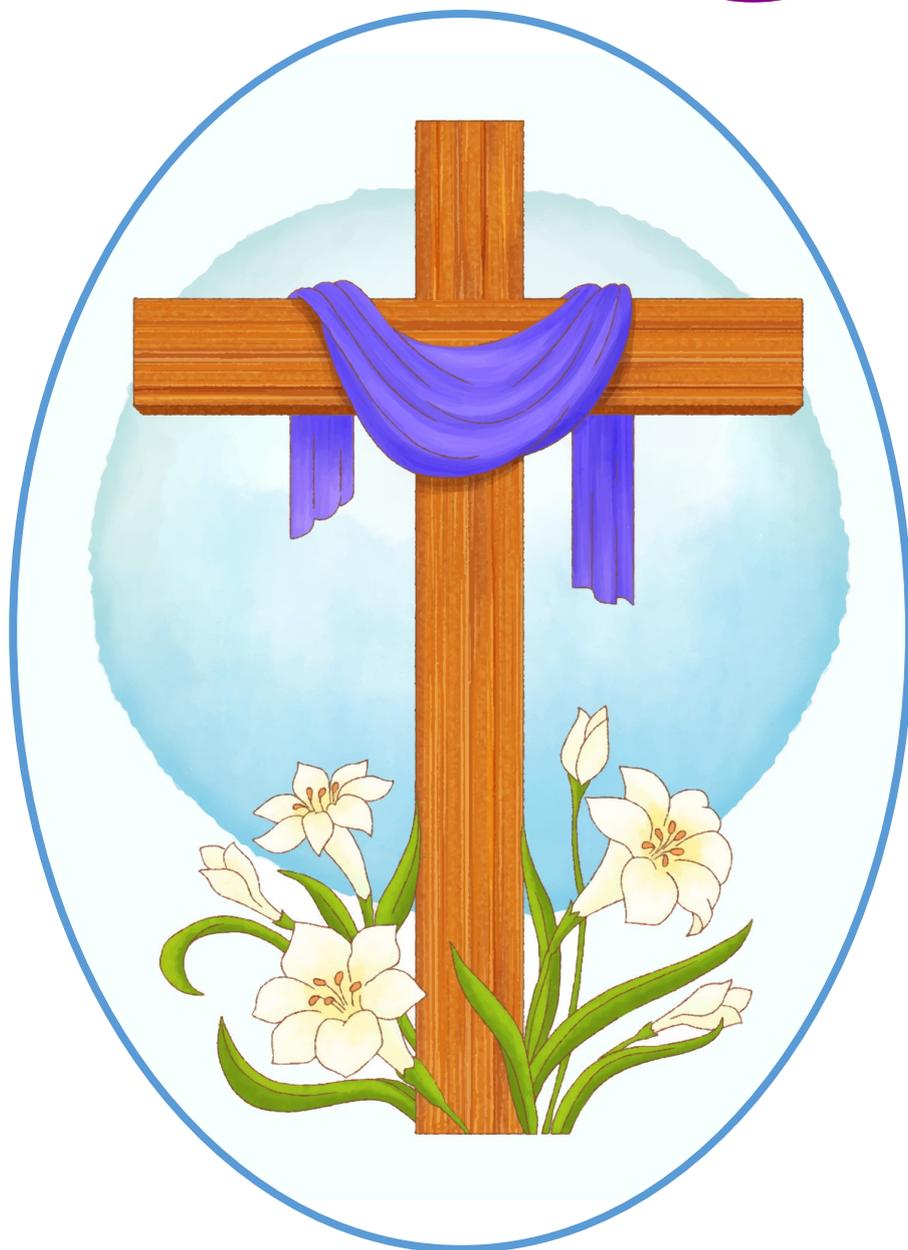


Tidings



March 2023

Easter

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) Hons
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

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
www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org

Dear friends,

“We plan, God laughs”

This old Yiddish proverb was quoted by Woody Allen, saying, “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” The perception of reality not living up to our hopes and expectations is timeless as shown in the words of scripture, “Time and chance happen to them all” (Eccl.9:11), and Burns’, “The best laid schemes”. You may recall that I cited that Burns quote in our Tidings article in November 2021, talking about Presbytery Planning while we were still in the throes of on and off lockdown measures. I was also reminded of it in our recent Kirking of the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs.

Yet, we are encouraged to consider the future and determine the cost of our choices. For example, Jesus asked, “For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” (Luke 14:28). He applied that to the cost of discipleship, while yet inviting us to take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23).

Our journey following Christ is costly. It involves sacrifices. It involves loving those we likely do not want to love. It involves helping people with whom we might have little in common. It involves following him to places we don’t want to go. It involves a pattern of life that would not be of our choosing were it not because he is the life of that pattern. He is our life. He is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

That ought to stir us! It ought to stir our deadened emotions. It ought to stir to activity our tired bodies. It ought to stir our distracted minds to think about how we might follow Christ, and not merely as an individual but in company with others. Our Christian faith is rarely exercised alone. God has given us the church to strengthen us and for us to strengthen it, for only as we work together do we rise above our own interests to contribute to something so much bigger than ourselves – the Kingdom of God.



The reality, however, is that we often need a catalyst for change. We need the stimulation of others, of new faces and voices and ideas. We experience this in our day to day lives. We experience this in our Sunday patterns of church life. We have another opportunity to experience it in Presbytery Planning that, despite a winding trail, finally looks set to let the congregations of Hamilton West and Hamilton Old consider going into Union together. But, we most especially find it in the way God regularly surprises us in the face of our Jesus.

God laughs. But God also plans. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer.29:11). I would rather think that God laughs with us than at us. Consequently, I only hope and pray that the plans we might make, individually, together, and in every aspect of our lives, are plans aligned with His.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Choir

Choir continues to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm in the Session Room and also prior to worship on a Sunday morning at 9.50 am. The weather has generally been kind to us for mid week meetings and it is encouraging to already see longer light as we move into Spring.

Our attendance is excellent and while many Churches are finding difficulty in providing choral support, we are fortunate to have 20 members who regularly give generously of their time, talent and regular attendance to support Choir. I very much appreciate their support. We were delighted to welcome Stewart Troop to the Tenor section at the beginning of the New Year. I know he will be well supported by everyone and enjoy the fellowship and friendship that we have.

We were able to again enjoy our Christmas evening a little later into January and it was good to be able to share a social time together after preparing for services.

I am currently trying to locate the power pack and figure 8 lead, which has been removed from the Clavinova in the North Hall. A temporary replacement is now there, but perhaps someone has inadvertently removed the connections and stored in a cupboard in the Halls. It would be helpful to locate the original equipment....perhaps when you are spring cleaning cupboards!!

Thanks to....Peter for setting up on a Wednesday evening, Sandra and Helen for organising and filing the volume of music that we seem to get through each session, and especially David for repairing the clock – always good to know when I need to stop rehearsing.

Helen C Simpson



Monday Club

Attendance at the club has been excellent despite everything that the weather has thrown at us. Our January meeting got us off to a good start with Jim Henderson's reflections on a recent trip to China. Our second meeting in January, we had Muriel Eadie presenting an audio visual presentation on Smoo Caves with some excellent photos. This had to be held over from the December meeting which had to be cancelled due to a heating failure in 'The North' Hall. After Muriel's presentation we had a short financial meeting before a well earned cup of tea!

Looking forward to February:

- 13th February when Jane Smith will tell us all about her position with James Grant & Sons (Distillers)
- 27th February we have Ian Samson on Strathaven Model Railway
- 13th March will be some musical entertainment with The Cadzow Quartet
- 27th of March Greig Sneddon will tell us about Music in Hamilton in the 60s and we will conclude that meeting with our AGM.

The club has been well served by the current secretary and treasurer who intend to retire at the AGM. The position of Vice- President is also vacant. We will need to fill these vacancies in order for the club to continue. I have been president for the last 15 years also and although happy to stay on for another couple of years, it would be nice to have a vice president to take over.

Would ALL members give some consideration to filling one of these posts? If you require any information on what is involved please have a word with myself or Nesella.

Charlie Duguid



Anchor Boys

The Anchors have had a good start to the year, after a visit from a VIP at the end of December and a lovely break over Christmas we have begun our new session with lots of activities and games.

We have learned about Robert Burns and got to try some Haggis (not massively popular with the kids - but the officers certainly enjoyed it). Recently were talking about different modes of transport and then made paper airplanes to race down the hall.

We've got loads of fun things planned in the next couple of months so why not come along on a Wednesday night and you'll be made most welcome! Boys and girls aged 5-7 years old from 5:30pm -6:30pm.



Alan Young
Officer in Charge



Sunday Live!

Our 2022 session was brought to a close when the children performed their own production of "The Nativity" in the Church on the Sunday before Christmas. This was well received and enjoyed by members of the congregation. Well done to everyone who was involved and big thank to Lynn McKie for coordinating the performance.



Congratulations also to Colin Davidson, one of our older members who was presented with his Boys' Brigade President's Badge during this service. To round off a wonderful morning we headed over to the Halls for our "Christmas Pie Sunday".

We now look forward to anything busy session as we head towards Easter.

Thank you to parents, grandparents and the wider congregation for your continued support.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



Well now that the Festive Season is behind us it is full steam ahead to the end of the session.

As I look over my report in the Christmas Tidings, I see that I intimated we were going to attend the Battalion Ten Pin Bowling Competition. Well, I have to report that we were somewhat successful with our team of 3 - Jamie Mohan, Stuart Davidson and Lewis Chisholm coming 2nd in the Team Competition, as well as that Stuart Davidson won the Junior Competition and Lewis Chisholm was beaten into 2nd place in the Senior Competition losing out by a mere 3 points.



However, the most amazing result was when a young man, called Graham Horne, won the Officer Competition which just goes to prove that I might not be very bright but I am good at throwing heavy things.



The Company Section also competed in the Master Team competition which this year was a bit different in that every round was based on a popular Television Quiz show. The team of Colin Davidson, Lewis Chisholm, Stuart Davidson and Jamie Mohan placed 4th but there were only a few points separating the first 4 teams so I can honestly say with a few breaks we could have done much better. It was hard for me to watch the individual rounds and see one boy struggling with his questions but know by the look on the face of another boy that he knew all the answers.

Que Sera, Sera.

So next up it is the turn of the Juniors with the Table Games Competition. We have been practicing our Connect 4, Dominoes and Pairs so here's hoping.

As well as the events outlined above, the normal work of the Company carries on a pace with badgework, games and fun Galore.

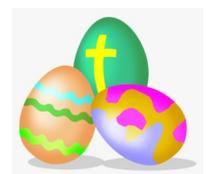
Graham Horne
Captain



The Scottish Bible Society

Audio Bibles are changing lives in Kenya! They used to have to wait until a Pastor visited, now they can listen to God's Word anytime. The Austrian Bible Society provides many resources to refugees! There could be around 5 million Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland before conflict is over! The Bible Society there are supporting refugees through humanitarian aid and Biblical resources. Please keep them in your prayers!

Muriel Eadie





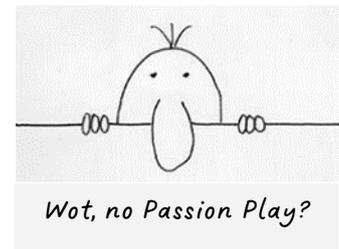
As you know, we would usually be planning our Passion Play for Easter at this point.... However, we wanted to keep things fresh, for our audience and for our community of Hamilton. We will focus on a different part of Jesus' ministry, the aftermath of the crucifixion.

We are currently planning to perform "Walk with the Word: Emmaus" by Louise Scott, a dramatized walk written especially for Drama Kirk during lockdown by a local writer. It picks up the story in the days following the crucifixion, following Jesus' disciples through their grief and the subsequent surprise and joy of the resurrection. We then journey with them on the various encounters they have with Him thereafter, concluding with the ascension.

This is a section of scripture that can feel hurried in our Passion Plays, where we move immediately from the resurrection to the great commission. The opportunity to explore these days of biblical characters' lives in greater depth will be interesting and beneficial.

The intention is to perform this between Easter and Ascension, Saturday 13th May. Location to be confirmed. Your continued support in taking the Gospel into our town centre is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
dramakirk@gmail.com



Saffronhall Singers

We were delighted to be able to bring back our Carols by Candlelight in December when many of our friends and family turned out to share in our evening of Christmas praise. £730 was raised and donated to church funds, a wonderful amount in these difficult times! Thanks are due to Andrea and Linda and their team of assistants for arranging refreshments which provided such a happy ending to the evening. This year, thanks to Paul, Jim and Ross, we have recorded the event and will make it available on the church YouTube channel later in the year, during advent.

It was full steam ahead in January when we were preparing for a concert for the Guild in Bellshill Central Parish Church - challenging after the long gap due to covid. However it was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by our audience and members alike, and for which we received a generous donation to our funds as well as a lovely supper! We were well supported too by our soloists and Lilian Barrie, our accompanist.

We have been able to reorganise our end of session dinner at Bothwell Castle Golf Club which was abruptly cancelled in March 2020 but before then we are hoping to turn our attention to many of the pieces in our repertoire which we have not been able to sing for some time. Hopefully, with the support of all our members, we will be able to add these to our concert programme for future events.

Our session finishes at the end of March when outdoor activities become the priority for many.

Campbell Barr



Finance

At the time of writing, the 2022 accounts are being finalised and will be presented to the Trustees on 14th March for approval. The date of the Annual Stated Meeting is 2nd April 2023.

The Gift Aid claim for 2022 has been submitted and paid by HMRC. The total gift aided income was **£84,199** (£84,671 for 2021) which gave us a refund of tax amounting to **£21,049** (£21,168 for 2021). This is a slight drop from last year which was higher due to a number of members 'catching up' from when the church was closed.

The table below shows a breakdown of the different elements included in the return along with the previous years' figures for comparison. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Method of Giving	Total donated 2022	Total donated 2021
WFO envelopes	£8,755.91	£7,734.41
Annual cheques	£4,100.00	£3,125.00
Standing Orders	£71,343.00	£73,406.00
Other donations	£0.00	£405.50
Total	£84,198.91	£84,670.91

At present we have 160 declarations in place representing 222 members. If you pay tax and would like to contribute extra to the church at no cost to yourself, please speak to me. For every £1.00 you contribute HMRC will refund us 25p of the tax you have already paid. Also, if you stop paying tax or change your address it is important that you let me know.

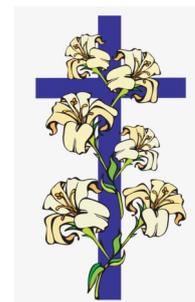
Once again many thanks to everyone involved in the finances of the congregation, including yourselves, for your commitment in supporting God's work in the church locally and nationally especially during this continuing difficult time.

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

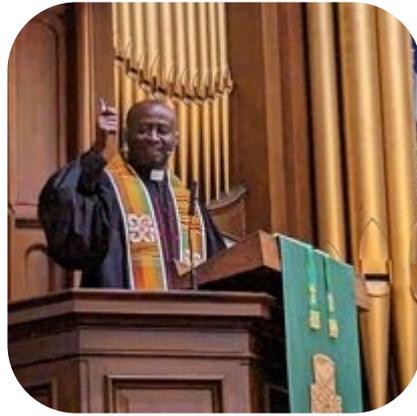


Old Kirk Reflections

How many of us are enjoying the sight of the Spring flowers making their annual appearance? We're already starting to see the delicate snowdrops push their heads through the soil. Soon we'll have the multi coloured crocus, often producing a carpet of colour in gardens and parks. I particularly look forward to driving along the motorway, framed on both sides by verges covered in thousands of bright yellow daffodils. Along with red and blue, we find yellow mentioned in scripture. Yellow is referenced in the Bible by the Hebrew word *charuts*, which refers to the precious metal gold, which represents the sovereignty of God. The sovereignty of God is the fact that He is the Lord over creation; as sovereign. At Jesus' birth, we're very familiar with the gifts he received; one of which was gold. Like the gold Jesus received, we can revel in the sovereignty of God; represented by gold, brightly coloured like the yellow daffodils. Let us always remember He is there for all of us. He is Lord of all!



Douglas



Farewell Kwame!



Faith

You know just every care we have,
- our fears and worries, too.
help us to grow in depth of faith
as we bring our thoughts to You.

We often cannot find the words
to say what's in our heart,
but You can see our every need
- and faith and trust impart.

Strengthen us in on our darkest hours,
refresh our lives anew.
Remind us that our constant hope
Lies in our trust in You.



Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
19/02/23	Flower Fund	Mrs M McCartney	Mrs S Craig
26/02/23	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson
05/03/23	Mrs M Eadie		Mrs A Gibson
12/03/23	Mrs S Nicholson		Miss M Richardson
19/03/23	Mrs B Stoddart		Mrs L Smith
26/03/23	Mrs E Reid	Mrs E Hunter	Mrs L Clayton
02/04/23	Mr F Gardiner		Mrs E Goodwin
09/04/23	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs S Samson
16/04/23	Flower Fund	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs H Troop
23/04/23	Flower Fund		Mrs H Brown
30/04/23	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson
07/05/23	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
14/05/23	Flower Fund		Mrs A Henderson
21/05/23	Flower Fund	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

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers, contributes to the flower fund and helps with delivery. This is very much appreciated. 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



Film Club

The Film Club meets once a fortnight on a Thursday at 1.30pm within the Session Room at the Church. We are a social club that meets to enjoy films on the big screen in the company of like-minded people.

In the past we have watched everything from the latest blockbusters from Hollywood as well as some of the oldest films ever made (imagine a young-looking Cary Grant yes, some films are that old). We show all types of films to Musicals, Thrillers, Comedy, Black and White and Colour. We try and ensure that films have subtitles so everyone can enjoy them.

We serve tea, coffee, biscuits and occasionally cakes.

Suggestions for our future offerings are taken from the audience and we consider a returning new friend as an endorsement that we are doing things right.

So, if you find yourself at a loose end on a Thursday afternoon come to the pictures you won't be disappointed.

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*

*5 November 2022
John Neil*

*24 November 2022
James Findlay*

*24 December 2022
Myrna McGilliard*

*7 January 2023
Christa Black*

*17 January 2023
Elizabeth (Betty) Smith*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*25 December 2022
Andrew Nur Hunter*

*1 January 2023
Fife Blue Paterson*



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

may you provide every catalyst for change in our lives;

may you move us to seek your kingdom;

may you assist us to make plans that glorify you;

and may we know fullness of life in you.

May our sorrows be turned to joy and laughter

as we seek your face and seek your glory,

through your Christ whom we follow.

Amen.

