

# *Tidings*



*Christmas*  
*December 2022*

## **MINISTER**

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Mr Alan Blue

## **PROPERTY CONVENER**

Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson

CHURCH - vacant

MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

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Mrs Wendy Hay

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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm



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Dear friends,

“Use it or Lose it”

My grandfather, who knew two World Wars and the Spanish Flu, would often say “use it or lose it”. I would sit with him as he did his crossword and other newspaper quizzes, to keep his mind active. He ate fruit and took a walk every day. And, although he was a quiet man, he made the effort to talk to people regularly. He established a pattern in life that was as religious as his Sunday morning devotions. I wonder what our routines were?

We have traversed a period in time that has thrown out all previous sense of routines, and enabled others to fill the vacuum. More people buy their food and their entertainment online, and even work schedules commonly involve working from home. Without casting judgement, it is reported that antisocial behaviour is on the increase among the young, and a sense of propriety in the way people communicate with one another has been disestablished from young to old. Attendance at sociable locations, from churches to cinemas and pubs have reduced rapidly, due to lockdown and then new habits. We have seen similar impacts on the high street, where major chain stores have either closed or moved. I wonder how our routines and behaviours have changed as a consequence?

Major societal events, like war and disease, inevitably disrupt the flow of life. We remember their impact in events such as Remembrance Sunday. But, the church has long been the custodian of the major life events and seasons. Births, deaths, and marriages go hand in hand with church and registry office. Christmas, Easter, and even Halloween have religious roots, and help mark the seasons and the heartbeat of our lives. Our daily and weekly rituals are also important, affecting our mental health and spiritual wellbeing. Yet, I wonder if we plan them in a similar way that some plan their diet or exercise routines?

We don't think twice about rising from a couch and getting a cup of tea until our legs don't work the way they used to, and the journey back to strength can be long and arduous. It takes thought and effort to recover. We can struggle to muster the fortitude. Yet, in all the difficulties and challenges of life, we have a “friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov.18:24) and “we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” (Heb.4:15). We know that, from our Christian education and experience, but it is so easy to take it for granted. No surprise, then, that Christ left us the church, giving us opportunities to regularly exercise our faith and grace. I wonder if we have taken the time to reinvigorate our spiritual routines, and set patterns that improve our future?

I hope we can use rather than lose what is available to us, individually and together.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



## Finance Committee

As we approach the end of the year I am pleased to report that we have managed to meet all our commitments both locally and nationally although some reserves have been needed due to a fall in our income during 2022.

The total raised from the Harvest Thanksgiving service and the harvest boxes collected throughout the year amounted to £626.36 which has been passed to the Hamilton Churches Drop-in Centre.

I will soon be submitting our claim for Gift Aid to HMRC. Can you please let me know if you have moved house during the year, have stopped paying tax or there has been a change in your circumstances which might affect the claim?

Can I once again thank each and every member of the congregation who supports the work of the church and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

*Marilyn Henderson*



## Monday Club

The club resumed with its first meeting on 10 October and it was so nice to see a grand turnout of over 40 members.

Carol Lang from the Cadzow Bakehouse got us off to an excellent start, informing us of how her bakehouse was set up and commissioned and also the help that she received from other bakers during the pandemic. Carol and her family are regular visitors to the drop in centre with donations of bread/filled rolls etc. She also brought goodies for everyone to enjoy after her presentation, which included a brief course on archaeology as being a Doctor of Archaeology, she was very well qualified to address us on that subject also.

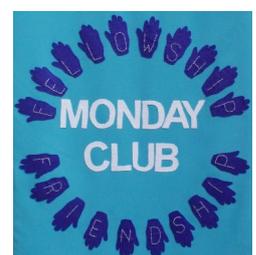
On 24 October we had Carole Gordon, who gave a presentation on Israel - Jesus and Judaism. Carole recently visited Israel on holiday and had many photos to share with us which were appreciated by a large turnout of members.

Here is the syllabus for the rest of the session:

14 November	Crossreach	
28 November	Christmas Lunch	1230 for 1300 start - cost is £18
12 December	Smoo Caves and Durness	speaker Muriel Eadie
9 January	Adventures in China	speaker Jim Henderson
23 January	Financial AGM / Burns Social	
13 February	William Grant & Sons Distillers	speaker Jane Smith
27 February	Strathaven Model Railway	speaker Ian Samson
13 March	Cadzow Quartet	
27 March	My Life and Music in Hamilton in the 60s & AGM	Greig Sneddon

All meetings start at 1330hrs (with the exception of the Christmas lunch which is 1300hrs) and new members are most welcome so bring friends, neighbours etc, as the meetings are for everyone in the community. Please spread the word around.

*Charlie Duguid*



## Saffronhall Singers

It was a delight to welcome back our members in person and to hear the familiar harmonies once more. We are meeting in the Session Room every Monday evening at 7.30pm and adjourning to the North Hall for refreshments at 8.15pm at the church's request. We were sorry to lose Armour Morrow (one of our original members) due to health concerns after many years of faithful service in our bass section and George McIntosh who joined us more recently but has also had to retire on health grounds. Marion Paterson has also left the choir, having decided to settle outwith the area. We did however gain one new member into our bass section, Ian Macgregor, just at the end of last session.

After such a long absence we are refreshing a selection of our current repertoire and have now started working on our Christmas music. We are once again hosting a Carols by Candlelight in the church on Friday 9 December at 7 30pm with the money raised going to church funds. Tickets (£5) will be available from 19 November. Please note, we are sorry but there will be no refreshments this time! We look forward to welcoming everyone. As usual there will be lots of opportunities for the audience to sing a selection of favourite carols, old and new, as well as a chance to listen to a selection chosen from our Christmas repertoire. We do hope you will join us!

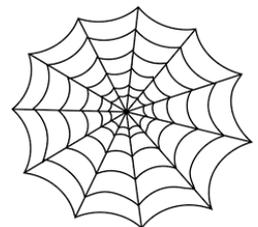
*Campbell Barr*



## Fellowship Committee

As only a relatively small number of members expressed an interest in a congregational Christmas lunch this year, the decision has been made not to proceed with the idea.

*Iain McLean*  
Convener



## Hallowe'en Fun at Sunday Live!



## Boys' Brigade

Well in my last submission I was celebrating the end of Covid and saying that we were finally free of the horrid thing. Well guess what, yes I got Covid and so did my wife. The nickname we were trying to cultivate of the "Teflon two" now seems a tad optimistic.

Now to the important stuff. All the boys are working towards their badges and with that in mind I have to report that Lewis Chisholm will be attending a Build your Skills course which is the last element of his President's Badge. So, in the near future we will have a presentation of two President's Badges for Colin Davidson and Lewis Chisholm.

On 26 October we had our annual Hallowe'en party. All attendees were required to wear fancy dress (yes, even the officers). Prizes were given out for the best costumes and all usual messy Hallowe'en games were played and it's safe to say there was a lot of laundry that needed to be done on Wednesday night.

Despite trying to keep it a secret, a birthday cake was presented to Mr Craig Horne on the night of his 30th Birthday. Even the fuse in the lights blowing could not dampen the fun (a bit of darkness at Hallowe'en is never unwelcome).

The only blackspot of the night was the officers pumpkin carving contest, which after some very dodgy judging by the boys in the company, I did not win. The victory went to Mr Ross Smart who has to be congratulated on the win.

To the future, on the 9 November we will have our Guy Fawkes night with fireworks, sparklers, as well as roasted marshmallows.

On 14 November it is the Battalion team Ten Pin Bowling Competition. This is the first face to face competition for some time so hopefully it will be a victorious return for the 1st Hamilton.

Then it's all down hill towards that other C word that strikes fear into people the world over - CHRISTMAS.

Watch this space. More to come!

*Graham Horne*  
*Captain*



## Anchor Boys

The Anchors have enjoyed a brilliant start to the session, learning about Space, Fire Safety and the story of the Wise Man who built his house on the rock.

We've also had lots of fun playing games the kids love and learning some new ones too.

We recently had our Halloween party and are looking forward to Christmas and maybe getting a visit from a VIP.

*Alan Young*  
*Officer in Charge*





# Anchor Boys and Junior Section



## The Scottish Bible Society

Many thanks to all who donated to the Bible Society on “Bible Sunday”. It will make such a big difference to so many people in many countries around the world. In Ukraine work is ongoing and they are taking food to those who are too scared to leave their homes. The Bible is now available in Gaelic which is lovely for those whose first language is Gaelic. Bibles are being delivered to school children in rural communities in Ghana and in numerous countries around the world.

‘Transforming Scotland’ gathering is taking place in Edinburgh where Church leaders will meet to discuss areas of mutual concern in the Church of Scotland at present - please pray for a positive outcome!

As we approach Advent it’s lovely to know that many children will receive a Bible this Christmas thanks to your donations. Thank you!



*Muriel Eadie*

### Choir

Choir continues to meet on a Wednesday evening at 7pm and prior to worship on a Sunday morning at 9.50am.

Following the pandemic, it has been challenging for choir to return to their usual responsibilities for music in worship, but I am delighted that we now have 20 choristers able to provide four part anthems.

We are now beginning to work on new material and I am ever grateful to those who so willingly come along midweek to prepare the music for Sunday worship.

### *In appreciation – Tom Kerr*

*At the end of October we were saddened to learn of the death of Tom Kerr. Tom sang in the tenor section of choir for several decades. He was always reliable and ever willing to lend a hand setting up and clearing equipment. Tom served in the RAF and his career as a Draughtsman found him working abroad for a time. He moved recently to live nearer family in Douglas, but he kept in touch with us following his interest in local and Church news. Tom enjoyed music and was a keen gardener, bowler and reader - a humble quiet gentleman, always courteous in asking of others before himself, and a respected member of our community. On behalf of Choir, we remember Tom fondly and give thanks for sharing part of the journey of life with him.*

The final meeting of choir for this session will be on Wednesday 21 December when all music copies from the start of the session should be returned for filing. We will restart in the New Year on Wednesday 11 January. Wishing everyone the blessings of the season.

*Helen C Simpson*  
*Organist*





We have much to look forward to in Advent from Drama Kirk!

Firstly, we have promoted our existing online resources to schools, churches and community groups as these are still available and free to use. They include our two nativity films (“Shepherd’s Christmas” by Jeanette Walters and “Jerusalem News” by Ray Markham) as well as the four festive episodes of Rhyiming Bible by Bob Hartman. All are available on the Drama Kirk YouTube playlist.

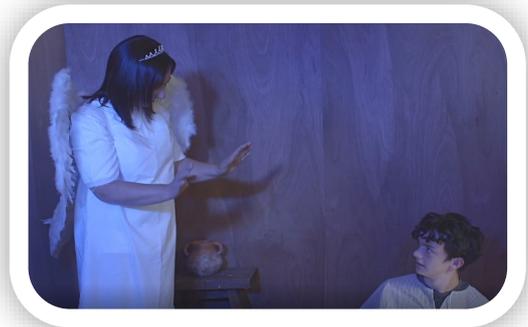
We will once more take the nativity characters to our High Street as we join the Reindeer Parade on 3 December, performing “What Three Words” by Lindsey Sanderson. We will then take the same play into a local school on Tuesday 6 December, performing for and working with the children throughout the day. The school was unable to book the usual festive treat to the Townhouse panto and so will have Drama Kirk instead, I am delighted by this new opportunity to support our local community and to share the Gospel.

We will of course need performers, help behind the scenes, stewards (on the day of the Reindeer Parade) and some help with the children (in school). If you could help us make an impact with this new opportunity, it would be very much appreciated.

Looking ahead to Easter, we don’t plan to present a Passion Play in 2023, but will instead pick up the story in the aftermath of the crucifixion with “Walk with the Word: Emmaus” by Louise Scott. This will be performed at some point between Easter Sunday and Ascension.

Your continued support in taking the Gospel into our local community is greatly appreciated. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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



### Church Flowers

As you will have noticed, the flowers, and from time to time the rosebowl, have made a welcome return to the Church during the year. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned who has helped and made this possible.

With 2023 just around the corner, I am in the process of putting together rotas for both providing and delivering flowers. If you would like to provide flowers for a particular date, contribute to the flower fund or help with delivery, please contact me in the office on 01698 281905 or drop me an email at [office@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:office@hamiltonold.co.uk).

As always your support is greatly appreciated.

*Andrea*



## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
in your hand are all times and seasons,  
and there is a time and place for everything under the heavens,  
and for those within those celestial courts.  
Your eye is upon us, for good.  
Our eyes are cast hither and thither.  
One moment we are downcast,  
the next, casting our eyes to heaven.  
We have one eye on our own affairs,  
but all too often stare too closely at those of another.  
We look to our past and we look to our future.  
Help us to ever look to Thee,  
and to centre our vision on Christ,  
that all things might be seen clearly  
and in the context that they were always meant to be.  
Then, together with all the saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
we shall declare, "It is well with my soul!"  
Amen.



### Old Kirk Reflections

How much change have you seen in your life? I often think my grandparents' generation saw the most change of all. When my maternal grandparents were born, in 1899 and 1901, there weren't any cars, there were no "white goods" in the kitchen, man hadn't flown and, as for the internet, even the word hadn't been thought of!

Being brought up in the 60's I've seen my fair share of change in my lifetime. Growing up, foreign package holidays were in their infancy, colour telly was a great treat; as was having a telephone in the house. Nowadays however, we're used to change and readily accept technology such as computers, smart TV's and smartphones, which seem to do so much nowadays.

How much change did Jesus see? Or maybe more importantly, what change did Jesus bring. The big change he brought was the promise of eternal life. He was crucified, died and was buried, but he rose again and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father.

We know that those who believe and follow Christ are promised eternal life in the Kingdom of God. God who never changes. God who looks after us and is there for us - always!

O, Thou who changest not, abide with me.

*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*

*29 July 2022*

*Lynn Daly*

*17 August 2022*

*John Jardine*

*30 August 2022*

*Frances Vallance*

*6 September 2022*

*Willian Condie*

*28 September 2022*

*Margaret Shearer*

*23 October 2022*

*Tom Kerr*



*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas*



*and a Happy  
New Year*

