

# *Tidings*



*June 2025*  
*Summer*

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### **VICE CONVENERS**

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MANSE - Mr Alistair BATTERY  
WEST CAMPUS - David Gibson & Douglas Graham

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Mrs Wendy Culross

### **CHURCH SECRETARY**

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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

### **CHURCH OFFICER**

Mr Colin Davidson

### **ROLL KEEPER**

Mr Colin Gibson



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Dear friends,

### “Death is Nothing at All”

Throughout the year, I’m often surprised by the requests by the bereaved for the poem by Henry Scott Holland that talks of death and passing. It was originally part of a sermon preached in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London in 1910, and included a call to persevere despite our grief. Yet some of its notes might be felt to minimise the emotions felt at such times of acute and chronic sadness.

Very few of us are untouched by the loss of a loved one. I would suggest that it’s a rare bird that can approach such loss with a stoicism that borders on the blasé. I certainly recall recently commenting to someone offering me pastoral care, on the run-up to the loss of my mother, that “I have met death on many occasions and been in all sorts of palliative-care situations, but there’s something different when it’s your own”. Indeed, even observing our loved ones in such a predicament (that in various forms eventually befalls us all) can create deep wounds.

Even yet, we’re also reminded of the Apostle Paul’s words, “Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope” (1Thess.4:13-18). For, our faith should never be underestimated, no matter how tenuously held at such times. Also, he reflects that in the longer term we may “be able to comfort others with the same comfort God has given us” (2Cor.1:3-4), which is no glib suggestion. Henri Nouwen contemplates some of this in his short work “The Wounded Healer”.

As we face the summer, already showing some days of warmth and light, perhaps we might be able to reflect on that – and me with you. That each season brings its own responses. For now the winter is past, as well as the early buds of spring. We enjoy good days, as and when we’re able. Yet we’re not oblivious to the changing shades of the autumn fall and the cool winter that we will once more face. Day after day and season after season, we face these changes while held in the hand of God. Death is NOT nothing at all, for it holds deep significance, especially in the context of our crucified and risen Saviour whom we have considered more thoroughly during our Easter devotions.

But, whether our inwards days reflect the weather in heat and cold, I trust that we might all in due time attempt to observe and share something of the comfort God offers us in His grace and in the face of each other. For, we are the family of God and have so much to offer each other in our shared experience of joy and challenge.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross.*



## What's On

### June

Sunday 01	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 08	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (West Campus)
Sunday 15		<i><b>Father's Day</b></i>
	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29	10.45am	Morning Worship



### July

Sunday 06	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 13	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 20	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship



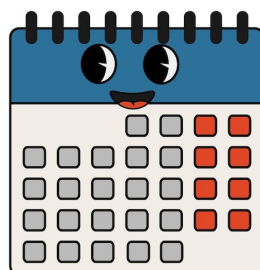
## "Holiday Club Heroes"

**28 July - 1 August**



### August

Sunday 03	10.45am	Morning Worship - Holiday Club
Sunday 10	10.45am	Morning Worship - Back to School
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service (West Campus)
Sunday 17	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 31	10.45am	Morning Worship





# **Hamilton Old Parish Church**

## **“Holiday Club Heroes”**



**Join us for our Children's Holiday Club  
for P1 – P7**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 1<sup>st</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.co.uk](mailto:holidayclub@hamiltonold.co.uk)**



### Drama Kirk's Easter

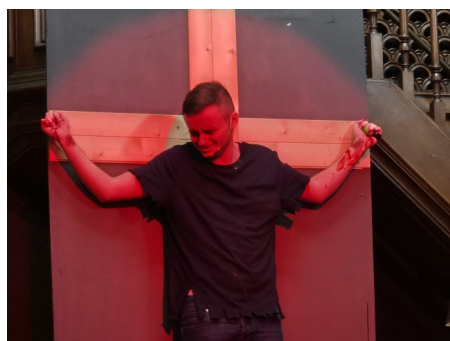
Did you know that Drama Kirk not only presents the Easter story in a different way each year, but we also present different parts of the story? Our script, written especially for Drama Kirk by River City writer Simon McCallum, is deliberately created with core scenes, like the last supper and crucifixion, and additional scenes that we choose from each year. Every year you will see a different story.

This year we had two scenes we've never performed before – the healing of the centurion's servant and a reflection from Judas. New things always emerge as we rehearse, providing opportunities to deepen our own understanding of passages of scripture that can be all too quickly read. It was great, then, to have two new scenes to learn from.

The healing of the centurion's servant takes place in Matthew and Luke's gospels. Both place it amongst many miracles taking place and both give a strong account of the centurion's faith. He doesn't even need Jesus to come to his home, in fact he says he is not worthy of such an honour. He believes Jesus can simply say the word and his servant will be healed. Luke tells us Jesus then turned to the crowd and used this interaction with the centurion as an opening to teach His followers about faith.

This year's play was deliberately short, so I sneaked the centurion into the end of the triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Jesus uses the opportunity to teach the Palm Sunday crowd about deep faith and introduces the idea that He is here for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Judas objects, setting up his growing disenchantment. I had never previously considered the impact of a Roman coming amongst them. They don't know why he's there at first and assume it means trouble for them. Our performance presented a powerful man, breaking into the crowd declaring 'You are Jesus of Nazareth?' and we see the crowd shrink back. However, Jesus helps them to understand they have more to learn than fear from the centurion.

Judas generally disappears from our Passion Play after the last supper and we never see him again. Matthew's gospel tells us Judas felt remorse. He tries to return his 30 pieces of silver that, it transpired, were little comfort for having betrayed his friend and master. Our script includes a beautifully written monologue for Judas which gives us opportunity to hear how he feels about having betrayed Jesus. Tackling this for the first time, we had Judas return to the upper room, sharing his thoughts as he looks among the debris of the table. We loved telling more of the story of one of Holy Week's main characters and Colin Davidson's powerful performance was a real highlight – if you missed it, you really did miss out!





So, that's the different parts of the story we told this year. In terms of the different way, we took a novel approach in two ways. The first was the 'Passion Play in a Day' concept, and the second was setting it in the modern day.

'Passion Play in a Day' allowed people to come along on the morning of the play and be part of the performance in the afternoon. Whilst we'd rehearsed the main characters over several weeks, there were still some significant roles cast on the day, including the centurion mentioned above, disciples at the last supper and the servant girls to whom Peter denies Jesus (these characters are very firmly Dorothy Paul's 'cleaner' in my head!). The energy brought into the rehearsal room by the new folks joining us was phenomenal. We were blessed by so many new faces and happily welcomed some old friends back.

Our contemporary setting allowed us to play with the use of modern music for the first time. The last supper, for example, began with the dance beats of 'Uptown Funk'. A celebration together for Jesus and his friends, which quickly becomes solemn as Jesus discusses his death. The contrast between these emotions was the best we'd ever played it and made a fitting reflection of the joy to sorrow nature of Holy Week. Costumes were also modern which brought us closer to the characters. Jesus was not a distant figure in robes. There he was, in t-shirt and jeans like the rest of us, played again fabulously by Alex McLean, who was never afraid to show us Jesus humanity amongst His divinity.

The contemporary setting led to us asking ourselves who these characters and events would be in today's society. Caiaphas the High Priest condemned Jesus in clerical robes from a pulpit. Now, we all know he was condemned by the religious leaders of the day, but seeing that really brought it home. In conversation with Carolyn Nicolson, who led our crowd work, I pondered how Palm Sunday would look in this day and age, as we would not be waving our usual branches. I ran through a couple of options and we were not further forward until Carolyn said 'Phones!' and the concept of Jesus arriving to a flash of phone cameras and a bustle of selfies was born. Much more relatable for a modern audience.

There are lots of ways you can get involved with Drama Kirk. We are particularly short of help behind the scenes. Our production team do an amazing job, but they only have so many hands. Let us know your talents and we would love to welcome you to the team.

Huge thanks to everyone who joined us this year and to those who came along and supported the performance. Whilst we are likely to return to robes and tunics next year, it was very helpful to bring things up to date, reflect that Jesus was not just with us in the first century. He is indeed with us always.

*Liz Blackman*



## **Fellowship and Special Events Group**

On Easter Sunday, we had the usual early breakfast following the Church and Chatelherault services and there were over 70 folks served with their rolls and sausage. There were some rolls and some sausage remaining so the Churches Drop-in Centre benefited from that.

Our next undertaking will be the celebration of the opening of the West Parish Church chancel, which will be held in mid August at the West Campus. Further details will be announced by way of the usual Sunday intimation sheet and the Church website.

Doors Open days this year fall on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 September, when both the buildings will be open to anyone who wishes to see around the buildings. Please note this is not restricted to visitors, but members who wish a guided tour will be made welcome. There will be tea and coffee available following the tours. The opening times will be intimated during August in the intimation sheet and on the website.

On Friday 19 September there will be a concert by the local Rock Choir in the Church. This is to raise funds for a charity as yet to be decided, but once a decision has been made the information will be advertised in the intimation sheet and on the web site. For those who are not on line I am sure the Church secretary will be willing to pass the information on.

On 25 October, it is intended to hold an afternoon tea for those more mature members of the Church, so to ensure you are included in the list of invitees, and assuming you are 80 plus years of age, please advise a member of the Fellowship or Special Events groups nearer the time. This information will be repeated in Tidings in September.

As of now the only remaining event will be the Christmas lunch which will be held on Sunday 14 December. The time, cost and choice of menu will be advised at the end of November.

*Yvonne & Iain*

Co-Conveners



## **Worship Team**

Over the previous quarter a variety of different services have taken place and monthly services have started in the West Campus in the afternoon of the second Sunday in the month. The Minister and Local Worship Leaders have led services, with a variety of Bible Readers taking part. Our Choir and Organists have continued to provide a variety of music which is enjoyed by those in the church and listening in from home. Mhairi Phillipson has completed her 6-month placement with us, and she leaves with our good wishes for the next stage of her development as a Reader.

During Holy Week services took place across different churches in the town. On 19th April, Drama Kirk shared their Passion Play. Thanks especially to Liz Blackman and her team who worked hard to bring the Easter Story into a modern day and meaningful context.

We are fortunate to have so many different opportunities to worship together and deepen our faith. The good number of participants enables a rich range of different voices and perspectives to be heard and the Worship Team is keen to encourage further participation, so if you would like to get involved, please get in touch. Thanks to everyone involved in Worship over the last few months.

*Rhona Arthur and Bill Craig*

Joint Conveners



## Choir

We have had a successful session from January, and I have appreciated the attendance throughout the darker nights at the start of the year particularly on whole dark evenings.

In mid April we were pleased to be involved in leading worship on an evening during Holy Week services in Cadzow Church.

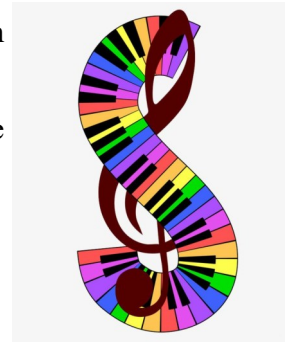
Mid week choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings have now finished at the end of April when, after handing in all the music used for the first part of the year, we were able to enjoy a cuppa and blether together.

My thanks to Alison and Mhairi for organising the filling of all the anthem materials, and keeping copies in the right place.

Choir mid week meetings will restart on Wednesday 3rd September, but we continue to meet weekly at 9.50am on a Sunday morning prior to worship.

*Helen C Simpson*

Organist



## Children and Youth

Our Sunday Live sessions are going from strength to strength, with around nine kids showing up every week without fail. We've started sharing Bible stories using some lovely picture-based Bibles kindly given to us by the West youth team. Since our last update, over 70 handprint flowers were made and handed out to the ladies in our congregation on Mothering Sunday as a small token of appreciation. We're now teaming up with the newly formed Pastoral/Social Committee and are already planning to design and make birthday cards for our over-80s members. The kids had a great time on Easter Sunday with an Easter egg hunt, and everyone went home with an egg from the Sunday Live team for their efforts.

Our youth group (name still in the works—it's being decided by the kids themselves!) is making solid progress with the Team Alpha programme and are currently discussing the question, Who is Jesus? We've got a bunch of team-building activities coming up that should help bring everyone closer together and build a real sense of community.

Our Sunday Live team will be taking a much-needed break over the summer, with Lynn, Kirsty, Eilidh, Carole and Louise all taking part in this summer's holiday club. Everyone will be back, refreshed and raring to go, from Sunday 10 August with the Back to School service.

Finally, a massive thank you to the wider team who continue to support our vision, and to our wonderful congregation for their encouragement and kind words. We're so grateful for your ongoing support—these sessions wouldn't be possible without you.

*Dale Strachan*

Convener



## Finance and Gift Aid

The 2024 financial accounts were approved by the Trustees on 11 March and subsequently presented to the Congregation on 30 March. Regular offerings declined by 3.8% compared to the previous year, reflecting the demographic of the Church population. The Church received £7,985 from the Hamilton Hospital Fund in 2024 and a further £13,324 in 2025.

We are saddened to hear of the closure of the Monday Club but would like to thank them for their kind donation of £1,211.

We continue to optimise income from hall and car park rentals, investments, and Gift Aid claims. We have received the maximum of £2,000 from HMRC Small Donations Scheme for donations under £30 made by members who have not signed a Gift Aid declaration. Members who are taxpayers are encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration, which allows the Church to claim an extra 25p for every £1 of tax already paid. Those interested should contact Marilyn or Amanda or email [finance@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:finance@hamiltonold.co.uk).

Financial matters relating to the West Church are being finalised and the Finance Committee plan to present a proposal to combine the funds and accounts at the next session meeting on 27 May.

We wish everyone a sunny and pleasant summer.

*Amanda Strachan*

Finance Convener

*giftaid it*

## Link

Link events unfortunately stopped as a result of the Covid pandemic. Now clear from that and with the union of Hamilton West church and Hamilton Old Parish Church, we feel now is the right time to re-commence.

Members of the congregation over 80 years will be invited to 2 social events in the year. We anticipate that one will be in spring and the other in the autumn, and will take place on Saturday afternoons in 'The North' Hall. These will offer opportunities to be entertained and spend valuable time together to socialise and share some tea, coffee and cakes.

To ensure that everyone who should be invited does so, if you feel your date of birth might not be known, please contact the Church Office or your Elder. We don't want to miss anyone out!

To support the success of these special events, I would like to appeal for assistance from the 'younger' members of our congregation. There are likely to be a variety of types of help you could give, and it's only twice a year. Your help will enable some of our regular volunteers to participate in the event too.

If you are willing to help, please forward your names to [lesleyclayton64@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyclayton64@gmail.com) or [Mlatimer33@hotmail.com](mailto:Mlatimer33@hotmail.com) and we will arrange to meet soon. Any assistance will be very much appreciated.

We look forward to moving the Link events forward with the first being planned for October.

*Lesley Clayton*





### 1st Hamilton Anchors

Well, it's almost the end of another year, with only a few weeks left before we break up for the summer holidays. The Anchors continue to enjoy a varied programme of games and activities on a Wednesday night spanning everything from well known bible stories, to Pirates, the planets and science experiments with Colin.

After the end of session we will be having our annual outing for the Anchors and this year may even see a change in outing as the kids have requested somewhere different than the last few years.

Even though we are just finishing this session, if you would like more information about your little one joining us when we start back after the summer, please contact either myself or the church office.

*Alan Young*  
Officer-in-charge

### 2nd Hamilton Boys' Brigade

As we come to the end of our session we are looking forward to the last parents evening of our company. This will be held on Friday 16th May at the West.

We have three boys receiving the new King's Badge, the first since 1952!!

This will be my last night as Captain of this great company and I would like to thank all the staff for the support they have given me over my time as Captain.

*John Stewart*  
Captain



### Scottish Bible Society

#### Cuba

A spiritual revival is sweeping across Cuba - faith is growing - lives are being transformed, but there's one urgent problem - there aren't enough Bibles to meet the demand! Currently Bibles cannot be printed in Cuba and can only be imported via the Cuban Bible Society. The situation in Cuba is dire due to inflation, emigration and poverty.

#### China

During the 20th century, Bibles in China were confiscated, burnt or hidden but now it has become, unofficially the best selling book in China.

The work of the Bible Society continues throughout the world! If you wish to make a donation for their work, the address is The Scottish Bible Society, 7 Hampton Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5XU.

*Muriel Eadie*



## Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
01/06/25	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
08/06/25	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
15/06/25	Mrs M Wilson	Mrs M Wilson	Mrs H McGreevy
22/06/25	Mr C Davidson		Mr C Davidson
29/06/25	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs A Davidson
06/07/25	Mrs H Brown		Mrs H Brown
13/07/25	Mr J Stenton		Mrs M Eadie
20/07/25	Mrs S Gosling		Mrs S Gosling
27/07/25	Mrs A Gibson		Mrs A Gibson
03/08/25	Mr & Mrs I Samson		Mrs S Samson
10/08/25	Mrs K Morrow		Mrs M MacLean
17/08/25	Flower Fund		Mrs L Clayton
24/08/25	Mrs J Gibson		Mrs J Gibson
31/08/25	Flower Fund		Mrs A Henderson

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*

## Old Kirk Reflections

How can something so beautiful be so dangerous?

Hailing from the East coast town of Dunbar I have a great respect for the sea. On a calm day, with the sunshine shimmering on the water it looks so good. It can, however, in a matter of minutes, change to a raging torrent with waves several metres high. In an instant it can turn from being beautiful to one of the most dangerous places on earth. No matter the weather however, our fishermen are out there, literally risking their lives, to catch the haddock for our next fish supper.

In Mark 4:35-41 we read how, from being totally calm, “a furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.” “Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.”

Does this happen in our own lives? Sometimes we’re dodging along nicely then - for whatever reason - a furious squall comes up. We need to remember that, no matter what the situation, Jesus is there for us. He’s there to calm the storm and give us peace. All we have to do is ask!

“Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here”

*Douglas*







***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*

*18 February 2025  
Helen Marshall*

*21 February 2025  
Janet Cherry*

*25 February 2025  
David Rodger*

*28 February 2025  
Ann Messer*

*4 March 2025  
Hugh Speirs*

*8 April 2025  
Jennifer Stevenson-Hamilton*

***Baptisms***

***"Let the children come to me"***

*23 February 2025  
Peter Foster*

*30 March 2025  
Blayne Cassidy*





God of birth and life,  
who journeys with us in the whole range of our experience  
including our grief and sorrow,  
share with us the knowledge of your caring presence.  
Grant us the opportunity to extend our compassion  
to a troubled world,  
and to reach out to friend and neighbour  
with the outstretched arms of Christ.  
Enlighten our minds and our hearts  
that each season is something to be experienced  
and that our fears and anxieties need never overwhelm us.  
Yet, when we feel that some things are too difficult to bear,  
please encourage us to support and pray for each other.  
Hear us through the precious name of our Jesus,  
the one who is the author and finisher of our faith,  
who for our sakes was willing to face all manner of loss  
that he might bring us with him  
into your joyful presence,  
at the end of days.  
Amen.