

# Mini Tidings



*Autumn*  
*September 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

## **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,

“What can we do?”

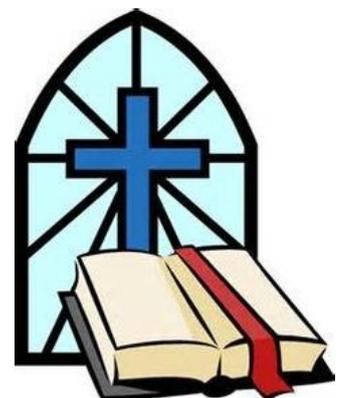
After months of being told what we cannot do, what are the things that might do? At the recent Kirk Session meeting, we were challenged to think imaginatively about what we can do. For example, the Saturday coffee morning is now being provided as an online meetup once a month, so that people can see one another and chat, while enjoying their beverage in the comfort of their own home. Similarly, our monthly early family service will be restarting imminently in the church, which will enable us to better support our young ones and pave the way to eventually opening our more regular Sunday morning services. We long to be reunited, all together, and that day is drawing closer even if it hasn't quite yet arrived. Meanwhile, services continue to be available online, by telephone, and by DVD. Our Elders have been diligently trying to keep in contact with congregation members by telephone. What other kind of things might we do to support one another at this time as well as thinking towards the future?

At Pentecost, the response of those who heard the gospel for the first time was, “What shall we do?”. Perhaps we've asked a similar question, in the past and especially under current circumstances. The situation is new and the old way of doing thing seems so inadequate. The early church had to rethink things and go with the flow, as led by the Holy Spirit, and we surely must do likewise. But that same Holy Spirit is powerful and inspires. Thus, we also ought to seek some inspiration and ideas, even when our options seem limited at first glance.

Ideas are a precious commodity. Some people seem to abound with them. Some struggle. Some experience “writer's block”, while for others they just flow. Whatever our gifts, this is a gift in itself. Please do contact the office or myself with your ideas, as they would be very much appreciated. For, if God blesses “faith the size of a mustard seed” with incredible growth, what might He do with just the germ of an idea? May God, indeed, bless you as you ponder that challenge.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



## Covid 19 GUIDELINES SANCTUARY

C. of S. Version 6 guidelines issued 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### ENTRY & EXIT PROTOCOLS

09/09/2020

- Social distancing discs applied to the ground area at entrance and along the full length of the path until it reaches the car park gates 2 metre intervals. Infra-red automated hand sanitiser at entrance. (See picture below)
- Face coverings to be worn by all entering the Sanctuary at all times. Minister or official taking service once in place can remove face covering if they are more than 2 metres from congregation.
- Offering plate // pouch to be available at entry door. No offering uplifted during service.
- No elders on door duty to welcome congregation. Would require one or two elders within the church to show congregation where they can sit. Those on duty to wear a face covering and guide attendees to vacant seats furthest away from the door of entry. At the end of any service those on duty to monitor exit procedure by advising which rows can leave, use side doors as exit points.
- On entry to sanctuary only seats marked for occupation to be used, all others are taped off with cord. On entering the building seats that are at the front of the church to be occupied first. On departure from building leave by the nearest side door, but with the people closest to exit doors leaving the building first. All to keep to social distancing that may be in force at that time see markings on floor.
- Church organ cannot be used at this time. Clavinova permissible alternative. Bible readings, intimations, order of service all to be displayed on screens.
- Members of the congregation are not allowed to sing within the building. Suspended till guidelines change about this activity.



Social distancing discs



Alcohol gel dispensers



Social distancing tape



Cord closure to pews



Pews with no cushions, bibles or hymn books

## Fellowship Committee

In view of the current pandemic situation and in consultation with the minister, it has been decided that the bowls afternoon, the charity lunch and the congregational Christmas lunch should all be cancelled for this year. Albeit there will be no charity lunch that does not mean we need to stop the tradition of giving to charity. The nominated charity this year is the Macmillan Nurses and donations can be made by either by a cheque made payable to Macmillan Nurses and sent to the Church Office or by bank transfer to HOPC Fellowship (sort code 80-08-25 and account number 67130202). All donations received will then be forwarded onto the charity.

*Iain McLean*  
Convener



## Monday Club

All members are currently well at time of writing and we know that some have went to stay with relatives for company which is a super idea. In light of recent insurance problems, please make sure that you advise your own household insurance re this as some only allow you 30 days for unoccupied homes.

The outing to New Lanark on 21st September has been cancelled due to the current Covid situation. The New Lanark Hotel have been very kind and have agreed to transfer our deposit to April of next year when hopefully we will be getting back to normal ?!!!

We have not made a decision on our Christmas Lunch to date; a decision will be made next month and we will keep you informed. Various speakers are on “standby mode” and will be more than happy to come and speak to the club members once we can get back to normal. However no Monday Club meeting will take place until we are all happy to proceed with them.

Some good news to finish with - Iain and Nanette MacLean celebrate their Golden Wedding on September 25th. Congratulations to you both from everyone.

Keep safe

*Charlie Duguid*



## Guild

Here are a few reflections from the final message to Guilds from our National Convener as she completes her year in office.

Since lockdown there is a new awareness of just LISTENING – for something, for anything, for silence. We are not always aware of silence in the buzz of everyday living.

LISTEN to one another and to those we seek to serve.

And LISTEN to GOD. That still small voice, when we least expect it says – “Be still and know that I am God”; - “All will be well”; - “Do not be afraid”.

Take care and stay safe as we go the Extra Mile.

*From all members of the Guild*



## Saturday Coffee

Saturday Coffee has resumed! Make yourself a cuppa and join us via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month (next one on 3rd October). For further details or Zoom link information please contact the office.

## The Coming of the Messiah

Drama Kirk's online bible studies continue with a new series this autumn; looking at the Messianic prophecies as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

In the first study, we will focus on the prophecies of Isaiah, seeking to consider three questions together:-

Who was Isaiah?

What did he prophesy about the coming of the Messiah?

What hope did he leave for God's people, then and now?

The evening will provide you with the opportunity to draw closer to bible characters through performed monologues and filmed scenes. You can see Isaiah being called to ministry by Almighty God himself; and how he responded. We will then look at his messianic prophecies from the perspective of a couple of New Testament characters, hearing their reflections on passages of Isaiah centuries later.

Included in the performances is a dramatization of the Suffering Servant passage, which we can explore from the perspective of modern day people.

Finally, you will see a message of hope from our heavenly host, pictured.

You can join the study live on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm on [www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld](http://www.youtube.com/HamiltonOld) where there will be opportunity to chat online and reflect on what we share together.

Further studies will follow as we journey with the prophets towards Christmas and the coming of Christ.



## Congratulations and Celebrations



For some good news! During this period of lockdown there have been a number of celebrations in our congregation including Alice and Ian celebrating their Golden Wedding with Iain and Nanette celebrating theirs later in month. As well as celebrating their Golden Wedding, Iain and Nanette along with Robert and Linda have become grandparents again and that's to name just a few.

So big congratulations and best wishes to everyone who has celebrated a big birthday, significant anniversary or welcomed new babies into their family!

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020

Yes believe it or not as we enter September it's now time for us to start to think about making preliminary arrangements for our annual participation in Samaritan Purse's Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Covid 19 has had a dramatic effect on our everyday lives since early March and it looks like there will be no return to 'the way things were' in the near future. Consequently the way we conduct our Shoebox Appeal this year will have to change to accommodate current restrictions. In consultation with the Minister and Session Clerk it has been decided that the logistics of buying, assembling, distributing, collecting, dedicating and dispatching boxes would be too problematic to attempt and that the Appeal in it's previous form will not take place this year.

However that does not mean that you will not be able to fill and send off your very own shoebox. Samaritan's Purse now has an online process which you can find at:-

<https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

where, for a modest donation of £20 you can fill your very own shoebox from a whole host of suitable stock items held by them for boys and girls. You can choose your gifts and even include a personal message in your box and a photo if you wish before it is sent on its way to a very deserving child this Christmas. Louis and I have already filled our box and it was very easy and quite personal and we recorded it as having been sent on behalf of Hamilton Old Parish Church.

So this year that's exactly what we're asking you to do to ensure that we at 'The Old' continue to support all those children all over the world who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. If you wish please also let the office know when you arrange to send your box to give us an idea of the response from our church. I'll be happy to advise you of our progress and remind you of how to prepare your shoebox online over the coming weeks.

Our dedicated shoppers, Nancy and Nanette currently hold some surplus cash and items from last year, which they'll be delighted to fill some boxes with next year when things should be back to normal.

In the meantime thank you and may God bless you for your continued support.

*Alison*



## Grasping the Nettle

### Upcoming Online Events

#### *Exploring the God Question: A Public Forum*

Led by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Church of Scotland Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, is set to put the existence of God to the test in the public square.

Increasingly the God question has come under scrutiny with the view gaining traction that religion is a fairy story for the weak minded. People are more likely to be encouraged to look to science for ultimate answers.

The Independent newspaper reported in 2014 that 2% of Priests in the Anglican church don't believe in the existence of God!

"We live in an era where very little can be taken for granted. People today are increasingly conscious of the need to ensure that the information they consume is correct" claimed Dr Fair. "If we really believe in the truth of the Christian faith we have nothing to fear from putting it under scrutiny. Christians should be confident about that. At the same time, the public needs to realise there are two sides to this debate.

#### ALL SET TO ZOOM

People across Scotland (and beyond, believers and sceptics alike) are invited to join the Moderator on three 90 minute Zoom sessions on Tuesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th September at 7.30pm.

#### YOUR INVITATION

To request registration details email [office@graspingthenettle.org](mailto:office@graspingthenettle.org). For those who would rather spectate than participate, it is planned for there to be the option to view via the GTN Facebook page.

#### A NEW FORMAT FOR THE GOD QUESTION

The sessions will be based on a brand new format for The God Question series. Each programme has been divided into around 10 short excerpts designed to address a single question at the end of each clip.

#### *Through A Glass Darkly: Journeys Through Science, Faith and Doubt*

Join us for three online sessions with one of the world's foremost theologians, expert in the dialogue between science and theology - Professor Alister McGrath. A prodigious author and academic, Dr McGrath holds the Chair of Ireos Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford. He is also the founder of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.

The three sessions of the GTN Conference will be held on:

Thursday 29th October at 7.30pm

Friday 30th October at 2.30pm

Saturday 31st October at 10.30am

Details of the individual sessions will be announced soon.

To request registration details, email [office@graspingthenettle.org](mailto:office@graspingthenettle.org)





***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*

*10 July 2020*

*Margaret Munro*

*17 August 2020*

*Jacqueline McKenzie*

## *Baptism*

***"Let the children come to me"***

*22 August 2020*

*Miles James David McCartney*



## PRAYER

Almighty God,  
the Maker and Sustainer of all life,  
the one who thought and then spoke the world into being,  
we give credit to you for all your creativity  
in bringing about all that is  
both seen and unseen.

Inspire us with ideas  
of how we might please you  
and encourage one another.

Strengthen us  
that we may never tire of doing good;  
and when we fail you  
pick us up  
and surround us with your love  
through Christ and His church.

Permit us to worship you  
in every help we might give each other,  
in word, deed and prayer.

Amen.

