

Tidings



March 2025

Easter

MINISTER

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

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Andrea Davidson

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music) Hons
138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston G71 7DD ☎ 07768 655162

CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs Amanda Strachan

TREASURER

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

PROPERTY CONVENER

Miss Gillian Davidson

PROJECT MANAGER

Mr Alastair Simpson

VICE CONVENERS

HALLS - Miss Gillian Davidson
CHURCH - Mr George Foster
MANSE - Mr Alistair BATTERY
WEST CAMPUS - David Gibson & Douglas Graham

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Wendy Culross

CHURCH SECRETARY

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

CHURCH OFFICER

Mr Colin Davidson

ROLL KEEPER

Mr Colin Gibson



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Dear Friends

"We want to be together"

You may remember a TV advert from the early 90s, for an insurance firm, that portrayed a couple with an internal dialogue about where they wanted their lives to go, that included the catchy line "We want to be together". It sprung to mind, recently, when addressing the local squadron of the RAF Air Cadets. They had recently enjoyed the service in the church, remembering the anniversary of the formation of that cadet force, along with representatives from across the West of Scotland Wing. I commented on how much easier it is to do things when you're together, rather than on your own standing out like a sore thumb. That was certainly the case with all those young men and women in their RAF uniforms, and they bore their responsibilities with pride.



It then put me on mind of the recent Union of congregations in Hamilton, and how we are now a new congregation. We enthusiastically look forward to what we might be able to do together. Together in our old friendships from our former congregations. Together in old friendships in a wide variety of activities that we've long enjoyed across the breadth of the town. Now we're together, making new friendships and enticing one another with widening each other's circles of friends. It can be exciting stuff. I can't help wonder whether this was exactly what Jesus had on mind when he started his Church. His disciples had an opportunity to make new friends from across the lands. They got to know each other, warts and all. They also got to encourage one another as they worshipped together and made their missionary endeavours, first across their own city of Jerusalem and then to the furthest reaches of the world. It seems remarkable that nearly two millenia later, we're still making new friendships, and worrying and worshipping together.

What a wonderful thing it is to be able to continue enjoying each other's support in a similar manner to that authored by Christ himself. I don't know about you, but I hope that I never take that for granted.

Your Minister and your friend

Ross



Union News

Around the end of August 2024, we were cautiously hopeful of uniting with 'The West' at the beginning of 2025'. Fast forward and we are well and truly united! In the interim a colossal amount of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition to the new congregation of Hamilton Old Parish Church. What felt like end-to-end meetings of the Union Steering & Advisory Group together with several intensive Saturday morning consultation events, involving our Minister Ross, the Steering group and the Kirk Sessions of both churches, have brought us to where we are today.

'So, where exactly is that?' Well, the Steering Group has now become the Implementation Team, Ross has been appointed and inducted as Minister to the new Charge, Andrea Davidson is the new Session Clerk and continues as our Church Secretary, Helen Simpson continues as our Director of Music, Colin Davidson is our new Church Officer and Colin Gibson has been appointed Roll Keeper. The new Kirk Session, comprising 17 Trustee Elders with voting rights, has been constituted and will be supported by the remaining, serving elders, who stand down from the Kirk session but are invited to attend and contribute to meetings but with no voting rights. This streamlines decision making and is now also a 121 requirement. Both Churches' previous Standing Committees, namely Property, Finance & Safeguarding have amalgamated, and Conveners and committee members have been appointed and are now involved in consolidating their related records.

New Church Working Teams, which replace the previous Committees, have been established and are now responsible for overseeing Worship, Pastoral Care & Welfare, Parish Mission, Communications, Flowers, Youth, Fellowship & Hospitality and Special Events. Conveners, Vice Conveners and Team members have been appointed and are now busy on agreeing and establishing their individual team remits for approval of the Minister and Kirk Session. In addition, a full inventory of the contents of both Churches, down to the last teaspoon! has taken place and the respective Rolls and Elders' Districts have been amalgamated. All of the above is detailed in Kirk Session Minutes.

A tremendous amount has been achieved in a very short timescale but there's still considerable work to do on the following main issues:- The installation of appropriate exterior signage for the Old and West Campuses, a feasibility study and subsequent report to Presbytery regarding the possible, future use of the former West Church's buildings, an audit of all church organisations and possible amalgamations with emphasis on Drama Kirk's place within the new Charge, an audit of halls usage, an audit of the entire property portfolio and the amalgamation of the 1st & 2nd Companies of The Boys' Brigade.

There will be many more issues to address as we go along. However, in the meantime, I hope I've given you a flavour of what has and continues to go on behind the scenes as we work together to establish and develop our new life and mission here at the 'new' Hamilton Old Parish Church.

Louis Munn

Chair

Union Implementation Team





What's On

March

Sunday 02	10.45am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 09	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion	
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion	
Tuesday 11	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session/Wider Session	
Sunday 16	10.45am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 23	10.45am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 30		<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	
	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism & Stated Annual Meeting	

April

Sunday 06	10.45am	Morning Worship	
Sunday 13		<i>Palm Sunday</i>	
	10.45am	Morning Worship	
		Holy Week in Hamilton	
Sunday 13	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
Monday 14	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
Tuesday 15	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
Wednesday 16	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
Thursday 17	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
	9.00pm	St Mary's Episcopal Church	
Friday 18	12.00pm	Vigil at St John's Parish Church	
	7.00pm	Cadzow Parish Church	
Saturday 19		Passion Play in a Day - Hamilton Old Parish Church	
Sunday 20		<i>Easter Sunday</i>	

	6.30am	Dawn Service at Chatelherault	
	7.00pm	Dawn Service at the Old Parish	
		Afterwards, all meet for breakfast at the Old Parish	
	10.45am	Easter Day Service with Communion	
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship	

May

Sunday 04	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 11	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 13	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session/Wider Session
Sunday 20	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship

Monday Club



We started back on 13 January with a very informative presentation by Ian Martin on astrology. Our meeting on 27 January was cancelled due to an adverse storm forecast. We hope to have Bill and Sandra Craig at a future meeting. Our financial meeting will be combined with the AGM on 24 March. On that date we will also have a short presentation from “Smile” which is a local charity. On 24 February we have Captain Wendy Leisk from the Salvation Army and on 10 March, Peter Kerr will give a presentation on Hamilton Palace.

We still have vacancies for a Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President. These positions will require to be filled to allow the club to function. Please contact me in person or call me on 01698 423274 if you are interested in filling any of these key positions.

Charlie Duguid

Finance and Gift Aid

As a finance committee we welcome Amanda Strachan as our Finance Convener.

At the time of writing, the 2024 accounts are being finalised and will be presented to the Trustees on 11 March 2025 for approval. The date of the Annual Stated Meeting when the accounts will be presented to the congregation is 30 March 2025.

The Gift Aid claim for 2024 has been submitted and paid by HMRC. The total gift aided income was **£73,043** (£93,474 for 2023) which gave us a refund of tax amounting to **£18,261** (£23,368 for 2023). The drop in income of £20,000 is mainly due to £14,000 of one-off donations in 2023 being for the heating project. However, this still means a drop of gift aided income of around £6,000. This is due mainly to loss of members during the year.

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 2024	Total donated 2023
WFO envelopes	£5,445.25	£6,374.00
Annual cheques	£960.00	£2,700.00
Standing Orders	£66,438.00	£70,325.00
Other donations	£200.00	£14,075.00
Total	£73,043.25	£93,474.00

At present we have 143 declarations in place representing 189 members. If you pay tax and would like to contribute extra to the church at no cost to yourself, please speak to myself. 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 for your commitment in supporting God's work in the church locally and nationally especially during this continuing difficult time.

Marilyn Henderson

Treasurer and Gift Aid Convener

01698 427892

finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

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Choir

We are now into the final session of our mid-week meetings, which will finish on Wednesday 30 April, when all introit and anthem copies should be returned for filing by Mhairi and Alison. Alphabetical and then numerical will make life much easier for them.

Attendance has been so encouraging, midst all the difficulties that dark nights and winter evenings bring, we have retained and added to our membership. We warmly welcome Alastair and Hazel Scott to Tenor and Alto sections, bringing the current membership to 19.

Choir are enjoying exploring “God welcomes all”, the new supplement from Church of Scotland. Many known tunes have been used to match appropriate new words meeting the modern context, and we have already introduced a considerable number of hymns to the Congregation through Intros over these months.

The Presbytery service of Union took place on 12 January and as we now look forward to the year ahead I want to take the opportunity to encourage anyone, who enjoys music and would like to share and support choir, to come along on a Wednesday evening and share in the fellowship and friendship we have. You may not feel you are a music reader, (lots of routes round that one!!) or that your voice is not strong, but you will enjoy the experience of sharing in church music.

I have just completed the Annual report from choir at January, 2025, and my final paragraph reads:

“I continue to be humbled at the unwavering commitment, support and friendship extended by each and every member of choir as I commit myself fully to my responsibilities as Organist and Choir Director”.

Helen C Simpson

Organist



Old Kirk Reflections

Over the last 12 months, the circle of life has turned fully. We're now, again, coming into Spring and seeing the blossoming of new life all around us. New life in the form of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils, together with all the other Spring flowers. Flowers that have lain dormant for almost a year, but bounce back.

I'm sure many of us will be already thinking of our Summer bedding displays and vegetable plots; again new life being created as seeds germinate.

From tiny seeds, new life springs, Tomorrow's joy in what it brings, Roots take hold, the future's bright, In every seed, there is new light

We also follow the circle of life. As we read in Romans 6:4 - “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”.

New life is everywhere, let us enjoy ours, in the best company we could ask for.
In Christ!

Douglas



Anchors

We are having a great start to the year with a regular attendance of 8 boys.

Just before the end of last year we had a very special guest come to our Christmas party and the kids loved seeing Santa and listening to him tell them a story.



We have lots of fun activities planned for the coming session and look forward to getting outside to play on some nights as the weather (hopefully) improves.

If you are in P1-P3 and would like to come and join us, contact the church office or just turn up on Wednesday night. You will be most welcome.

Alan Young
Officer-in-charge



2nd Hamilton Boys' Brigade Company

The Junior Section entered two teams into the board games competition held at Strathaven Trinity. The boys did really well for their first experience and were placed 2nd and 3rd behind the team from the 1st. Their next competition is the quiz on the 27 February again to be held at Strathaven.

Our Company Section Masterteam came through two hard rounds at Coltness and Strathaven to reach the regional final at BB Headquarters at Carronvale on the 18 January. They did extremely well in reaching the final but were up against some quality opposition and were not placed but can be very proud of their efforts. The team then made up for that disappointment by comfortably winning the Battalion Competition the following weekend.

Six boys and four officers attended the Escape Room on the 7 February and thoroughly enjoyed it, though the Captain did get a couple of frights on the evening!!

John Stewart
Captain

Scottish Bible Society



The Scottish Bible Society. Once again “Thanks for all your support “. Over 4,000 Toddlers received suitable Bible story books! Many migrant workers in the Gulf Region face challenges and exploitation. The Bible Society are working with Churches and are distributing Bibles in many languages. The Ukrainian Bible Society are holding a Trauma Healing Camp this month hoping that God’s love will bring peace and comfort to them. God’s work is ongoing in so many countries thanks to your support and prayers!

Muriel Eadie



Passion Play in a Day

This will be Drama Kirk's ninth Easter producing a Passion Play – can you believe it? This year we have a new project in mind, one that we hope will allow some new folks to dip their toe in the waters.

Being involved in Drama Kirk is a fun way to take the Gospel into the community. Please do consider how you might support it. We always welcome new performers, and there are lots of other ways to get involved. If you'd like to help organise props and costume, or help with set or admin, we would love to hear from you – dramakirk@gmail.com or speak to the office. This work has strengthened our links to our local community and other churches – as well as developing lots of new friendships. It does, however, need your support if it is to thrive.

Our "Passion Play in a Day" will take place on Easter Saturday, 19 April, in HOPC. We will come together as a company in the morning and rehearse for a performance late afternoon. In this way, we minimise the time commitment for our volunteers, something we've been trying to do more of in recent years.

No months of rehearsing, no lines to learn, no standing outside in the wind and rain... What are you waiting for?

"When Harry Met Winnie"

Escape Room

Delighted to say we created and ran our new escape room, 'When Harry Met Winnie' on 7 February and a great night was had by all. Last time Harold was headless, this time he was head over heels!

Teams were asked to solve the mystery of the missing wedding between Harold Oswald Peregrine Chamberlain and Winifred Elspeth Sinclair Thomson (do you see what we did there??!). Teams solved a series of wedding-themed puzzles to escape. Nine teams competed and our winners, Team Strachan, didn't quite manage to complete the escape room in the ten minutes they'd promised us when they set off...but did it in a very



respectable 26 minutes. It was lovely to have teams from several of Hamilton's churches as well as 1st & 2nd Hamilton BB join us for the evening. Very well done to all who took part and a huge thanks to all of our volunteers who made the evening possible.



Due to popular demand, we intend to run the same escape room again in May, followed by a new spooky escape room around Halloween. Watch this space for more details – and contact the office if you'd like to put your name down to complete 'When Harry Met Winnie' in May.

Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
02/03/25	Mrs M Eadie		Mrs M Eadie
09/03/25	Mrs S Nicholson		Mrs S Samson
16/03/25	Mrs B Stoddart		Mrs M Latimer
23/03/25	Mrs E Reid	Mrs E Hunter	Mrs S Gosling
30/03/25	Mr F Gardiner		Mr K Brown
06/04/25	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
13/04/25	Mrs N Craig	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs M Baird
20/04/25	Mrs D Foster		Mrs D Foster
27/04/25	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson
04/05/25	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
11/05/25	Mrs M Hindle	Mrs J Mathie	Mrs M Hindle
18/05/25	Mrs A Whitehill	Mrs J Mathie	Mrs H Brown
25/05/25	Mrs K Hunter		Mrs K Hunter
01/06/25	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
08/06/25	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. 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



Once again, another successful year in the great hyacinths' delivery of the old parish church. Very much appreciated and a massive thank you too all.

Elaine and Jennifer



Sunday Live! have been busy!

Your Church Needs You!!

We are currently looking for new volunteers to help out on the AV desk in the church, you would be in charge of livestreaming of the service, as well as the PowerPoint slides during the service (you'd also have the ability to turn off *certain* microphones!!!).

If you are interested or would like to know more, could you please pass your contact information to the Church Office and a training session can be organized.

Alan Young





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*

*28 November 2024
William "Bill" Rodney*

*7 December 2024
Fay McIntosh*

*December 2024
Elizabeth "Betty" Renwick*

*14 December 2024
Margaret Watson*

*31 December 2024
Nancy Baron*

*8 January 2025
Elizabeth "Betty" Taylor*

*14 January 2025
Lily May White*

*23 January 2025
John Walkinshaw*

*22 January 2025
William "Bill" Reid*

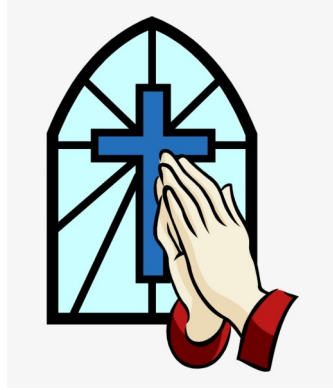
*9 February 2025
James Weir*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*Naomi Jane Timmins
1 December 2024*





Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your love,
and we thank you for your friendship,
especially in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Help us to never take friendships for granted.
Whether they be old or new relationships,
help us to enjoy them to the full
and give thanks for your grace to us
expressed in the face of each other.
May you be glorified in all that we do
to extend your grace to others,
as we share our times together.
Hear us, please, for the sake of Christ,
the author and finisher of our faith.

Amen.

