

Tidings



September 2026
Autumn

MINISTER

Rev Ross Blackman BSc MBA BD(Hons)
Parish Halls, Strathmore Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 640185

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Andrea Davidson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music) Hons
138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston G71 7DD ☎ 07768 655162

CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs Amanda Strachan

TREASURER

Mrs Marilyn Henderson
67 Sycamore Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7HF ☎ 01698 427892
Email: finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

PROPERTY CONVENER

Miss Gillian Davidson

PROJECT MANAGER

Mr Alastair Simpson

VICE CONVENERS

HALLS - Miss Gillian Davidson
CHURCH - Mr George Foster
MANSE - Mr Alistair Buttery
WEST CAMPUS - David Gibson

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Penny Simpson

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs Andrea Davidson
Parish Halls, Strathmore Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 281905
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

CHURCH OFFICER

Mr Colin Davidson

ROLL KEEPER

Mr Colin Gibson



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

Dear friends,

“What’s in a Name”

It’s astonishing how many biblical quotes and proverbs are mixed up with Shakespeare. Perhaps we ought to be less surprised given that the King James Version of the bible, with which so many of us were raised, was translated during his lifetime. In this vein I am reminded of where Juliet asks, “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell so sweet”.

We have a corresponding parallel when Paul suggests that “we are like a sweet-smelling incense offered by Christ to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being lost.” (2.Cor.2:15). Paul goes on to suggest that the consequence of this is that Christians either attract or repulse people, depending on their response to Jesus. It is a weighty and heady matter to rise to the challenge of sharing our faith, but we often do so unwittingly or even unwillingly. We carry it around us like an expensive perfume or aftershave, due to our proximity to Christ. So, too, we carry the name of Christ in our Christian faith. It marks us out as different, regardless of our wishes. Indeed, the name “Christian” was likely coined by detractors to the faith in ancient Antioch (Acts 11:26; 26:28). Much later, Martin Luther would become the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation and is famed by defending his faith with the words, “Here I stand; I can do no other”. We can likewise do no other as we stand in faith, name, and scent with Jesus Christ.

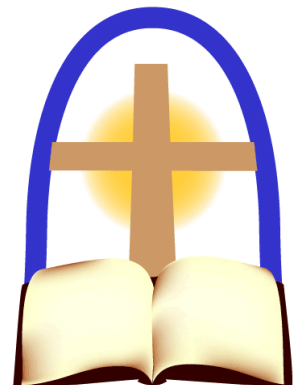
Names are therefore important, and this was one of the subjects of our recent Elders’ Conference, along with other matters that will be discussed and decided upon in forthcoming Kirk Session meetings. The current thinking is that, under the banner of the congregation’s name of “Hamilton Old Parish Church of Scotland”, our buildings ought to be simply referred to as “The Auld Kirk”, “The West Kirk”, and “The Kirk Halls. As ever, your views would be warmly welcomed.

Other considerations included a reminder of our vision, “Building a community in faith and service – linking the past, present, and future”, our ongoing endeavours in Mission particularly as articulated in our Action Plan, building alterations, an impending Stewardship campaign, succession planning, and our relationship with the town centre and the BID (Business Improvement District). These are all continued subjects on which your opinions are coveted. But over-arching all is the desire to have Jesus known by successive generations of people in Hamilton and beyond. That is an exciting aim, albeit it requires the kind of self-sacrificing changes that inevitably carry measures of both discomfort and relief (Phil.2:3-5).

In the final analysis, our emphasis is the interests of God’s Kingdom through our Lord Jesus, whom commentators call “the Rose of Sharon” (Song of Solomon 2:1). It is in his name and scent that we stand as we are reminded of those timeless words, “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell so sweet”.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross.



What's On

September

Sunday 6	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 8	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session and wider Session
Sunday 13	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (Session Room)
Sunday 20	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service (West Campus)
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship



October

Sunday 4	10.45am	Morning Worship - Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 11	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 18	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service (West Campus)
Sunday 25	10.45am	Morning Worship



November

Sunday 1	10.45am	Morning Worship - Bereavement Service
Sunday 8	10.45am	Morning Worship - Service of Remembrance
Tuesday 10	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session and wider Session
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (West Campus)
Sunday 22	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday 29	10.45am	Morning Worship - First Sunday in Advent



** Please note some dates may be subject to change*



Choir

As we look forward to the start of the Church Year, Choir will resume meeting on Wednesday evenings on 2nd September at 7.00p.m in the Session room.

Choir dinner will take place on Friday 4th Sept 7 p.m. at The Moorings, Motherwell, and we look forward to catching up on all the news of travels through these summer months.

Planning folders are now ready and can be uplifted from Sunday 29th August.

Thank you again to Mhairi and Alison for handling the mountain of music we gather throughout the session, and filing it in our library.

Stewart Troop has stepped down from the Tenor section, but we thank him for the contributions he made to “supporting the boys”. And thank you to Tony Van der Meer for willingly joining us when North of the Border. On that topic, there must be some male voices in our Congregation whom I can find. You may not read notation, but there are other routes to taking part. Please do consider and come and have a chat.

Thank you to Alistair Van Der Meer for organ deputising a service in August. He is an enthusiastic young performer, who just recently successfully gained grade 8 piano. He is keen to improve and develop his skill with organ and I’m delighted to encourage him when he is in Hamilton.

Zoey Gibson our young soprano, is moving into tertiary education beginning a Drama degree at Queen Margaret University Edinburgh. We wish her well in her new studies and know she will join us when she can.

Choir continue to enjoy close friendship and fellowship and our ranks are open to anyone who would care to lend their voice to leading worship. We will continue to meet prior to Morning Worship at 9.50 each week.

Helen C Simpson

Director of Music/Organist



Hamilton West Toddler Group

Toddlers on a Wednesday morning is full of lots of fun. This last session has seen us celebrating Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Easter and lots of birthdays in between.

One of our favourite mornings is our Teddy Bears Picnic. It’s lots of fun to lay out all the picnic blankets and get to eat on the floor instead of at the table (hee-hee) Our teddies always have fun joining in with games and song time too.

Our last morning was an activity morning with the Big Chute, mats to jump on, walk the plank, hula hoops and the cones and balls.

We can’t wait to start back up again in August. We have space for a few new friends to join us in August as we had a few go to nursery.

Thank you.

Louise and Tricia



Celebrating a 90th birthday

In early August our most senior chorister Margaret Richardson celebrated her birthday. The Choir joined her at the Avonbridge Hotel to share in her family celebrations.



Margaret has lived all her life in Eliot Crescent, where, with her brother Norman, she supported her parents during her working life, attending St. Johns School, and then Hamilton Academy.



She attained her University Degree in 1958 in Pharmacy and moved through various Hospitals to Senior Pharmacist at the Southern General, retiring in 1991.



Retirement to Margaret meant an even more active life learning a new skill with piano lessons, relaxing in gardening, hill climbing, swimming, rambling walks and taking part in the Glasgow 1991 marathon. She also found time to volunteer as a driver for cancer care patients.



Margaret has been involved in Church activities throughout her life with service to Avon Street, Brandon Street and St Andrews Churches before joining Hamilton Old in 2014. She was ordained to the Eldership in 2000, and although actively involved in Church activities, her special forte was attached to a teapot, where she supported all organisations and was instrumental in encouraging many many social gatherings.

Margaret continues to live life to the full, and puts heart and soul into everything she does. A happy, generous, committed and supportive lady, who has given a lifetime of service in so many areas of Church life.

From Choir we send our warmest congratulations on reaching this wonderful birthday.

In “Strictly” jargon – “keeeeeeeep” singing



*Happy
Birthday*

Helen C Simpson
Director of Music/Organist



Boys' Brigade

After a summer recharging it's time for the 1st/2nd Hamilton BB session to start again. Our start-back dates and times are as follows:

Anchors (Primary 1 – 3)

Wednesday **19 Aug**, Hamilton Old Parsh Church Hall, 5.30 – 6.30pm **or**
Thursday **20 Aug**, HOPC West Hall, 6.15 – 7.15pm

Juniors (Primary 4– 6)

Wednesday **19 Aug**, Hamilton Old Parsh Church Hall, 6.30 – 7.30pm **or**
Thursday **20 Aug**, HOPC West Hall, 6.15 – 7.15pm

Company & Seniors (P7 – S6)

Friday **21 Aug**, HOPC West Hall, 7.30 – 9.15pm

Looking forward to seeing everyone back and hopefully some new faces too!

David Gibson

Captain



Wednesday Night Anchors

With schools starting back, that means it is also time for Anchors to start back. Whether you are looking to sign up a little one for the first time or you are coming back to see old friends, you will be most welcome on a Wednesday night.

Anchors is open to all boys in P1-P3, we have a varied program of scripture, crafts and games that is sure to appeal to everyone.

If you would like more information or would like to sign up, come along to the Old Parish church halls on a Wednesday evening at 5:30pm or contact either myself or the church office.

Alan Young

07841518651

(Wednesday Anchors Officer-in-Charge)



Thursday Anchors & Juniors

Looking forward to starting back the session on the 20th of August. Any new members welcome as always!

Margaret Stewart

Company Section & Seniors

At our end of session church service, we had our presentation of awards. Recipients were as follows:

Most Improved Boy: Pte Nathan Gourlay
Best Squad: Squad 2, LCpl Stuart Davidson
Boys' Best Boy and Best Boy: Cpl Nathan Farrell
President's Badge: LCpl Stuart Davidson
King's Badge: Sgt Nathan Farrell



Thanks also go to our readers at the service, leading the prayer and bible readings, Pte Gregory Blackman, Pte Nathan Gourlay, and Pte Kyle Blackman.

We were also involved in a very successful Battalion Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition at the start of June. Stuart and Nathan successfully completed the expedition and thankfully the weather was very kind to us.

David Gibson

Fellowship and Special Events Groups

On 18th July we once again hosted Hamilton Burns Club. Following a wreath laying ceremony in Hamilton Library a service of song, hymns and readings was held within HOPC with guests thereafter retiring to 'The North' Hall for refreshments.

The annual Doors Open Day festival takes place this year on the first weekend in September. Guided tours of HOPC and the church grounds will be available from 1000 to 1600 on Saturday 5th and 1300 to 1600 on Sunday 6th September. As well as being open to visitors it is also an opportunity for members of the congregation to perhaps find out a little bit more about the history of the church or have a refresher. Some of the Banner Group's wonderful work will also be on display. Tea and coffee will be available following the tours.

The Monday Fellowship Group resumes on the 14th September with guest speaker Rev.d Maggie McArthur opening this session. The group meets every second Monday to enjoy a variety of activities, topics and good company.

It is intended to hold our Christmas lunch following the service on Sunday 13th of December. Menu selection and payment will be taken during the month of November.

Yvonne Adamson and Iain McLean

Conveners



Old Kirk Reflections

It's been said before that we are a "nation of shopkeepers". I want to suggest however, that we are also a nation of worriers. We all have worries and I myself have had many over the last few months with some concerning health scares.

We worry about many things - some things we can control and some that we can't. Worrying about family and friends is natural. Again it's often said, if we didn't love, we wouldn't worry.

Worrying pulls us down, but again it's natural. And something we all do, to a greater or lesser degree.

Whenever we worry, we know God is there for us. In Paul's letter to the Phillippians, in chapter 4, we read, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Douglas

Sunday Live!

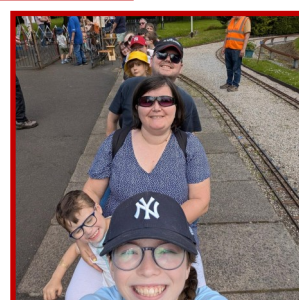
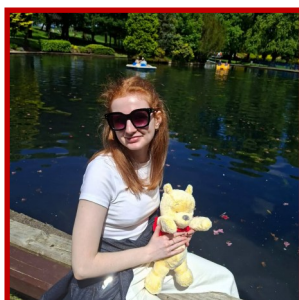
What a wonderful way to round off our Sunday Live session with a trip to Strathaven Park! We were incredibly lucky with the beautiful weather, and everyone had a fantastic time. The children (and the adults!) loved the train ride, had great fun in the play park, and enjoyed a well-earned ice cream to help cool down.

A huge thank you to Ian Samson for kindly providing the train tickets – your generosity helped make the day extra special.

We hope all of our Sunday Live children are having a fantastic summer holiday. It was lovely to see some familiar faces at the Holiday Club too!

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Sunday Live on 23 August and can't wait to see what this new year has in store.

Sunday Live! Leaders



Scottish Bible Society

The Bible Society in South Sudan has launched an audio Trauma Healing programme to help many Sudanese who have suffered trauma.

Please keep the teachers using Must Know Bible Stories in your prayers and hope that it will help children learn the stories and learn about Jesus. Give thanks for the Keswick Convention in June. Also the Moray Coast Convention in early August. Magnitude Festival takes place in Lendrick Muir each summer - so mission work continues both here and abroad. Please keep our Holiday Club in your prayers and hope that the children will have fun and learn about God's love for them.

Thanks for all your support!

Muriel Eadie



Worship Team

Regular Sunday morning services in the town centre have been well supported by large congregations throughout the summer. We have also had some baptisms – with some very well-behaved babies! Services at the West Campus have continued on the third Sunday in the month, including a Communion Service in June. Worship has taken place in the West Halls due to the renovation work in the church itself and it was brilliant to see Drama Kirk making full use of the stage and hall space in the July service. The Banner Group continue to create new banners (keep your eyes open for new ones coming soon) and to change the special banners in our church regularly to help us reflect and enhance our worship. The beautiful green banner and pulpit fall representing the Trinity have been in use during the weeks following Pentecost and the special Baptismal ones when a baptism is taking place.

We hope you've enjoyed the new hymns from God Welcomes All. The Director of Music and ever-strengthening choir have made it so much easier for us to embrace the lovely lyrics and new melodies. Participation by a wide number of our own members continues to grow and sharing our caring for others through prayers is an area which is still developing. We hope you notice the different interests and styles of our writers of Prayers of Intercession and appreciate the wider view of the world this gives us to reflect on in our prayers. The Worship Team would like to express its thanks to the Minister, Director of Music, Local Worship Leaders, Choir and members of the congregation who took part in our recent services.

Drama Kirk has continued to contribute a unique insight into the gospel through their ground-breaking performances at a number of services. Under Liz Blackman's leadership, Drama Kirk's interpretations help us see well-known Bible stories differently and see new meaning in the gospel. The angels ascending and descending on Jacob's stairway to Heaven, God's Greengrocer and Masterchef dramas allow us to live through the Bible stories through the eyes of the people involved. Congratulations to all the participants, young and not so young.

If you feel you'd like to take part or help with any of the many ways to be more involved in Worship, please get in touch.

Rhona Arthur and Bill Craig

Joint Conveners





Happy Birthday Drama Kirk!

We've been working through some major Old Testament characters in the monthly services at the West. In June, we presented Abraham sending Hagar and Ishmael away. We considered what this must have felt like for the characters, and how they continued to trust in God. In July, we cooked up the tale of Jacob and Esau, using the stage in the West halls to good effect to re-create Jacob's ladder with some fabulous angels. Special mention must go to Jim Henderson for being an incredibly good sport. If you missed this service, you really missed out!

Our involvement in these services continues, please do join us if you can. And now, for autumn plans...

Following our tenth annual Passion Play, it's time to plan some birthday celebrations for Drama Kirk, which all began one autumn evening in 2016 with a meeting in HOPC where we outlined what we were thinking for our first Easter and 'Walk with Christ'. I know a few of you will remember that evening, and our many adventures since.

We are going to celebrate in true Drama Kirk style with an ambitious project. We plan to stage an entire gospel (and a bit) in a day. It will take place on Saturday 14th November, more details to follow. You can come and go as you like, and all are very welcome to be involved or (of course!) to attend as audience.

We will focus on the Gospel of Luke, into Acts. We will start at the beginning of the Gospel story and work our way through every scene until Pentecost and the birth of the church. We will do this in a variety of styles, incorporating scenes from many of the scripts we've used in the past. We also plan to introduce some light-hearted skits and a section of improvised comedy (like we did with 'Whose Word is it Anyway?' in 2019).

It promises to be a fantastic day, showcasing a selection of what we've done in the last decade. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to celebrate, give thanks and highlight the power in bringing the scriptures to life.

As ever, we are grateful for the support, prayers and involvement from the congregation. If you'd like to be part of this, email dramakirk@gmail.com Please do save the date and join our birthday bash!

Liz Blackman



Pastoral Care and Welfare Team

The Summer months are now drawing to a close. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the lovely Summer weather - also the welcome rain needed for the gardens!

We can now look forward to the colours of Autumn.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team have been busy over the Summer months with ongoing visits and a few new visits.

If you know of anyone who might require a visit, please speak to Andrea, myself, or any member of the team.

Maureen has been continuing to send out birthday cards and 'thinking of you' cards over the holiday period. A big thank you to those who have donated stamps and cards. All donations are very welcome.

Care Home Services held in Lornebank and Douglas View on the first Monday of each month have also continued over the holiday period. We have an excellent team doing this worthwhile work but are still looking for volunteers to form a second team to do services in Woodburn Court.

The next social event organised by the Link Team for older members will take place on SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER. Invitations to this event will be sent out soon.

Remember to put the date in your diary!

Elinor Bones

Convener

Hyzone



You are invited to attend Hyzone Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 September 2026 at 7.30 pm in St John's Church Hall, Hamilton.

Margaret McCartney

Brass Band Championships

Each year, the top two bands from the Scottish Brass Band Championships go forward to the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. And this year, as part of Coalburn Intermediate Band, Gregory and Kyle will be representing Scotland in the finals in York on the 20th of September.

Good luck boys! Your church family are very proud of you.



Country Dance Group

As we approach the autumn months it is time to start thinking about indoor pursuits. With that in mind the Country Dance Group will resume their Autumn/Winter session on Tuesday 15 September. We meet in the Large Hall at The West starting at 7.30pm.

New members will be made welcome.

Jennifer Gibson



What a fantastic week the children had at our "Angels and Dragons" Holiday Club. Everyone had great fun enjoying our fitness warm up, crafts and games, singing and dancing and our daily bible story. The holiday club was well attended by 53 children over the course of the week. Most of the children stayed for the afternoon and enjoyed films, games and crafts.

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



Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
06/09/26	Mrs D Foster		Mrs D Foster
13/09/26	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs A Davidson
20/09/26	Flower Fund		Mr C Davidson
27/09/26	Flower Fund		Mrs H McGreevy
04/10/26	Mrs H Blair		Mrs H Blair
11/10/26	Flower Fund		Mrs M Eadie
18/10/26	Mrs H Scott		Mrs H Brown
25/10/26	Flower Fund		Mr K Brown
01/11/26	Mrs M Hindle		Mrs M Hindle
08/11/26	Mrs A Davidson		Miss G Davidson
15/11/26	Flower Fund		Mrs S Gosling
22/11/26	Mrs H Simpson	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs H Simpson
29/11/26	Mrs A Whitehill		Mrs S Samson
06/12/26	Mrs M Henderson	Mrs N Barr	Mrs M Henderson
13/12/16	Mrs E Reid		Mrs L Clayton
20/12/26	Mrs H Troop		Mrs H Troop
27/12/26	Mrs M MacLean		Mrs M MacLean

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



Our family would like to thank everyone for their messages of support, condolence cards and for attending the funeral following the unexpected passing of my mum Jeanette Swinton. It was lovely to see so many of the former North Church family remember her. Many thanks.

Joyce Barr

As a regular worshipper, I would like to pass on my thanks to the 'Gardening Team'. It is such a pleasure each Sunday morning to see the beautiful tubs and troughs filled with colourful flowers on entering the church.

Anon



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*

*15 May 2026
Jeanette Swinton*

*28 May 2026
Agnes Maclucas*

*5 June 2026
Antoinette Girasoli*

*17 June 2026
William Stevenson*

*18 June 2026
Jessie Thomson*

*20 June 2026
Jean Laird*

*20 June 2026
Leila Lindsay*

*28 July 2026
Norah Porteous*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*28 June 2026
William James Russell*





PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
we are humbled by your generosity to us
and by the challenge of representing your interests as your church.
We are thankful to be named as Christians,
by those for us and those against us.
We are grateful that, to you and to others, we carry the scent of Christ,
even as part of our daily walk.
Help us to live up to the name of Christ
in all we think, say, and do.
Help us to go deeper into our relationship with you
even as we share the work of our church
to a world that sorely needs your guidance and direction.
May our will be conformed to yours,
and may you receive the glory for all things.
Hear us and help us, for the sake of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

