

# Tidings



June 2023  
Summer

### **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

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### **CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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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  
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,

### “The Race”

Are you, with me, determined to forge ahead with life now that the pandemic has been officially declared over? Of course, that doesn't mean we take on an air of nonchalance, given the privations that we have suffered and how that continues to affect the confidence levels of the most vulnerable. Nor does it mean that we forget the lessons about hygiene. However, I am delighted that so many folk have returned to cafés, supermarkets, recreation and churches, and have finally set their mind to holidays this year. The summer is finally arriving, with so much promise, and I can't help but ponder what else life has in store for us.

The Apostle Paul seems to have the future in mind when he penned, “The one thing I do is forget the things behind and reach forward to the things ahead” (Phil.3:13). These words were written to encourage the Christian to continually look forward. Perhaps he was recalling Jesus' analogy of the farmer, “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). These are words for the journey of life and they have so many applications for us. They remind us of the delight we find in life, in the company of those we care for, but especially in Christ.

Paul continues, “So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above” (Phil.3:14). This makes it evident that his focus was on Christ and his Kingdom, in this life and the one to come. But, in the meantime, he describes it as a race. Perhaps we recall races that include running, jumping, swimming, driving, riding – long distance, short distance, and those that involve obstacles or equipment. We would need to train and rest. We might need to plan, as a race has a direction and goal, but those in a race have to pace themselves. We are “called” to the line, under starter's orders... and then we're off! I wonder how we might apply these words today.

It is good to enjoy all the seasons of God's blessing, and that includes times of recuperation. Yet, when the day is done, surely our chief interest is in Christ and how we might do God's will. So, we turn from the past and its trials, we look forward to the rejuvenation of the summer, and we lay the ground for what he would have us do next as individuals and as a church family.

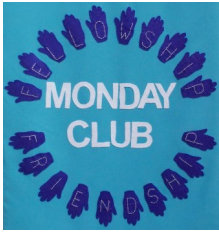
May God bless you in your recreation and in your constantly growing desire to live in the fulness of life that is centred on him. I hope that the summer is good to your mind, body, and spirit.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



## Monday Club



At our closing meeting on 27 March, we had Greig Sneddon with an audio-visual presentation of music in the sixties. We were treated to clips of everyone's sixties pop stars which soon had everyone singing along and bringing back happy memories! Wow! If we could only turn the clock back!!!!??? We finished off the meeting with our A G M; the first held for 3 years! (due to the pandemic)

I have agreed to stay on as President for another year with Nesella as my Vice – President. Nesella will still retain the secretary's position with Helen doing the bookings etc. Linda has agreed to be our new treasurer. Stewart Troop and Margaret Green agreed to join the committee. The meeting agreed to give Iain Keir an honorary membership of the club; in appreciation for all the advice and service he has given to the club in general. We also agreed to give a donation of £300 to the church.

The club members enjoyed an outing to The Burrell collection at the Pollock Country Park on 24 April. Forty folk attended with quite a few visitors from the West Church, who were made welcome. We spent about 2 hours at the refurbished collection which gave us a "taster" of the place only. One could spend a full day here and still not see everything! Entry is free and I think many will return; it's something to keep in mind for a wet day during the summer and yes it has a coffee shop and a restaurant. The staff also offer a free guided tour that lasts approx. 45 minutes. Well worth a visit as entry is free.

Speakers have not been organised for the new session which begins in October. Any suggestions, as always, are most welcome.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

God Bless

*Charlie Duguid*



## Scottish Bible society

The Scottish Bible Society would like to be able to distribute Bibles at a subsidised cost to homes in Egypt that would not be able to afford one as there are around 15 million Christians in Egypt. The value of their currency and salaries has halved - Local Churches there are trying to help! There is a great respect for the Bible in Egypt - the people are curious - the Bible Society is excited about what God is doing in Egypt just now!

*Muriel Eadie*

## Hyzone

An invitation is extended to attend the Hyzone Annual General Meeting to be held in St John's Centre on Thursday, 1 June 2023 at 7.30pm.

*Margaret McCartney*



By the time you read this, Drama Kirk's newest production will be complete. "Walk with the Word: Emmaus" is a dramatized walk, which was written for Drama Kirk by local writer Louise Scott covering the period from the aftermath of the crucifixion to the ascension. If you joined us, we hope you enjoyed the experience and were blessed by what took place.



It has been a great opportunity to explore this period in greater detail than we do in the Passion Play. In rehearsals, we've been looking at the words the bible uses to describe Jesus' actions. It tells us He "Drew himself near and went with them" and then "Vanished" (with Cleopas & Mary). He then "Stood among them" at the Upper room and "Revealed himself" at the seashore. What must it have felt like, to have a person you saw die, suddenly appear in a room with you?

Staging these sudden appearances is of course challenging – we can't lock the upper room at Chatelherault. We've been playing with making each appearance and disappearance slightly different. He walks alongside Cleopas and Mary. He appears suddenly in the upper room. He is part of the scene at the seashore and suddenly reveals himself. And finally, at the Ascension, he is waiting for them. In this, we hope to give the audience different encounters with the risen Jesus, just like the Disciples had.

Thank you to anyone who supported Drama Kirk in any way with "Emmaus". When we talk about mission in Hamilton Old, Drama Kirk is one of the first things people tend to mention. And it is a unique, creative and public display of faith – something we really take into the community as a church. However, it does need continued support if it is to thrive. There are so many ways you could help. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[dramakirk@gmail.com](mailto:dramakirk@gmail.com)

Our next venture will be a bible study for harvest. We will debut this at an event organised by the URC and Glasgow Presbytery, sharing the resources that are currently being developed with other churches as a way for them to engage in intergenerational ministry. Hopefully we can also make an evening of it here at the Old Parish. Please do come along, details will follow.

*Liz Blackman*



## Old Kirk Reflections

In 1967, Otis Reading released his famous single “Sitting on the Dock of the Bay”. A song we hear regularly today and one I always find gives me a sense of peace -

*\*“I’m sittin’ on the dock of the bay,  
watchin’ the tide roll away,  
ooh I’m just sittin’ on the dock of the bay,  
wastin’ time”\**

It puts pictures in my mind of sitting looking out over the bay, overlooking the blue ocean, totally relaxed and at one with nature.

Where my parents live, they’ve a lovely South West facing patio - again a place which gives me a great sense of peace. Sitting on a sunny Summer afternoon, looking over rolling fields, totally relaxed and at one with nature.

Rather than “wastin’ time”, as in the song, this is a time for us to feel closer to God. Taking in His creation all around us and giving Him our thanks for all that He has done for us. We give Him thanks for His peace. In Philippians 4:7 we read “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.

May God’s peace be with you, always!

*Douglas*



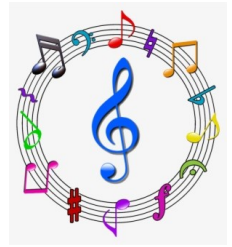
Almighty God,  
You visit us in the power of the Spirit,  
and in the person of Christ.  
May you, our Father,  
remind us whose we are and whom we serve.  
Help us to enjoy our periods of relaxation,  
that we might be reinvigorated to seek your will.  
May we know seasons of refreshing from above,  
even as we work in your cause below.  
For you are our refuge  
in the joys and trials of life;  
and with you is an eternal reward  
tasted, even now, in the work you have given us to do.  
Grant us a renewed sense of your grace  
and a faith that grows in its due season,  
that we might ever glorify your matchless and holy name.  
Amen.



## Choir

Choir Wednesday mid week meetings have now finished, although we will still meet, prior to morning worship, in the Session room at 9.50.

With all choir anthem material now returned, my sincere thanks to Sandra and Helen, who for many years have willingly kept our library of anthems filed in good order. They have now passed the baton to Mhairi and Alison and I am grateful for them for taking on this responsibility.



My thanks also to the Taylor family for their recent generous donation to Choir. This will be used to provide a new anthem in the early part of next session.

For many years we were able to enjoy our annual choir dinner and of late that custom has not been possible. We intend to restart this event at the end of August and further details will follow in the next Newsletter, with venue and date details.

I wish everyone safe and enjoyable travels during the summer months, ready to return to mid week meetings on Wednesday 6 September.

*Helen C Simpson*  
*Organist*

## Anchor Boys



We have enjoyed a great session at the Anchors and have welcomed a number of new boys along on Wednesday nights.

Lots of fun and games as well as arts and crafts. The kids especially enjoyed making use of Drama Kirk's online material to teach the Christmas and Easter stories.

We know there's not much longer till we all break up for our summer holidays but the Anchors have one last project planned, but you'll need to keep an eye open in the church to find out what we have planned.

*Alan Young*  
*Officer in Charge*



## Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
21/05/23	Mrs A Whitehill	Mrs J Mathie	Mrs M Green
28/05/23	Flower Fund		Mrs K Hunter
04/06/23	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
11/06/23	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
18/06/23	Flower Fund		Mrs S Craig
25/06/23	Mrs F MacFarlane		Mrs A Davidson
02/07/23	Flower Fund		Mrs H Simpson
09/07/23	Mrs H Brown		Mrs H Brown
16/07/23	Mr J Stenton		Miss M Richardson
23/07/23	Mrs S Gosling		Mrs L Smith
30/07/23	Mrs A Gibson		Mrs A Gibson
06/08/23	Mr & Mrs I Samson		Mrs S Samson
13/08/23	Mrs K Morrow		Mrs L Clayton
20/08/23	Flower Fund		Miss G Davidson
27/08/23	Flower Fund		Mrs E Goodwin
03/09/23	Flower Fund	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs H Brown
10/09/23	Flower Fund	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs H Troop

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*



**Photos of the Old Parish**

*Courtesy of Graham Horne*







***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*

*25 January 2023  
Roderick Dow*

*3 March 2023  
Jennifer Dick*

*4 March 2023  
Lily (Lil) Macintyre*

*9 March 2023  
John Craig*

*10 March  
Alex Meek*

*11 March 2023  
John Balfour*

*24 March 2023  
Margaret Taylor*



# Hamilton Old Parish Church



**Join us on our Big Sea Adventure for P1 – P7**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**or bring a packed lunch and stay until 3.00pm**

**For further details or to register please contact Andrea by  
telephone on 01698 281905 or  
by email – [holidayclub@hamiltonold](mailto:holidayclub@hamiltonold)**

**Click on the QR code to register**

