

Tidings



September 2024

Autumn

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 ☎ 07768 655162

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

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
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,

“Ready, Steady, Go!”

When deliberating the title of the recent children’s Holiday Club, which was to be about racing and had a nod to the Olympics, the team thought of all sorts of names. We started with “Ready, Steady, Go!”, but eventually settled on a far more local street name of “The Strathmore Cup”. The club was a great success, with 67 children registered, lots of fun and hard work, and satisfied families all round. There were plenty of repeated refrains of, “Mamma mia, issa me, the Meenister!” It rounded off the school holidays nicely and, as we move from one thing to the next, it immediately made me think of the year ahead.

As we start a new season of activity, it will hopefully include a huge amount of joint work and good will between the Old Parish and the West Parish, as we draw together in Union. After a long wait, it feels like we’re finally walking to the starting blocks. We might be doing so with a level of trepidation, excitement, or varied levels of exhaustion. It’s much akin to those Olympians, who have trained hard and now face their event with courage.

We are reminded that all of life, faith, and Christian community is more of a marathon than a sprint. Hebrews 12:1 encourages us to “run with endurance the race that God has set before us”. So, despite our level of fitness, or where we find ourselves on the journey, it’s understandable that we might feel fresh, tired, in our stride, or reinvigorated. Given that we’ve likely enjoyed something of a break over the summer, I hope it’s a little of the latter.

For every endeavour, with God in view, we have a chance to face each hour, each day, and each season as something new (Acts 3:19-20). I trust we might take time to reflect on how we might run during this new season, and how we might encourage each other on, as we walk towards those starting blocks and then take off! I hope you will join me in anticipating the thrill of the race!

Your Minister and friend,

Ross.



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

In all that we prepare ourselves for, this day, week, or even hour,
please help us to find our satisfaction in you.

We know that the nature of things
is for our enthusiasm, energy, and strength
to rise and fall and even feel like it peters out completely.
But, with you at our side, and in company with your church,
we pray that we might be encouraged and feel supported;
and where we feel there might be lack
to be renewed in our effort to support others.

Help us every day,
to run the race with endurance,
to the glory of your name, in Christ.

Amen.

What's On

September

Sunday 01	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion (Joint Service at Hamilton West)
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (Joint Service in Session Room, Hamilton Old Parish)
Sunday 08	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Tuesday 10	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 29	10.45am	Morning Worship

October

Sunday 6	10.45am	Morning Worship - Harvest & Boys' Brigade Dedication (TBC)
Sunday 13	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship

November

Sunday 3	9.30am	Early Morning Service (Café Church)
	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10	10.45am	Morning Worship - Service of Remembrance
Tuesday 12	7.00pm	Meeting of Kirk Session
Sunday 17	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion



Old Kirk Reflections

Most people have a favourite colour and sometimes they refer to it as their “lucky” colour. Whether it’s favourite or lucky, what’s yours? Mine is blue. My suit on a Sunday morning is often blue, my tie more often than not has blue in it - and my car is blue. Each month has a gemstone associated with it and September’s is the blue sapphire.

In the bible, there are numerous references to blue. In Exodus 24:10, we read: “And they saw the God of Israel. There was, under his feet, as if it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.”

We often hear the expression “to feel a wee bit blue” which often conveys a sense of low spirits or being downcast. When we do feel a wee bit down, or a bit blue, we can always turn to scripture for an element of comfort. “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near the broken-hearted; he saves those crushed in spirit.”

Turn to the Lord and He will not let you down!

Douglas



Union News



Would you believe almost 6 years have elapsed since the Minister and I first muted the possibility of pursuing a union with Hamilton West Parish Church. The folks at ‘The West’ and Presbytery were most receptive to the idea and a very worthwhile and encouraging dialogue began to move us towards a united Charge in early course. Then Covid came along turning all our aspirations and plans upside-down. Covid is now hopefully confined to history but its effect on the union, as with so many other aspects of our life, was devastating and it’s only now that we are starting to address and reverse the damage caused and get our plans back on track,

with Presbytery’s assistance and approval.

Several weeks ago, I was asked to set up and chair a group to be tasked with driving the Union forward as quickly as possible. That group was immediately formed and comprised me and a further two representatives from ‘The Old’, three representatives from ‘The West’ and the Minister as an ex officio member. Very productive, informal and formal discussions and meetings followed culminating, on Sat 17th August, with the group meeting with the Joint Kirk Sessions of both churches to present a ‘Draft Basis of Union’ document for transmission to Presbytery together with a working plan or ‘List of Actions’ to take the union forward. Both documents were ratified by those present at the meeting and were scheduled to be presented by me to a representative of Presbytery’s Implementation Committee on 21st August. That meeting is about to take place as ‘Tidings’ goes to press so watch this space!

A lot of work’s been done over a short period of time to get us to this position and, as a result, we are very hopeful that the union may take place towards the end of this year or at the very latest into early 2025. However, that will be for Presbytery to decide.

Then the real work can begin!!

Louis Munn

Chair, Union Steering and Advisory Group



Monday Club

By the time you read this most of the membership will have had a holiday, hopefully with some decent weather. We now look forward to our next session of the Monday Club. Here is the dates and speakers up to the end of this year:

October 14th	Guide Dogs For The Blind
October 28th	Windfarms
November 11th	From Gulag to Hamilton - Talk on Jan Stepek's experience
November 27th	Christmas Lunch (price/menu to be confirmed in October)



The committee are still looking to appoint a secretary and a vice-president and I would personally urge members to consider these positions. Please contact myself or any committee member if you are interested/need further information. These are important key positions and need to be covered in the event of sickness/holidays etc, so please give it some serious consideration.

Charlie Duguid

Anchors

The Anchors finished with a fantastic turn out to our Awards Service with lots of badges and trophies awarded.



We then had our annual fun night at M&D's soft play - always a highlight and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We hope all the boys and girls are enjoying their holiday time off, we don't have an exact date for the start of the new session as of yet but we will keep you informed.



If there is anyone who would be interested in joining the Anchors (P1-P3) please pass your information onto the Church Office and we'll get in touch.

Alan Young
Officer in Charge



Finance and Gift Aid

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme allows us to claim tax back on donations of £30 or less up to £8,000 from sources where no gift aid declarations are in place. These can be from the plate, donations or from Weekly Freewill Offerings. This year we were able to claim £1,602.00 on donations of £6,408.

Can I say a huge thank you to the twelve people who volunteered to help count the offerings on a Sunday morning. This really does help to spread the workload.

Marilyn Henderson

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



Saffronhall Singers

We are looking forward to the start of our new session on Monday 16th September after the long summer break. Our focus will be revising our repertoire, learning new pieces and then preparing for our annual Carols by Candlelight, which this year is likely to be Friday 6th December (to be confirmed).

Sadly, we lost one of our tenors, John MacDonald, in July. He had been a member for a number of years, was a regular attender and will be sadly missed. He was also a member of the Caley Choir, many of whom were able to sing at his funeral.

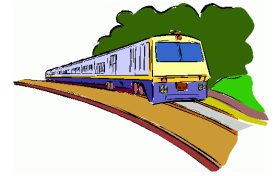
Our membership is currently 43 plus the conductor and accompanist. Anyone interested in joining us should speak to myself or one of the choir members.

Campbell Barr



Fellowship Committee

We arranged two visits to Glasgow Central station tours, one of which has taken place and the other will be soon. Going by all reports the tour which has taken place was a great success and was enjoyed by those who attended. We can only hope the one to come is as enjoyable.



On 7th and 8th September, the Church is again taking part in the Doors Open days for South Lanarkshire. The Church will be open from 10.30am till 4.00pm on Saturday 7th and from 1.00pm until 4.00pm on Sunday 8th and there will be guided tours arranged as required during these hours. Folks will be advised to go to see the Covenanters Memorial in the graveyard and to go the North Hall and have a look at the banners subject to the Tae Kwon Do being finished. Please note that these tours are not restricted to visitors to the Church. We are fairly sure there are members of the church who have not seen round the whole of the building, so feel free to join us. There will be refreshments available in the session room.

On Sunday 22nd September the bowls day will be held in Hamilton Bowling Club, next door to the church. The plan is to start at 1.30pm but that is subject to sufficient players being available. There will be a two course buffet meal ready for around 4.30 to 5.00pm and the cost will be £12, to be paid either before or on the day. Non bowlers will be welcome.

Iain McLean
Fellowship Convener

1st Hamilton Boys' Brigade

Well we are rapidly reaching the end of the summer holidays and by the time you read this the school holidays will be either over or very close to over (parents please don't all cheer at once).

Hope everyone enjoyed your time away from the Boys' Brigade and are feeling refreshed and raring to get started on the 24/25 session.

Since we officially ended the last session, we had our annual trip, which this year saw us having a day out at Strathaven Park. While there, the boys had a number of rides on the miniature railway and boating pond, as well as playing in the various play areas within the park. Lunch was supplied by way of a barbecue which was partaken of within the magnificent bandstand and apart from scorch marks on my picnic table no harm was done. Well no harm done until Mrs Horne discovers scorch marks on the picnic table.

To the future, the 1st Hamilton Boys' Brigade will reconvene on Wednesday, 4th September. Further details will be furnished via the WhatsApp group nearer the time when final details are ironed out.

Well until we all meet again enjoy what's left of your holidays and we will see you in September.

Graham Horne
Captain



Congratulations to Colin Davidson on completing his Queen's Badge.

Thank you to Lynne Young for presenting the award.

Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
01/09/24	Hamilton West		
08/09/24	Mrs N McLean	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs A Davidson
15/09/24	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs H Troop
22/09/24	Flower Fund		Mrs S Craig
29/09/24	Flower Fund		Mr C Davidson
06/10/24	Mrs H Blair		Mrs H Blair
13/10/24	Flower Fund		Mrs M Green
20/10/24	Flower Fund		Mr K Brown
27/10/24	Flower Fund		Mrs A Henderson
03/11/24	Mrs K Hunter		Mrs K Hunter
10/11/24	Mrs A Davidson		Miss G Davidson
17/11/24	Flower Fund		Mrs S Samson
24/11/24	Mrs H Simpson	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs H Simpson
01/12/24	Mrs A Whitehill		Mrs A Gibson
08/12/24	Mrs M Henderson	Mrs N Barr	Mrs M Henderson

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

Scottish Bible Society

Modern technology is shortening the time when parts of the Bible, if not the whole Bible will be available in every language - hopefully by 2033. Over half the worlds' 7396 languages have yet to receive any form of scripture. This is why your support is so vital. We hope to have a collection for the Bible Society in October.

Do you know a baby who was born in Scotland in 2024. With the parents' permission you can register them to receive "Share a Story Bible" and other Bible resources. They receive the "Share a Story Bible" on their first birthday. On their second, third and fourth birthdays they will be sent birthday cards and fun resources. On their fifth birthday they will be given a children's Bible. Each "Share a Story Bible" is wrapped by volunteers and a prayer said for the child receiving it.

Thanks to all of you for supporting this work.

God bless you.

Muriel Eadie





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*

*16 May 2024
Alexander McKinnon*

*12 June 2024
William Wilson*

*7 August 2024
Margaret Willox*

Baptism

"Let the children come to me"

*2 June 2024
Eloise Opara*



Wilson

Morag and Fiona would like to thank everyone at the 'Old Parish' for the many messages of sympathy after the passing of Bill.

It is a great comfort to know that he was held in such high regard by so many.

Robert and I would like to thank everyone who donated to our "moving and leaving you" gift. We are getting settled in now, helped by Jane and Chris and the girls and this week used the money to buy a lovely oak television stand for our TV and sound system that matches in with our new living room.



We have been welcomed into St Columba Parish Church over the past two weeks and will hopefully join their congregation in future services.

Once again, thank you all - we will be back to see you in the future.

Linda & Robert

Strathmore Cup



What a fantastic week the children had at our "Strathmore Cup" Holiday Club. We enjoyed the daily antics of "Issa Me The Meenister" and his trusty sidekick "Leftie" who were kept in check by the Pit Police. Great fun was had by all with crafts and games, singing and dancing and our daily bible story. Each day the teams, ably assisted by their team leaders competed in races and activities to win the coveted "Strathmore Cup". The Pit Crew were on hand to ensure there was no cheating. At the end of the week the Pink Team emerged victorious and were presented with the cup at the Holiday Club Service. The holiday club was well attended by 67 children over the course of the week. Most of the children stayed for the afternoon and enjoyed films, cartoons and games.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making our "Strathmore Cup" Holiday Club such a huge success and in particular our very enthusiastic children and their parents and carers for supporting the holiday club.