Monday Club has always had a good strong committee to help with the running of the club. Here are the names of former secretaries and treasurers over the years who were dedicated in their duty to the running of the club. Mrs Shearer, Bob Robison, Anne Johnstone, Jack Johnstone, and Tommy Primrose.

If anyone reading this can add any additional information regarding the club, please contact myself or Nesella.

I wish everyone a pleasant summer, with hopefully a staycation if things keep going in the right direction.

*Charlie Duguid*



# MEIKLE FAMILY!!

March 2021

robert.silvana@gmail.com

## MARCH UPDATE ON HOW THINGS ARE IN BRAZIL WITH COVID-19

As of today, Sao Paulo has gone into an emergency stage to try and fight the virus. Schools have all shut down once again, churches and other establishments have been told to keep their doors shut. Only Chemists, supermarkets, mechanics and other essential places are allowed to remain open.

The government seems to be quite confused with different decisions every week, and aren't very popular with a number of people. Small businesses are closing, crime has gone up, people are going hungry by not being allowed to work. They are being forced to leave their homes as they don't have food to provide for their families. Buses and subways are all very full, although we are almost in lockdown. The majority of the hospitals are at full capacity and there are lines of ambulances on the outside being used as hospital beds. Sao Paulo is on the edge of chaos.

We chose to close Casa Semear back down last Wednesday as a safety measure. It wasn't an easy choice, but the virus is spreading quicker than it was at the end of last year and we have to be careful.

We have been blessed throughout all of last year, and lots of food baskets arrived month after month for the families. Even amongst the collapse, God's people were at work, and His Word was being shared.

We decided to open Casa Semear at the beginning of February with reduced amounts of children and all the health and safety measures being applied. We divided the age groups into three and had each group one day a week. But even with our care, we had one of the boys come to Casa Semear and while we were having breakfast, he told us that his Mum was in isolation due to Covid. We had to send him home and everyone here on the team self-isolated for five days... following protocol. After following the five days' protocol, the whole state got shut down, so we had to keep the house shut until further notice.

Our team has shrunk again! Felipe and Laura Matias have moved on after being with us for six years. We are very grateful for the time they served at Casa Semear and pray that God will be with them during the next steps of life. He has taken on as Youth Pastor at Calvary International Church, and will start after coming back from the USA in June.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. We miss you all. God bless!! Robert, Silvana, Vinny, Rafael, Marianne and Helena!





***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*

*7 February 2021  
May Queen*

*10 February 2021  
James Balmer*

*19 February 2021  
Elizabeth Cunningham*

*20 March 2021  
Jane Simpson*

*24 March 2021  
David Brown*

*16 April 2021  
Robert Fisher*

*16 April 2021  
Mairi Cairns*

*23 April 2021  
Elizabeth P Dixon*

*Weddings*

***"That they be the one"***

*5 March 2021  
Alba & Robert Miller*



## PRAYER

Almighty God,  
you are the Eternal One,  
who has always been and always will be;  
who is present with us for every step of life's journey.  
You are with us in our homes and our churches,  
even beside us on the road and hill.  
Stay close beside us  
as we step out in faith  
every hour - every day - every week.  
Whether our steps be steady or faltering,  
may our Christian walk  
reflect our awareness  
of who is with us  
and who awaits us at our journey's end.  
Grant us grace  
towards those who travel with us,  
even as Christ encouraged all on the way.  
Amen.

