

Tidings



Christmas 2020

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)
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 John Downie

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson
CHURCH - Mr David Leishman
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



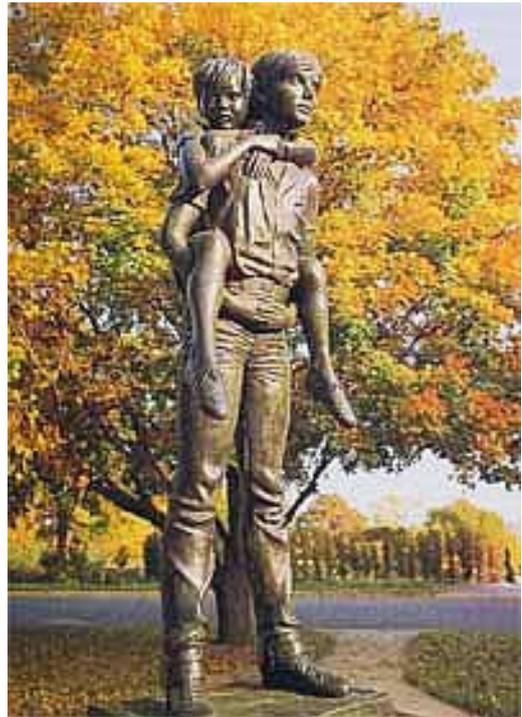
Scottish Charity SC010855
office@hamiltonold.co.uk
www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org

Dear friends,

“He Aint heavy...”

How much do you appreciate being supported when you need it? Whether it is something you cannot do for yourself, or cannot do alone, or find yourself just needing company while applying yourself to some task? There are endless situations where having someone by your side can make the journey that little bit more bearable. Whether we remember to thank our companion or not, they are certainly appreciated.

A little over one hundred years ago, in an orphanage in Boys Town, Nebraska, USA, a boy called Reuben Granger was carrying one of the abandoned boys – a young polio victim called Howard Loomis. On being asked if carrying him was hard, he replied, “He aint heavy... he’s my brother.” Those words would be immortalised in song by The Hollies at the end of the 60s. They also carried the sentiments of the uncertainties of a life that can have long roads and twisting turns.



This year has brought us unique opportunities to support one another, and diverse ways to do so. We can only speak for ourselves as to what privations we have endured and the impact they have had upon us. For many, the road has seemed long, and it looks like continuing to stretch before us into an uncertain future. However, I am also reminded of the Irish blessing, “May the road rise up to meet you”, also encapsulated in the French phrase “bon voyage”. The wind of the Spirit, the sun of God’s merciful blessing, and the growth afforded by sweet rain, all come together as we reunite in the palm of God’s hand.

Jesus had a long walk before him, but he encouraged us, as his disciples, that his yoke is kindly and his load is light. Whether we realise we need his support, or not, he is here extending a hand. He also lends a hand, using his body, his church, to assist. Sometimes we have to ask for that assistance, but it is usually there, close at hand. But, best of all, it is a pleasure to help one another because “he aint heavy”, he’s my brother, or sister, and friend.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross

Finance and Gift Aid

At the end of October we had £37,000 in the bank and our investments had rallied considerably between the end of March and end of September with each portfolio increasing by around 13-14%. This is still a drop since the end of 2019 of between 1% and 4% in the different portfolios. This means we are still in a good financial position. Again many thanks to everyone for their continued support at this time.

As we come to the end of the year can I remind you to let me know if your circumstances have changed during the year such as change of address, not paying tax anymore or anything which might affect the Gift Aid claim I will be submitting in January.

Wishing you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

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

giftaid it

Fellowship Committee

As you are all aware, we have not been in a position to arrange anything since March, indeed we have had to cancel all plans meantime. However, rest assured that as soon as we are given the all clear, something or other will be organised.

In that vein can I remind everyone that, should there be anything you think might be enjoyable and possible, let any member of the group know and we will look at it carefully.

Meantime can we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Iain McLean
Convener

Saffronhall Singers

Who would have thought we would still be under such tough restrictions at this time! Keeping in touch has never been more important and many of us have had to become more adept at our use of technology. Over the last few months, the Singers have kept in touch by email and with phone calls to those who are not on email.



Over the summer months, I was able to record accompaniments for many of the songs in our repertoire and recently I have been able to start producing rehearsal videos on YouTube for each piece to allow folks to sing along at home. We have also just arranged our first Zoom get-together, which will give us the chance to have some more face to face contact and which will allow us to plan a way ahead.

For the first time in over twenty years, there will be no actual Carols by Candlelight. Plans are in progress to produce a virtual event, using recordings from previous years. This will probably be available on the church website, but we still have to sort the details out with our technical advisers – Jim Henderson and Paul McCrudden! More information will follow. In the meantime, stay safe everyone.

Campbell Barr

Prophecies Fulfilled

Our bible studies continue on Tuesday 1st December at 7pm on www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld with “Prophecies Fulfilled” when we complete our consideration of the Messianic prophecies as they are realised in Jesus.

This study will feature this year’s nativity (filmed with a small team of professional actors) and a range of performances from the Drama Kirk team as other nativity characters.

We will explore the themes of “News”. And “Fulfilment”.

This Christmas, many aspects of our celebrations will be new. However, as many secular plans for meals and gifts take a back seat, is there opportunity to focus on the real news?

And how did those who had been waiting for the Messiah all their lives feel when the prophecies were fulfilled?

Join us for an exploration of the nativity story, Drama Kirk style.



Jerusalem News

“Jerusalem News” is this year’s Drama Kirk nativity, available on youtube for the use of schools, groups and other churches.

Set in a TV newsroom in Jerusalem, the team are wondering what story to cover....Herod’s latest building project? A new angle on the census? Suddenly, a new story presents itself, in the shape of a baby, born behind a pub in Bethlehem. Could this baby be the promised Messiah? Will the team run the story? And will this turn out to be the greatest story ever told?

We are working with a small team of professional actors to bring the newsroom to life. Please support them by helping us to share this fun story in our local community.



Drama Kirk in 2020

Our Governance Committee and Steering Group have continued to meet virtually throughout lockdown and we are grateful for all the support given to our online activities this year.

The COVID restrictions have certainly altered plans. Our Passion Play was filmed as a studio version and put on YouTube. Over 3,000 people have viewed it. We were unable to make our summer walk virtual; however our nativity is going online and being offered to local schools as part of our outreach and mission work. Our bible studies have also gone online and we increased their number – we were due to have a further two and instead we've had a further six. Viewing figures for some studies have been in excess of 300. So, whilst we have not taken Christ into the heart of our town in person, we have certainly extended the reach of the work.

Financially, all funding had been raised for 2020 however we have been unable to fundraise for 2021. We have received some donations and one person has established regular giving. If this is something you would like to consider, please do contact the church office.

As restrictions continue, we are currently planning for a virtual Passion Play in 2021, which could be performed outdoors if regulations permit at Easter. The Committee extend thanks for the support and encouragement that has been given, and special thanks to everyone who has continued to be involved.



Guild

Although we at Hamilton Old are still not able to meet together we have still been able to take part in the continuing three-year themed, "One journey, Many roads", which has seen Guild members reach record levels of giving. Our thanks to you, the congregation, for your support which has enabled us to contribute to the six projects listed below.

Total money raised to date:	£296,016.54
Crossreach:	£57,826.84
Sailors' Society:	£41,236.80
Boys' Brigade:	£65,373.14
World Mission:	£37,499.38
Malawi Fruits:	£43,161.87
Free to Live Trust:	£50,918.51



Sadly, Georgina Keir passed away in September. She was a member of our Worship Group and a very faithful Guild member. Our thoughts and prayers are with Iain and his family.

Rona Maxwell had her hip replacement operation on 27th October. We wish her a speedy recovery.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas! I know it will not be the same this year, but let us stay safe and well as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator

An Appreciation from Choir – Georgina Keir

At the end of September, we sadly lost one of our longest serving members of Choir with the passing of Georgina.

Georgina found a lifetime love of singing from a very early age in local ensembles in the Denny area. At the age of 16 she won a coveted award in a Rose Bowl in Falkirk, and she developed her love of singing over a lifetime, with involvement in the RSNO Chorus, Edinburgh Festival Chorus and as a committed member of our own Church Choir.

Her sympathetic, quiet, caring nature found her ably suited to work as an Auxiliary Nurse, Medical Secretary with the NHS, and in retirement work with the Citizens Advice bureau.

She latterly found her voice unpredictable in pitch, and this was a great source of frustration and disappointment. Ever positive, she continued to find pleasure in listening to music and anthems she knew so well, while quietly sharing from the body of the Kirk.

I personally give thanks for travelling part of life's journey with this lovely lady. A constant encouragement to me, and the epitomy of service to her Church and choir in commitment and dedication.

In quiet and thankful remembrance.

Helen C Simpson
Organist



Nanette and I would like to say a heartfelt thanks for all the beautiful cards and the phone calls we received when we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary recently. They really were very much appreciated. Can we also thank all those who sent cards and gifts following the birth of our second grandson, Innes Alexander McLean on 11 September.

Iain McLean

May I offer my sincere thanks to Ross and so many of you for the cards, flowers, telephone calls and words of comfort expressed on the death of my husband, Jack on 2nd October.

The response has been so overwhelming and I have been very appreciative of your support and prayers at what has been a difficult time.

God bless and keep you all safe.

Chris Elder

Monday Club

I hope that this article finds you in good health and getting on with daily life in the best way that's possible given our current situation regarding Covid 19.



The committee took the decision last month to cancel our Christmas Lunch on Monday 30th November, this will hopefully allow the caterer to take on other booking.

Being quite keen on history at school! I have done a little research into pandemics and epidemics.

Pandemics as everyone knows and understands are worldwide diseases. With epidemics these are geographically confined to smaller areas.

THE ANTONINE PLAGUE AD 165 – 180: This was possibly measles or smallpox and it killed approx. five million people.

THE PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN AD 541 – 542: This disease was spread from rats and fleas to humans and it is reckoned as many as 25million people died.

THE BLACK DEATH 1346- 1353: This killed up to 100million people and reduced the worlds population by 20%.

In the 19th and early 20th century there were several outbreaks of cholera and worldwide over a million people died.

THE FLU pandemic in 1918-1920 took approximately 20/50 million people.

THE ASIAN FLU in 1956-1958 caused 2 million people to die.

THE HONG KONG FLU in 1968/69 killed 2 million people.

THE HIV/AIDS from 2005- 2012 had a death toll estimated at 32million.

These are all classified as pandemics.

We have been living in the Western world over the last 120 years with epidemics such as EBOLA/SARS/TYPHUS /TUBERCULOSIS/CHOLERA and so on - all as part of normal life.

Our current Pandemic - COVID 19 is thought to have originated from animals and spread to humans and I think we all know the rest onwards.

Peace in a pandemic? Only Jesus can give that. The issue each and everyone must ask themselves - will we trust him to do so?

Can I intimate on behalf of myself and the committee Christmas Blessings to everyone and a Guid New Year.

God Bless

Charlie Duguid





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 September 2020
Georgina Keir*

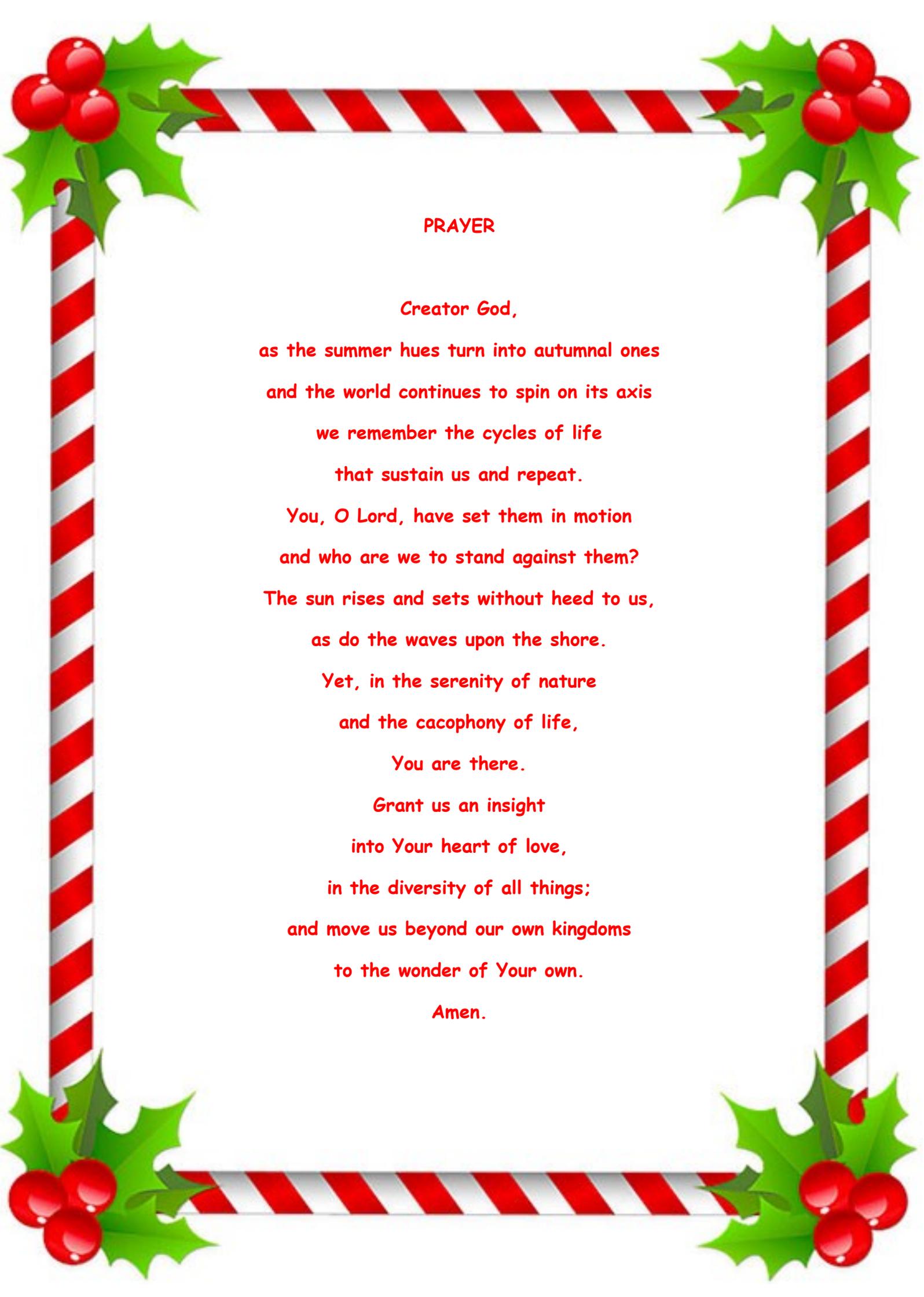
*2 October 2020
John (Jack) Elder*

*8 October 2020
David Gibson*

*24 October 2020
Colin McLean*

*28 October 2020
Janet Gibb*

*31 October 2020
Elizabeth Lanacraft
Margaret Gordon*



PRAYER

Creator God,
as the summer hues turn into autumnal ones
and the world continues to spin on its axis
we remember the cycles of life
that sustain us and repeat.

You, O Lord, have set them in motion
and who are we to stand against them?
The sun rises and sets without heed to us,
as do the waves upon the shore.

Yet, in the serenity of nature
and the cacophony of life,
You are there.

Grant us an insight
into Your heart of love,
in the diversity of all things;
and move us beyond our own kingdoms
to the wonder of Your own.

Amen.