

Tidings



December 2024

Christmas

MINISTER

Rev Ross Blackman BSc MBA BD(Hons)
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DEPUTE SESSION CLERKS

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Mrs Marilyn Henderson

PROPERTY CONVENER

Miss Gillian Davidson

PROJECT MANAGER - Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson
CHURCH - Miss Gillian Davidson
MANSE - Mr Alistair Buttery

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Wendy Culross

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Andrea Davidson

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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm



Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” Col.3:23-24.

My uncle often said something that stuck with me through life. He suggested that there was no excuse for someone to be unemployed. He felt that if we were willing to do any kind of work, there would always be something to turn our hand to. Of course, he understood that there were some occupations that different people were better suited to, but he never had an idle day in his life. Consequently, I found him a great example from which to draw a strong work ethic.

There used to be an American saying going about, “Work hard, play hard”, which perhaps takes things a step further. It speaks of being whole-souled at everything we do. Whether it is how we apply ourselves to our work or career, our leisure time, our retirement, our relationships, our church, and especially our love of God and neighbour (Matthew 22:35-40). Every encouragement, whether in work or rest, is towards being all-in, as we enjoy every kind of thing that occupies us.

Some times we need more rest than at other times, and that’s understandable, but from the cradle to the grave we have been made for activity and to glorify God in the process. “Humankind’s main purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”, states the Catechism. Yet we aren’t left without help in pursuing that duty. We have been left the church to work with, and the Holy Spirit as a helper (John 14:16). These are far better gifts than the adage of a certain confectionary company, claiming that “A Mars a day helps you work, rest, and play!”. They are so easily purchased with a simple prayer.

This winter we have an opportunity to take pleasure from the season of Advent, enjoy family and leisure at Christmas, ease ourselves into a new church Union with the coming New Year, and rejoice in the good things that God has in store for us. In all these things, we take time to reflect and recuperate but we also look forward to engaging ourselves in working for God’s kingdom. There is so much to do, besides dressing our Christmas trees, including some facet or job for us all to do, small and large. No one need be unoccupied as we work and play together, and most importantly we remember our focus that all we do we do for Christ.

Your Minister and friend (and fellow worker for the kingdom),
Ross.



UNION STEERING GROUP PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE

As you are aware the above group, which comprises me as Chair, Andrea Davidson and Bill Nelson from 'The Old' and Ian Hindle, Marie Pollock and Colin Gibson from 'The West', has been working very hard over the last few months, together with both Kirk Sessions, to prepare the ground for both congregations to come together as one united Charge on 1st Jan 2025.

A huge amount of groundwork has already been done and we are now at the point where we are examining the remits and membership of Working Teams that will operate alongside the new Kirk Session to take the life of our Church forward. Eleven areas of Governance have been identified and ten, excluding Safeguarding, have been detailed in a questionnaire included in the latest edition of Tidings together with a short synopsis of some of the areas of responsibility to be covered by each Team. Such is the confidentiality and sensitivity surrounding the whole area of Safeguarding that we consider it to be a reserved responsibility of the Kirk Session to make suitable and appropriate appointments to that Team.

All Elders are being required to serve on at least one Team and indicate their preference on the questionnaire. However, Session also recognises that there will be individual members of our new congregation who are keen, willing and able to serve on a Team and may even have a particular expertise that they would be willing to lend to a Team. If you feel that you can contribute to the life of your church by volunteering for any of the Teams listed, please do so on the included questionnaire and return it to Andrea Davidson, our Session Clerk, or simply phone her by Sun 15th December 2024 at the very latest.

Thank you in anticipation of your prayerful consideration.

Louis Munn
Chair, Union Steering Group



Monday Club

We had a good turnout of members for our first meeting of the new session on Monday 14th October. Guide Dogs For the Blind sent two very informative speakers and one very well behaved guide dog. Members purchased a lot of "goodies" from them at the end of the session, as well as enjoying a well earned cup of tea/coffee.

By the time you read this Jim Lee will have informed us of "Wind Farms and Sustainable Energy" which will be very interesting to everyone. That's on 28th October at 1.30pm.

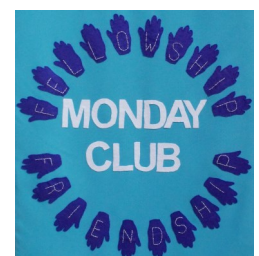
Martin Stepek will be our speaker on 11th November when the topic is "From Gulag to Hamilton".

25th November is our Christmas Lunch which will be our final meeting of the year.

Could I just clarify one point that has been brought to my attention recently. You don't need to be a senior or retired person to attend the Monday Club. If you are available any Monday afternoon when the club has a meeting, you will be made very welcome to come and join us. Please don't hesitate!!!

As I write the position of secretary and vice president is still vacant, please give this your consideration.

Charlie Duguid



What's On In December

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday 01 | 10.45am | First Sunday in Advent Sacrament of Baptism |
| Friday 06 | 7.30pm | Carols by Candlelight |
| Saturday 07 | 10.00am | Christmas Coffee Morning |
| Sunday 08 | 10.45am | Second Sunday in Advent Lessons and Carols |
| Sunday 15 | 10.45am | Third Sunday in Advent Nativity & Christmas Lunch |
| Sunday 22 | 10.45am | Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Jumper & Christmas Pie Sunday |
| Tuesday 24 | 3.00pm 11.15pm | Christmas Eve Family Service Watchnight Service |
| Wednesday 25 | 10.30am | Christmas Day Family Service |
| Sunday 29 | 11.30am | Joint Service at Hamilton West Parish Church |

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 7 December 2024

10am - 1pm

Ticket Price: £5 (children free)

Being a busy time of the year, come along and enjoy a relaxing
"Christmas" cuppa and homebaking!

Christmas fun including bottle stall, guess the weight of the cake,
Christmas quiz, guess the elf's birthday and more!

Fellowship Committee

Our Christmas Lunch takes place on Sunday, 15 December following the morning service.



MENU

Starters

Lentil soup, pate & oatcakes, fruit juice

Main courses

Turkey & trimmings, roast beef (gluten free option), vegetarian main course

Desserts

Cheesecake or profiteroles

Followed by tea or coffee and mince pies

The cost of the Christmas Lunch is £18 (£9 for children aged 12 years and under)

Names can be given to any member of the Fellowship Committee from Sunday, 10 November.

Iain McLean

Convener

Finance and Gift Aid

The total raised from the Harvest Thanksgiving service and the harvest boxes collected throughout the year amounted to £704 which has been passed to the Hamilton Churches Drop-in Centre.

I will be submitting our Gift Aid claim to HMRC at the beginning of the year. 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 locally and nationally and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, blessed New Year.

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



Scottish Bible Society

The Bible Society continues to pray for Bible Societies who minister in conflict areas. The Israeli Bible Society, the Palestinian Bible Society, and the Arab Israeli Bible Society who are trying to bring Christians together from across the divides.

Our colleagues in Ukraine continue despite the war and have launched a new contemporary translation of the Bible in Ukrainian. Through the appeals and generosity of our supporters we have been able to keep the cost of Bibles in China affordable through contributing to the cost of paper for printing. Must Know Bible Stories our educational resource is proving a hit with teachers and pupils alike. Bibles for Bairns is still going well in Scotland where children receive age appropriate gifts and a children's Bible at age of 5 years.

Muriel Eadie



Old Kirk Reflections

Though now a distant memory, in the Summer I spent a week on the island of Malta, in the area of St Paul's Bay. The name "St Paul's Bay" refers to the shipwreck of Saint Paul <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle> on St. Paul's Islands <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Paul%27s_Island> near St Paul's Bay, on his voyage from Caesarea to Rome. as is documented in the Acts of the Apostles <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_the_Apostles>.

How must the apostle Paul have felt when he was shipwrecked. Did he give up hope? What about us - do we sometimes feel a wee bit "shipwrecked" and without hope as we go through life?

The birth of a new baby always brings hope and as we approach Christmas, we have the hope of the most famous birth of all. The birth of Christ gives us all hope.

*In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm*

Douglas



Anchors 2024-2025

Well, we are a few weeks into our new session and all settled in, we've got 6 boys in the Anchors this year but with our upcoming "Bring a Friend" night that number may grow. We continue to enjoy our varied program on a Wednesday night with lots of different arts & crafts as well as games and other fun activities.

We have had a few officer changes this year, unfortunately due to new work commitments Lynne has had to take a step back from active leadership, although I don't get rid of her that easy and she's still good for bouncing program ideas off of.



Gillian and I have been joined this year by our new young officer Mr Colin Davidson, who I think is going for some sort of "Top Trumps" award for collecting the most amount of jobs done in the church. Colin was with us last year helping out but, following the completion of his KG6 course, he is now a fully qualified officer, which is scary as I remember him as a fully qualified Anchor Boy. I now understand how Mrs McLean felt when she used to say that about me.

Colin is a great asset to the Company as a whole, bringing new ideas and inspiration to the program on a Wednesday night.



We've got a busy couple of months ahead of us, Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday and, if everyone is really good, maybe a visit from a special big guy in red. As well as a special project we are hoping to kick off in the new year.

If all this sounds good, why not come along on a Wednesday night and take part yourself, or contact me or the church office for more information.

P1-P3 - Wednesday 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Alan Young
Officer-in-charge



Fun at the Anchors and
Junior Section





Something a wee bit different!

This Christmas, Drama Kirk are involved in something a little different with one of our local schools, Woodside Primary. We're going to stage a "Nativity in a Day". Drama Kirk volunteers will go into school for the day, work with the primary sevens in the morning to help them rehearse a nativity play which they will then perform for the rest of the school in the afternoon.

The kids will have the opportunity to get involved in a full range of production jobs – they'll help out backstage, with costumes, work the sound desk, act, sing and there's even talk of some dancing sheep!

We'll need adult volunteers to help with this of course, showing the kids how to work the kit, helping them organise props and costumes and of course helping their performances. If you'd like to get involved, please do get in touch.

Looking forward to Easter 2025 and on a similar theme, we plan to present "Passion Play in a Day" where we come together as a company in the morning and rehearse for a performance late afternoon on Easter Saturday in HOPC. The hope is to encourage participation from those who cannot commit to months of rehearsal - hopefully getting a few new faces on board and welcoming back some familiar faces we haven't seen for a while. More on that next year.

Being involved in Drama Kirk is a fun way to take the Gospel into the community. Please do consider how you might support it.

Saffronhall Singers

Shortly after the new session started, we were delighted to be invited to sing at the West Church at the end of their congregational dinner on Sunday 20th October. We performed to an audience of approximately seventy people, including many from our own church. Thanks to choir members for their support, to Lilian Barrie, our accompanist and our soloists, June Law, Peter Miller and Carole McCrudden.



Rehearsals have now started for our annual Carols by Candlelight which will take place on Friday 6th December at 7.30pm. We do hope our friends in the congregation will give us their support. Tickets, £5, will be available from Nesella or Campbell Barr (01698 329177). Refreshments will be available afterwards in 'The North' Hall, when we would appreciate a small donation to cover costs. As usual, children go free.

In a change to our usual practice, the proceeds of the concert will go to Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis, a lung condition which has affected one of our long standing members, meaning she is no longer able to sing with us. We hope everyone will approve and give us their support.

Finally, after 12 years, changes are afoot! We have been finding meeting in our church halls has become more and more problematic over the recent years. We are finding the facilities (parking, heating, storage, etc) no longer meet our needs and so we have taken the difficult decision to find other premises. We have enjoyed our time here, but look forward with excitement to a new adventure.

Campbell Barr

Flower Rota

| Date | Main | Rose Bowl | Delivery |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 01/12/24 | Mrs A Whitehill | | Mrs A Gibson |
| 08/12/24 | Mrs M Henderson | Mrs N Barr | Mrs M Henderson |
| 15/12/24 | Mrs H Troop | | Mrs H Troop |
| 22/12/24 | Mrs M MacLean | | Mrs M MacLean |
| 29/12/24 | Mrs A Davidson | | Mrs A Davidson |
| 05/01/25 | Mrs E Irvine | Mrs E Irvine | Mrs E Irvine |
| 12/01/25 | Mr A Blue | Mr & Mrs D Young | Mrs A Henderson |
| 19/01/25 | Mrs E Irvine | Mrs E Irvine | Mrs E Irvine |
| 26/01/25 | Mrs A Hunter | Mrs M Henderson | Mrs M Henderson |
| 02/02/25 | Mrs L McIntosh | | Mr C Davidson |
| 09/02/25 | Flower Fund | Mrs J Mathie | Mrs L Clayton |
| 16/02/25 | Flower Fund | Mrs M McCartney | Mrs S Craig |
| 23/02/25 | Mrs A Davidson | Miss G Davidson | Mrs A Davidson |
| 02/03/25 | Mrs M Eadie | | Mrs M Eadie |
| 09/03/25 | Mrs S Nicholson | | Mrs S Samson |

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



Photographs courtesy of Douglas Hogg

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

We praise you as our creator and maker,

and the one of whom Jesus said,

"My Father has been working until now and so do I".

While we acknowledge our need for work and rest,
of labour and of Sabbath, from our first to last breath,
we thank you that you have made all such things possible
in the varying seasons and chapters of our lives.

We have activities and friendships to occupy our minds and hands.

Help us to have the mind of Christ and of all the Apostles,

In seeking first the kingdom in all we do.

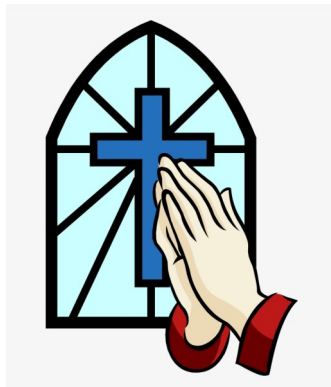
Help us to find good things to do
as individuals and alongside others in your church.

We give thanks to you for every opportunity
and the eyes to see the needs of our community,
but also the strength to contribute what we can.

We look forward to the changing seasons of the year
and those we share it with.

May you be glorified in all things,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





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*

*August 2024
David Kerr*

*30 August 2024
Elizabeth Easton*

*4 October 2024
Joan Baillie*

*15 October 2024
John Paton*

Baptisms

“Let the children come to me”

*8 September 2024
Morgan McMillan*

*22 September 2024
Edward Gray*



*Wishing you a
Merry Christmas*



*and a
Happy New Year*