

Tidings



Summer
June 2022

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Dear friends,

“Spring turned into Summer”

As we travel through the seasons of 2022, so much seems to have changed in society. Recently, I have preached on the challenges of how we use language and express our opinions. Even comedians are finding it increasingly difficult to perform a set that would have been entirely acceptable as little as five to ten years ago. It is ironic that, at a time when we need things to smile about, our God-given sense of humour is being curtailed.

Some of my formative comedy was Monty Python’s Flying Circus, where some of the most extreme subjects were conveyed in an off-the-wall [and sometimes inappropriate] manner. Few areas of life were spared a satirical or humorous gaze, be it religion, politics, banking, war, medical care, to name a few. One inane scene in the film “Holy Grail” even took a swipe at the British weather, declaring that “winter changed into spring, spring changed into summer, summer changed back into winter, and winter gave spring and summer a miss and went straight on into autumn!” True – at times we don’t know what season we are in at any given time of the day.



In the sermon, mentioned above, I cited 2 Timothy 4:2-4, where Paul identified the need to express our convictions, especially regarding Christ. *“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”* That latter point marks the importance of prioritising our interest. Myths and histories are interesting, but what do they teach us? Parables and analogies are useful but rather than focussing on the minutia, what is the point of the story? Our use of language is a hot topic, but what do our words denote, and is it used to help or to harm? Do we speak of Christ, like Christ, in Christ?

Paul would also write to Philippi, and after talking about being reasonable and prayerful, he concluded (Philippians 4:8-9) *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

I pray that we might all exhibit the best, which is Christ, in our words and actions. Whether it is in our use of story or humour, may we be increasingly encouraged as we gather together in every season.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Monday Club

Hope this finds everyone well and here is the information that I have been wanting to put into print for the last two years!!

Hopefully, if things keep progressing we will meet on a regular basis from September/October, every second Monday at the usual time, in the North Hall. We have lost several members over that period; so I would ask members to get their recruiting hats on and invite as many folk as you can, to join us.

The committee will be meeting later this month to draw up a list of speakers/topics etc. We are always looking for new ideas.

So please do not hesitate to contact myself or any committee member re this matter.

A full list of the syllabus will be issued in the next issue of Tidings.

Have a nice summer and enjoy a well deserved holiday.

Cheers

Charlie Duguid



1922 Hamilton Old Parish Church Guild 2022

With sadness the Old Parish Guild has closed in its centenary year.

After the Union of the churches in January 2013, the Old Parish Guild continued to meet until the end of that session in March 2013, with Rev John Thomson presiding.

In April it was decided to call a meeting after the church service which would be open to all interested parties. I agreed to act as Co-ordinator and Betty Smith agreed to act as Treasurer. All ladies who had shown an interest were contacted.

On the first Wednesday in October we opened with a Worship Group of four ladies and Naida Meek as Syllabus Secretary. We started off with a membership of approximately twenty.

It was a happy group. Speakers complimented the ladies on the interest shown in their subjects and on the warm welcome they received.

Our annual quiz was popular and helped us raise money for the Guild Projects.

Things went well for a time, but as age crept up on us, numbers went down and it became impossible to continue.

The world has been turned upside down with the pandemic and fast-moving technology, both of which proved too much for many in the Guild age group.

There have been many changes since Rev A Charteris suggested to Assembly in 1887 to form "Women's Guilds", but women continue to work for and contribute to the life of the Church.

Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in the Guild over many years and also to the members of the congregation for their support.

Always remembering "Whose we are and Whom we serve".

With every blessing,

Avril Boothroyd for the Guild



Boys' Brigade

Well, the 2021/22 session is drawing to a close and as we look back on the first session after the enforced absence caused by the Covid Pandemic we can heave a massive sigh of relief that after a few false dawns it appears that the World at last appears to be moving towards some semblance of normal. The journey may not yet be complete but I personally now feel more confident that there is light at the end of the tunnel and not an express train bearing down on us about to cause more harm.



Before I go any further, I would like to put on record my thanks to all the staff who have worked through this most unique of years.

Alan and Lynne Young as well as Gillian Buttery in the Anchor Boys.

Ross Smart, Craig Horne, Lewis Chisholm, Euan and Colin Davidson in the Junior Section.

And last, but definitely not least, Alistair Buttery and Iain Grey in the Company Section.

On Sunday the 15 May we had our annual Church service during which we made some presentations to Officers who had retired during our absence. The people honoured were:

Nanette Mclean who retired as Officer in Charge of the Anchor Boys

Alan Brown who retired as Officer in Charge of the Junior Section

Frank Gardiner who retired as an Officer in the Junior Section

Gordon Scott who retired as an Officer in the Company Section

And, Alistair Buttery who stood down as Company Captain but remains as an Officer.

Also, at the service we appointed Frank Gardiner as Honorary Captain of the 1st Hamilton Boys' Brigade Company. This was in recognition of his years of service to not only our company but to the Boys' Brigade as a whole. Frank has been an officer in the BB for over 50 years and as well as being a previous Captain of the 1st Hamilton he has worked for the Brigade in many capacities over the years. If there was ever an honour deserved it was the one bestowed on Frank at the service.



As I said above the session is drawing to a close but it is not over yet and there are still some events to take place.

On 28 May 2022 the Junior Section trip will take place and this year we are going to attend the Glasgow Science Centre and as well as examining and playing with the exhibits a visit to the Planetarium has been arranged. The bus will leave the Church car park at 9am on that day and will return at approximately 5pm (this will be confirmed on the day of the trip).

On 1 June 2022 the Company will be visited by the Hamilton MP Angela Crawley. This is in response to a climate Change Project done by the Junior Section this session. The Project consisted of presentations to the boys by Officers and discussions among the Officers and boys as to the causes of and solutions to the problem of global warming. In that vein on the run up to Easter we recycled/upcycled toilet roll tubes into a cross which you may have seen in the Church. This activity also allowed us to talk to the boys about what the Easter Celebrations were really about. Both activities seemed to dovetail together nicely as both involved some form of resurrection. I have worked with young people for many years and I am not often surprised with their knowledge and grasp of subjects we grown ups think is beyond their understanding but during this project even I was surprised at their knowledge and problem-solving abilities.



Maybe the world will survive. It's just going to take all us old fogies to get out of the way and let the young people do their thing.

Also in June, Lewis Chisholm and Colin Davidson will be working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award by taking part in a 2 day expedition. Don't worry - they're young and fit and they will survive!

Well, that's the Annual report for the 1st Hamilton Boys' Brigade. It's been eventful from beginning to end but now the Captain has a bit of experience behind him hopefully next year will run more smoothly. I don't doubt that for the first few weeks of the session, that rabbit that got caught in the headlights showed more composure than I did! But we got there in the end and mainly thanks to the wonderful people around me but then don't some people say picking a good team is also a skill. (Please allow me that one small indulgence of self-praise, I beg you!!).

So, it's time to pack the beach towels, the buckets and spades and head for the beach to recharge the batteries and we will all meet again in September to do it all again.

Many thanks and enjoy your holidays.

Graham Horne
Captain

Link Committee - Easter Event

We had our first event in a number of years. An Easter Service was provided by Rev Blackman and it was a first step back for many getting back to Church. It was a lovely service and tea and biscuits were provided in 'The North' Hall after the service. It was slightly different as we can not provide home baking and sandwiches at the moment, however it was lovely to meet up again for a chat and it was enjoyed by all.

If you are over 80 and would like to attend future events please pass your details to the church office or phone Andrea on 01698 281905.

If you would like to become a member on our Committee please contact Helen McGreevy on 01698 828619.

Helen McGreevy
Link Committee Convener



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Join us at our gathering following the service on Sunday 5 June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Refreshments will be available, along with fun activities for both adults and children alike to get involved in!

If you would like to attend please pass your name to any member of the Fellowship Committee or to Andrea in the Office.





It was a complete joy to return to public performance with "I am With You Always" our Passion Play this Easter.

This was the first performance of Drama Kirk's own script, created for us by Simon McCallum, which will be slightly different each year as we consider which scenes we wish to use. As well as the core story of Holy Week there are lots of different miracles and healings we could add each year. This year we included the character of Satan for the first time and feedback indicates that our audience really enjoyed that new character.



The play was also filmed live on the day for those who could not make it. We had around 300 with us on the day and (to date) around 700 have watched it on YouTube. Please do check out the church channel if you have not already seen it.

We are grateful as always to all of the church members involved behind the scenes making it happen and to our cast, crew and stewards. Only with your support can we maintain Drama Kirk as HOPC's fresh expression of church and ensure that our drama ministry continues to take the word of God out into our town.



Our next performance will be as part of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly when we perform the baptism of Jesus at "Refresh at the Rock".



The Scottish Bible Society

The Ukrainian Bible Society is publishing and distributing special editions of the Bible and New Testament to army units all over Ukraine. Please pray that the governments of Russia and Ukraine will agree to a ceasefire and be willing to negotiate towards peace.

In Malawi it is not uncommon for 100 children to share 1 children's Bible and having to wait for their turn to take the well-used copy home!

Later in May is Outdoor Classroom Day. 10 Must Know Bible Stories resources will be used in schools across Scotland and help children explore the Bible.

We wish our Asian friends and neighbours Eid Mubarak as they celebrate Ramadan and fasting for a month between dawn and dusk.

Muriel Eadie



Old Kirk Reflections

Only a few weeks ago I was called for Jury Duty. This is an important task which means the accused is tried by his or her peers and the verdict is based on the evidence presented.

It was a tough 7 days as we heard evidence that, let's say, we'd have preferred not to hear, such was its nature. At the end of the trial, we had to give our verdict. Though we were passing judgement on the accused we did this with each and every witness; deciding whether they were truthful or not.

Do we not do this on a day to day basis? We often make our mind up about someone instantly - without even getting to know them. Our judgement can be based on a host of factors and even on our own prejudices. One witness during the trial reminded us how "you can't judge a book by its cover".

Thinking of books, some might judge the Bible simply by the words on the cover. A book containing a lot of old dusty stories, some might say, stories that have no bearing on today, stories that have a bit of dubiety, as some might question whether these events happened at all. When we read scripture however we read of the concerns Jesus had - poverty, fairness, equality. Do these concerns have no bearing on today?

We judge others - rightly or wrongly - and we judge ourselves. However, who is our ultimate judge?

In Deuteronomy 1:17 Moses wrote "Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgement belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it."

Douglas

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
the Psalmist declares that you establish and order our steps
when we delight in your way.
May our words and actions betray
our deep love and commitment
to you, our God, in Christ.
Help us and we shall be helped
as we do our duty
in encouraging each other
and declaring before all the world
that Christ is the one we follow
through all the seasons of our lives.
In the power of the Spirit
and in union with Christ,
hear our prayer, our Father.
Amen.





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*

*20 February 2022
William Thomson*

*21 March 2022
David Moffat*

*5 April 2022
Alexander McConnell*

*7 April 2022
Elizabeth (Betty) Allan*

*8 April 2022
Carol Taylor*

Wedding

"That they be the one"

*7 May 2022
Neil McCartney to Daniela Lenhard*



Baptism

"Let the children come to me"

*10 April 2022
Ivy Magowan*



Hamilton Old Parish Church



Join us for an out of this world experience

Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August

9.30am – 12.30pm

or bring a packed lunch and stay until 4.00pm

**For further details or to register please contact Andrea by
telephone on 01698 281905 or
by email – holidayclub@hamiltonold.co.uk**