



# Tidings



Summer  
June 2017

**MINISTER**

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

**SESSION CLERK**

Mr Louis Munn JP DL

**ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS**

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music) (Hons)  
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 Graham Horne  
CHURCH - Mr David Leishman  
MANSE - Mr Alex Stoddart

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

Mr David Young  
Mrs Wendy Hay

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

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

Scottish Charity SC010855  
[office@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:office@hamiltonold.co.uk)  
[www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org](http://www.hamiltonoldparishchurch.org)

Dear friends,

What wouldn't you give to see God working in our midst? We're not even half way through the year and already it has been a busy time. Winter did not lay fallow, but the spring certainly brought forth fresh growth. As a huge boost to Christian unity in the town, the Holy Week services brought a focus to the story of Christ, and what we do as Christians. Thanks are due to more people than we might name. I hope and trust that our evening Pentecost service, on 4th June, will also be blessed by God and have a further effect.

In our Kirk Session in May, I outlined several forthcoming congregational events that require advance preparation if they are to be achieved. Of great importance is what we do to support the children in our congregation and parish. It was agreed that we will attempt to recruit to the Boys' Brigade; and that we will once more run a Holiday Club towards the end of the summer holidays (August 1st-4th). This year the club will be called "Polar Explorers", and the children will learn about several bible characters. I would encourage you to think about your talents and how you might support this vital work in small and great ways. If you are unsure what you might bring but feel moved to help, please don't wait to be asked. Consider this a personal request, and just volunteer, and I will find a job for you. If you saw the delight on their faces, last year, you already know that the children will greatly appreciate it.

This is just one area that we can work together as a congregation at the heart of the spiritual life of our parish. I have no doubt that there are many more. Please have a think about what your own gifts and talents are. It is so easy to overlook something that God has given us for the benefit of his kingdom. After all, the mustard seed is tiny, yet Jesus used it to illustrate the power of just a little faith (Matthew 17:20). Meanwhile, Jesus also tells us, "lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ripe for harvesting. Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together" (John 4:35-36).

I leave you with this thought. During Holy Week the congregation, the churches, and the town came together. There was a tangible air of anticipation, a buzz, a movement – on the street and in the church. What wouldn't we do to have the opportunity to work with God, to glorify His name, and to be blessed by Him? As individuals and as a church, let us not pass by our chance to reap all the precious benefits of His grace. The blessings are to us and our children (Psalm 115:13-14).

*Your Minister and friend,*

*Ross*



## What's On

### June

04	9.30am	Family Service - North Hall
	10.45am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Joint Evening Service for Pentecost
11	9.30am	Family Service - North Hall
	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
		Sunday Live! Outing
18	6.30pm	Evening Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
	9.30am	Family Service - North Hall
	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
25	9.30am	Family Service - North Hall
	10.45am	Morning Worship - Kirkin' of the Council
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

### July

02	10.45am	Family Service - Rev Dr Charles Stewart
09	10.45am	Family Service - Rev Dr Charles Stewart
16	10.45am	Family Service - Rev Dr Charles Stewart
23	10.45am	Family Service - Douglas Hogg
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
30	10.45am	Family Service - Pre Holiday Club
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

### \*\*\*Holiday Club\*\*\*

**Tuesday 1 August - Friday 4 August  
9.30am - 12.30pm**

### August

06	10.45am	Family Service - Post Holiday Club
13	10.45am	Family Service - Back to School
20	10.45am	Morning Worship
27	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



Pentecost falls on Sunday 4th June, this year. Building on the Christian unity we experienced throughout Holy Week, a joint evening service has been arranged for 6.30pm in the Old Parish. The format of the service will be similar to the Holy Week services in that a variety of the town clergy will have a role in the service and there will be a dramatisation of Pentecost performed.

The response from other churches has been extremely encouraging, with everyone keen to work together again and display that unity in the town.

In terms of the dramatic vignette, many of the cast were delighted to get back together again for a final scene, and many will reprise their roles from Holy Week. Newcomers are also welcome, so – if you were in the congregation during the Passion Play and wondered what it might have been like to be involved – now is your opportunity! Rehearsals will take place at 7.30pm at HOPC on Tuesday 9th, 16th and 30th May, with a final rehearsal after church on 4th June. Everyone is very welcome to come along and be a part of it.

We hope you will support this additional joint service which provides us with a new opportunity to explore the birth of the Christian church, and what the coming of the Holy Spirit means in our lives today.



## Stewardship and Finance

At the time of writing six months have passed since our Gatherings in October. We knew from the outset that it would be some time before we could report on the outcome of our efforts. Changes are still filtering through, however following a meeting with the Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant at the end of March, we are now in a position to give a report on the success to date of the campaign and you can see this report elsewhere in the magazine. It will probably only be when the accounts for 2017 are produced we will see the full effect of our campaign. It does look at this stage that our offerings will be sufficient to meet the **day to day running costs** of the church for the first time in a number of years. Other expenditure such as fabric or the screens and audio equipment is all met from restricted funds which we are fortunate to have due to the sale of buildings, and does **not** come out of the offerings from members.

With effect from 1st April Nesella Barr resigned as Gift Aid Convener. Nesella held this role for many years in the North Church before taking it on in the Old at the time of the union, and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years and for her commitment to the finance committee in general. I have taken over this position and once I get to grips with the process I will report to you in the future.

*Marilyn Henderson*  
Finance Convener



## Fellowship Committee

Having recovered from preparing the Easter morning breakfast, we are now looking at organising the golf day, for early June, (more information to follow), and the bowls day for 3 September. We are also looking at the possibility of having an outing during the summer, but as of now there are no definite plans.

Tickets for the pantomime on the first Saturday in January at the King's Theatre have been booked, but this year they have to be paid for in July, so please keep an eye on the weekly intimation sheet for further details.

Many thanks for your support in the past, and remember if you have any ideas about where to go, who you would like to invite along or anything else, please let any member know and we will certainly have a look at all or any suggestions.

*Iain McLean*  
Convener



## World Mission Stamp Appeal

2016 appeal in total raised £4334. The money will be used for the Othara Eco-spirituality Centre in South India. It will help support their innovations including the harvesting and re-use of rain water, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchen. It is hoped that the knowledge people gain will inspire them to encourage others in their community to do the same, by caring for the earth not only as a calling but as a lifestyle.

2017 appeal by World Mission is for the Giffen Institute of Theology of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. They need books. Having moved to Kakuma, a refugee camp, it is looking to stock up its library for students. Established in 1974 it plays a big part in training people for the ministry.

Help us to support this project by collecting your used stamps and bringing them to the Church Office. They will be passed on to be sold to make money.

After all you would only put them in the bin. Thank you!

*Nessie Garrett*  
World Mission Rep



## Stewardship Success

As you know in 2016 we followed the Church of Scotland Giving for Growth Programme and implemented a Stewardship Campaign which ran for several months. The campaign finished with two successful gatherings held for members on 6th October.

This was the first Stewardship Campaign that we had undertaken since 2010. The Church of Scotland's guidance on Stewardship suggests that a givings campaign should be held every three years.

At the time of the campaign we had 495 members and adherents belonging to 358 households and on average we have 200 members attending Sunday worship.

All members were given a personal invitation to the Gatherings which were delivered to their homes by an excellent team of lady visitors.

84 members +27 participants and helpers attended the 2pm Gathering and 50 members +27 participants and helpers attended the 7pm one, a total of 161 members who responded positively. A further 52 members submitted apologies and were unable to attend for various reasons. If you add the 161 who attended the gatherings to the 52 apologies you get 213 which equates very closely to the 200 core members who attend Sunday worship regularly.

Both Gatherings contained a full programme including meaningful givings related talks, professional entertainment by the choir, outstanding shows of work by all the church organisations and finished with welcome and plentiful refreshments and a demonstration by our accomplished Country Dancing Group.

All member households were provided with a Givings Pack either at the Gatherings if they attended or delivered to their home by the team of visitors if they did not. This pack contained givings related information including response documents.

236 givings responses were received from 174 households representing around 50% of the membership.

From analysis of the responses the following information was gleaned:-

The number of Gift Aid declarations increased from 181 to 203 .....up 22

The number of Standing Order Mandates increased from 139 to 166.....up 27

The number of offering Envelopes decreased from 118 to 107.....due to members switching to Standing Order.

We received 3 requests for information about legacies which was provided to the members who enquired and we also received annual or one-off donations amounting to £5,500.

Now we turn to the overall income position and the reason our Treasurer is going around with a smile on his face. Comparing the income for the months of January and February 2017 with the equivalent months in 2016 we have seen an increase in givings of around 15%.

We are hopeful that this figure of 15% will be improved upon when we are able to compare a full year's figures and the position will continue to be monitored by the Finance Committee.

While we can never be complacent about our church finances we are hopeful that the uplift in givings arising from the campaign will enable the Old Parish to avoid a deficit in 2017.

Finally, we hope you agree that the Stewardship Campaign has delivered a satisfactory outcome. Grateful thanks is due to everyone, elders and members, who worked so hard over several months to support the initiative and contributed to its success.

Thank you all.

*The Finance Committee*



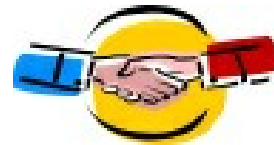
## Sunday Live!

As we begin the fast run up to the Summer holidays Sunday Live is busy as ever. With around 20 children attending most weeks this means the leaders and children are kept busy. The children undertook a Sports morning recently with all ages working together in teams and helping each other to complete a variety of different activities. We have also had some involvement in the Passion Play and would like to say 'Well Done' to Rebecca, Colin and Gregory in their starring roles and thanks to everyone else who attended from Sunday Live. We are currently planning our end of year prize-giving and also trip for Sunday Live and more information will be given in due course regarding these

Finally Sunday Live would like to say one last THANK YOU to Sandy Messer for his hard-work and dedication to the young people in the church and we will miss him (don't forget to leave the sweetie tin). Anyone wishing to help Sunday Live as a leader (on a rota/adhoc basis) please let Lynn McKie or any of the leaders know.

Wishing all the children and leaders at Sunday Live a happy summer when it comes.

*Sunday Live! Leaders*



## The Monday Club

The club enjoyed an excellent trip to The National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh on Monday 3rd April.

Members enjoyed viewing the many fine oil paintings at this venue, some opted for the official tour and our tour guide, Clair was very informative and almost made some of the paintings come to life!! due to her depth of understanding and insight into some of the artists works.

On the way home we went to The West Lothian Golf Club for dinner. This is a favourite venue for The Old Parish members, with good food, service and views over the Forth Estuary, from the dining room.

At our AGM business went very well and I am please to report that we have another four committee members. Their first committee meeting will be on Monday, 5th June at 1.30pm, when we will decide on the speakers for the next session which will begin on Monday, 9th of October.

Have a nice summer break / holiday.

*Charlie Duguid*



## Brownies

One of our leaders Linda had to give up Brownies at end of February due to family commitments. We still have Rachel who is our young leader in training and Eilidh who is doing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at Hamilton Grammar School.

At end of February we had 3 girls completing their Brownie promise badge, so well done to them.

Thanks again for all the support you gave the Brownies at our Annual coffee morning, they raised £186.50, which we used between subsidising their annual census and Hamilton Food bank.

The girls have been busy over the past month making Easter baskets for the over 80's in the church. The girls are going to be doing their craft badge from now until we finish, so hopefully we will manage to complete it over the next four weeks. The Brownies will be finishing up on the 30 May and have voted to have a film night in their PJ's & sleeping bags, so hopefully all goes to plan.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their continued support and wish the girls a lovely summer holiday.

If you know of any girls aged 7/10 years who would like to come along and join us on a Tuesday 6.15pm-7.30pm they will be made very welcome.

We start back 5 September 2017.

*Helen & Lynn*

## Choir

Congratulations from all in choir to Iain and Georgina Keir on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding in April. It was lovely to recognise this event and wish them every blessing.

The current session of choir meetings has now drawn to a close and we certainly have had a busy time with introit/anthem preparations. Choral involvement in Holy Week services provided a joint choir each evening and invitations were extended to local churches to join us. We were privileged to have friends from St. Johns, St. Mary's Episcopal and Cadzow churches join us over a five week block on Wednesday evenings. Many friendships were forged and my sincere thanks go to all who came along and shared in the choral element of worship during Holy Week.

The Clavinova in the Church is in regular use, but from time to time has to be moved for different reasons. It is imperative that anyone moving the instrument uses the trolleys stored at the side of the organ for this. At NO TIME should it be dragged along the carpet. The upper section of keyboard is the heaviest part and some time ago serious damage occurred by pushing the instrument along the carpet. Replacement side panels were installed some time ago, and further damage must be avoided. It is an easy move on the trolleys, but as they extend beyond the instrument, they should be removed after use to avoid accident.

Choir mid week meetings will resume on Wednesday 6th September and folders will be ready for collection on Sunday 27th August.

Thank you to all choir members for their support over another choir session. Your generous and reliable commitment to choir and the major choral contributions you make to many services are very much appreciated. Safe holiday travels as you recharge those batteries for September.

*Helen C Simpson*  
*Organist*



## The Old Kirk Dancers

We have enjoyed a very good season.

The session finished with a party night celebrating 25 years of "The Old Kirk Dancers", this with all thanks to Lottie Condie who had the initiative to start the group, and to whom we are most grateful.

It should be also be noted, during this period of time out teacher, Alison Robertson, has continued to supervise the dances and has shown her appreciation by composing a dance entitled "The Old Kirk Dancers."

For anyone who might be interested the winter session will commence on 12 September 2017, and new members will be made most welcome.

*Irene Mathieson*



## Guild

### Be Bold Be Strong - Go in Joy

Another year of interesting speakers in part 2 of the above theme. We had an average attendance of 15.

Naida is busy working on the syllabus (more about that in Autumn Tidings).

Our musical quiz proved popular with 25 returns (18 all correct). Thank you to Naida who complied the quiz. The winner was Mrs Betty Dick. Thank you to everyone who supported it. £130 was raised towards Guild projects.

I hope the sun shines for you whether at home or abroad and you return with enthusiasm ready to 'Go in Love'.

*Avril Boothroyd*  
*Coordinator*



## Anchor Boys and Bluebells

The session is drawing to a close with the display and parents' night being held in the North Hall on Wednesday 10 May 2017.

The prize winners are as follows:

1st year and green badge - Gregory Blackman, Blair McIntosh, Caleb Nicol and Reece Smith

2nd year and red badge - Stuart Davidson

3rd year, blue badge and promotion certificate to Charlie Finlayson and Liam Murtagh. Our best wishes go to Charlie and Liam as they join the Junior Section.

Emilia Black has moved up to the Brownies and has settled in well.

We hope to have a party to end the session on Wednesday 17 May.

*Nanette McLean*  
*Leader in Charge*



## Junior Section

We recently took the boys on an outing to the museum of transport. Whilst only three boys attended, they all had a great time with all the exhibits. They enjoyed everything from scrubbing the decks on the Tall Ship, to posing for a caricature. Following a break for lunch & ice cream, we took advantage of the great weather and took them to Calderglen Park where they spent a couple of hours in the adventure playground.

We also recently attended the Quarterdeck service at Bothwell Parish where Lewis Chisholm, Colin Davidson and Calum Ewart were presented with the Battalion PE trophy, they won earlier in the year.

Finally, we recently presented our awards at the BB display.

The Junior Bible award was won by Calum Ewart, while Colin Davidson won the Senior Bible award.

The May Walker memorial trophy for Best Attendance was won jointly by Lewis Chisholm & Colin Davidson. The John Walker memorial trophy for overall Best Boy was won (again!!) by Colin Davidson.

All the boys worked very hard throughout the year. Nathan Leisegang earned his Junior Target badge, while Calum Ewart, Michael Lawson & Calum Mackay earned their Bronze badge. Josh Greaney earned his Silver award. Lewis Chisholm, Colin Davidson & Euan Parker earned their Gold. These three, plus Calum Mackay have now been promoted to the Company Section and all leave with our best wishes.

We had Lewis McParlane with us this year as part of his Queens badge work. Lewis was a great asset to the section, and worked well with the boys. Many thanks Lewis.

Finally I would like to thank Frank Gardiner, Graham Horne & Ross Smart for their work & support throughout the year. On behalf of all of us, we hope you have a great Summer and we look forward to welcoming the boys back in September.

*Alan Brown*  
*Leader in charge*

## Boys' Brigade Company Section



### PT and Vaulting

The boys acquitted themselves well in the Battalion PT and Vaulting competition, requiring skills on the mat and with a variety of vaults over the box. Almost all of the boys in the Company took part, and will have gained good experience for having another bash at the competition next year.

### Swimming Gala

Struan Wilson, David Chisholm and Euan Davidson represented the Company at the Battalion Swimming Gala, competing in the individual and team events. The dream team did the Company proud again, and they all managed to complete the front crawl, breast stroke, backstroke and butterfly events without having to be hauled spluttering from the pool.

Struan won the individual gold medal, adding to his tally of gold medals from the Battalion individual badminton and table tennis, completing a remarkable haul, and one which may not have been achieved in the Battalion before.

### Badges

All of the boys have done exceptionally well throughout the session. The year has flown past with badgework and Company events, and National and Battalion competitions. The boys have received well merited Discover programme badges for the work done by them. They deserve huge credit for their commitment, conduct, enthusiasm, and willingness to do whatever has been asked of them.

### Display and Presentation of Awards

The Company held its Display on Wednesday 10 May 2017 with the Anchors, Juniors and Company Section all putting on a show.

Bill Craig was tremendous as our Chief Guest and Inspecting Officer. Great credit is due to him, along with our Chaplain and Session Clerk and selected parents, for taking part with such gusto in one of the Anchor Boy games. Needless to say the Anchor Boys won, but the more "seasoned" team did not let themselves down.

In recognising the achievements of all the boys and their support for each other, Bill was hugely inspiring, drawing on his own B.B. experiences as a boy, parent and officer, and encouraging the boys in all of their activities. Bill has always been a great supporter of the B.B, and especially our own Company, and we could not have had anyone better suited to be our Inspecting Officer. We are very grateful to him for giving up his time and coming along to enjoy the evening with us.

For the Company Section the awards presented were:

Mrs J M Mackechnie Recruit Challenge Medal

James Alston Dykes Indian Challenge Medal for General Efficiency

John Allan Trophy for Most Improved Boy

Junior Bible Exam Challenge Trophy

Misses Jamieson Senior Bible Exam Challenge Trophy

Mr & Mrs A Harley Squad Challenge Trophy

Greg McIntosh

David Chisholm

Euan Davidson

Lewis McParlane

David Anderson

Euan Davidson

David Anderson

Sam Walker

Struan Wilson

Ewan McIntosh

Euan Davidson

## Queen's Badges

Queen's Badges were presented to our four senior young men: Sam Walker, Lewis McParlane, David Anderson and Struan Wilson.

The Queen's Badge is the highest award in The Boys' Brigade. It requires commitment and hard work over about 18-24 months. The boys require to attend a Candidates' Conference followed by a weekend of residential training at Boys' Brigade Scottish Headquarters. They must then complete at least thirty hours of voluntary service, develop a new or existing skill for 3-6 months, demonstrate progress in a new or existing physical activity for 3-6 months, complete a two night and three day Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, take on a leadership role in the Company for a full session, and finally attend and complete satisfactorily a Lanarkshire District Completion Course. The award is difficult to achieve and rightly so, since it is only gained by young men who have shown the necessary commitment, perseverance, skill, enthusiasm and character.

Our four young men richly deserve their awards. They are all thoroughly decent laddies who in addition to having all of the usual characteristics of lads of their age, have conducted themselves in the Company with great dedication, enthusiasm, integrity. In the best traditions of the Brigade by their own example they have set high standards for the younger lads to follow. We sincerely hope that they will all continue to have a leadership role within the Company. We do not want to lose young men of their quality.

All four have also gained their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Along with Fraser Ewart they now plan to embark on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Fraser completed his officer training this year. He is a great addition to the Company staff and the boys have already responded well to the classes he has taken. He is a naturally gifted leader, and the Company Section is much strengthened by having him on board.

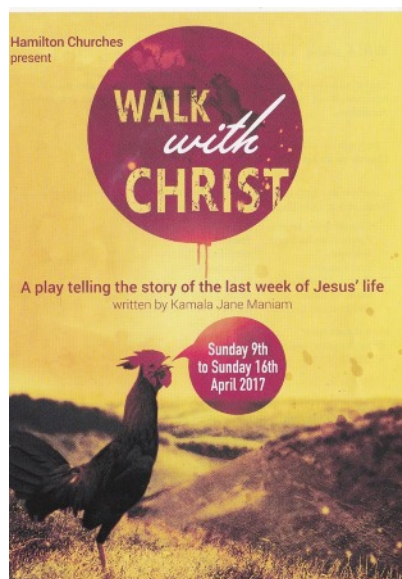
## Company Thanks

We have almost reached the end of the session, and on behalf of the Company I would like to thank our Chaplain Ross for his support during the year, and for leading the devotions at our Display, Andrea in the Church office for her BB related help all done with good humour, and our Liaison Elders, Alex Stoddart for the Anchors, Sandy McKinnon and now Andrea Davidson for the Juniors, and Louis Munn for the Company Section, who provide an essential link between the Company and the Kirk. Special thanks are due to Sandy who retired this year after many years of faithful service to the Juniors. Thank you too to all the families of the boys for encouraging their attendance and participation in all of the Company's activities, and to the congregation for their valued and unending support. Huge thanks are due as always to the officers and staff who continue to give so freely of their time and talents, nurturing and inspiring the boys through the Anchors, Juniors and Company Sections. Finally, and most importantly, thanks are due also to the boys for their attendance, hard work, enthusiasm, for the fun and enjoyment they bring, and for making what we do so worthwhile.

*Alistair Buttery*  
*Captain*



## Walk With Christ – Passion Play 2017



What an amazing Holy Week we all experienced! I suspect there are very few who could not see the hand of God blessing what the churches did together.

My own part in that, producing the Passion Play, was also richly blessed and I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported it in any way.

In reality it takes an awful lot of willing and committed people to make something like that happen. People lent their time and talents by the bucketload to the production and it was very much the richer for the involvement of so many talented people.

Like any first time, there have been lots of lessons to learn along the way. One of these for me was the involvement of a professional actor to play Jesus. I was convinced from outset that we would need a professional actor to do the role; however I was very surprised by how

difficult it was to “find” Jesus...of course in hindsight the deeper meaning of this is crystal clear, but at the time I was completely perplexed. My own memories of being an out of work actor meant I expected to be swamped by actors wanting to take on the job... but not one CV appeared. As we carried on in rehearsals without someone in the role, however, I saw our local company strengthen and bond.

When we were initially offered the opportunity to share Edinburgh’s Jesus, I was reluctant, simply because of the complexities of him being in both productions. (Again, in hindsight, what does it say that the minister’s wife didn’t want to “share Jesus”???) My reluctance was completely misplaced and was wiped away as soon as he walked into his first rehearsal.

Duncan Rennie, who portrayed Jesus, has played Jesus in the Edinburgh Easter Play for several years now and was such a blessing to us. It was great to have someone so experienced in the role. Duncan was also a delight to work with and very laid back, despite working with us on something so new.

I am sure we all recognised his phenomenal talent– but for me the defining moment was the confidence with which he took to the streets of Hamilton, supported by a company who transported us back to first century Jerusalem. The younger ones also did so well on Palm Sunday, what an achievement for them. It was a very special start to the week.

The media coverage was a welcome surprise, with four main articles in the Hamilton advertiser over the course of preparations and Holy Week itself. It was great to see that the work we were doing together was capturing imaginations outwith the churches, from the very first headline which declared “Churches Unite for Passion Play”. We also (thanks to Ian and Caroline Goodship) had two interviews broadcast on Revival FM. What an amazing way to get the gospel story out into our local community.

Publishing sermons on YouTube since November also set us in good stead for outreach. Each night after the service, the dramatic vignette and sermon was uploaded onto YouTube. There were more than 6,000 views on our YouTube channel in April; another amazing way of sharing the gospel! Many of you have told me how you appreciated being able to follow Holy Week back home whilst you were away, which was great to hear.

The many positive comments we received throughout the week were very much appreciated. My thanks also to those who took the time to complete the feedback forms. The results of these follow.





“What’s next?” is something I am being asked regularly. Well, first of all (thanks to the help of Karen Rollins and Iain Morris) we will have screenings of the DVD of the passion play in June – keep an eye on the intimation sheets for more details. Having viewed the trailer I am now desperate to see how the film turns out. This gives us a lovely opportunity as a community to re-live (as far as possible) an amazing week.



Then, we will have Pentecost. You can see what we will be up to then in a separate article...do think about getting involved. The more the merrier.

Finally, we are looking forward to Holy Week 2018. There was clearly an appreciation of the format, i.e. having a dramatised scene as part of worship each day, however my own view is that we should not repeat the same format but take the opportunity to consolidate our learning from this year and produce a full Passion Play in the streets of Hamilton, most likely on Easter Saturday. This would be another great opportunity for the churches to work together in our local community, taking the redeeming story of the gospel into the very heart of the town.

There is clearly a lot to think about between now and next Easter, and I am always happy to hear suggestions. So, please do speak to me.

I will leave you with a sentiment I received on some beautiful flowers from the cast and crew....  
“May you always ‘Walk with Christ’”.

*Liz Blackman*





## Compilation of all the Holy Week and Passion Play links.

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/213514990>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PassionPlayLanarkshire/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmns-zhHnHAXOiDaxOQ5oig>

Links to Press releases:

Passion Trust: <http://passion-plays.co.uk/hamilton/>

Church of Scotland: [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/ground-breaking\\_passion-plays](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/ground-breaking_passion-plays)

Hamilton Presbytery of the Church of Scotland:

<https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonPresbytery/posts/1294597487261872>

Daily Record [20 March 2017]: <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/bible-story-staged-hamilton-churches-10085624>

Motherwell Times [2 April 2017]: <http://www.motherwelltimes.co.uk/news/passion-of-christ-is-the-story-of-a-messiah-who-lived-in-the-street-1-4410077>

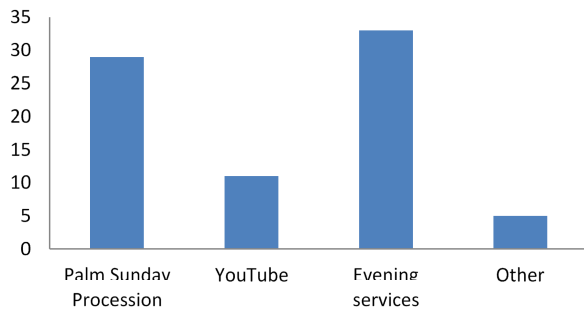
Daily Record [8 April 2017]: <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/hamilton-churches-prepare-outdoor-passion-10171614>

Daily Record [14 April 2017]: <http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/crowds-gather-hamiltons-town-centre-10220120>

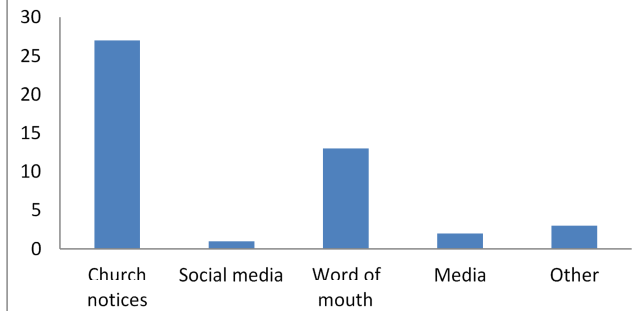


## Walk with Christ Summary Evaluation 2017

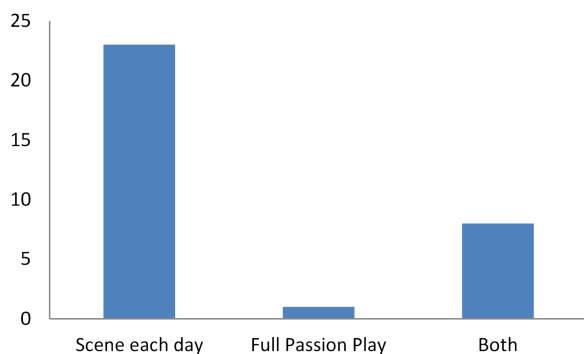
What/How did you attend?



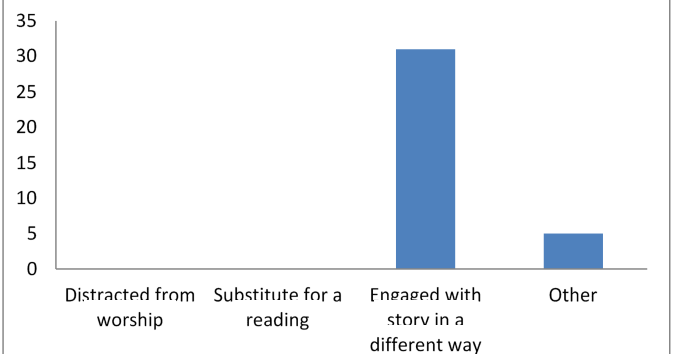
How did you hear about the Passion Play?



What would you prefer?



How did it complement your worship?



How did you feel about the Passion Play?

It was a stage beyond scripture readings, created the impression of being there

Congregations united and kept coming back for more

Very emotional as the story unfolded day by day. Especially the Last Supper.

It brought the events to life which evoked a very emotional response

It was a wonderful idea. Instructive, emotional, enlightening. A renewal of faith.

Making me think about my Christian commitment. Helped me deepen my faith.

An experience I would not have missed for anything. Very moving indeed and very emotional.

It brought home the Easter message in a way I have never experienced before.

Reaffirmed my faith. Have been struggling recently.

I liked the combination with church service in terms of attracting people.

Nice to see engaging passers by as well as those in the town centre.

I'm not a church member but it was very moving and uplifting.

Great to see the churches working in unity and looking at new ways to engage and work together and involve/engage local community.

I have never seen anything like it. It has had a huge affect and I haven't been able to stop thinking about it.

I have been told the story of Jesus my whole life but to see our Passion Play brought it home to me in a very special way

Very pleased it was brought to the streets of and for the people of Hamilton. A memorable and especially meaningful Holy Week.

A truly memorable, moving experience. Felt we were there, **walked with Christ** and were part of it.

## Leading Worship Workshop

I'm sure most of you will be used to seeing me on a Sunday morning, acting as beadle, doing the readings and, since my ordination as an Elder, on door duty, uplifting the offering and serving communion.

Many of you will have seen me taking part in services over the last few months; leading prayers of intercession, delivering a children's address, preaching a sermon, and conducting the service on 2nd April. On each of these occasions, I received some fantastic comments of support and encouragement - Thank You!

Last year I 'signed up' for a workshop led by Hamilton Presbytery for those interested in leading worship within their own congregation. Having attended a 'taster' session, I realised other churches regularly have input from their congregation in conducting worship and I was keen to explore this within the Old Kirk.

On some of the dreariest, darkest and coldest nights of Autumn and Winter I attended modules in the Presbytery office in Motherwell. Along with around 15 others from various local churches, we explored topics such as music, prayer, putting together a sermon, multi media and intergenerational worship. There was also a fair bit of homework in the form of assignments. Having sat in my pew each week, I really had no idea how much thought went into a service and the amount of planning this takes, so that Sunday by Sunday, we enjoy a meaningful and uplifting act of worship.

When I led worship on 2nd April, two members of Presbytery were in the congregation to assess me. The first time I'd taken a service - and I'm being assessed! No pressure!! The feedback was really positive and again I'm grateful to everyone for the kind comments I received at the door. I'm pleased to report it's been confirmed I'll receive my certificate of accreditation to lead worship, at the Presbytery meeting in May.

I've thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the services in Hamilton Old and look forward to this continuing. In fact, Ross has already got me pencilled in to cover while he is on holiday in July. Through time, I hope to develop my own style and introduce a couple of the things I learned on the workshop.

From the very beginning, Ross has always been there and I'll forever be indebted to him for his friendship and support. I look forward to supporting him in the coming months and I hope you'll continue to enjoy my involvement as we praise God together.

*Douglas Hogg*



## Christian Aid

There was a meeting of the Hamilton Christian Aid Committee on 20 April. The focus is on Christian Aid week which is from 14-20 May. Volunteers are required to help with door-to-door collections, the town centre collection and bakers/servers to help with the Christian Aid Tearoom in St John's Church. As always, all are welcome to visit the tearoom to help raise funds for Christian Aid. The funds raised are used for various Christian Aid activities around the world. You can find out more about these here <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week>. Your support is much appreciated.

*Amanda Strachan*

## Fair Trade

After having attended a conference for World Mission on 22 April on Fair Trade I am looking for information regarding this in the Church before the North Church joined.

1. Was there someone in the congregation who took to do with Fair Trade?
2. Was there ever Fair Trade goods for sale?

If anyone can tell me anything I would be very grateful.

*Nessie Garrett*



### Flower List 2017

June	04	Mrs Irvine
	11	Mrs Gordon
	18	Mrs Taylor
	25	Mrs Mair
July	02	Mrs Elder
	09	Mrs Buttery
	16	Mrs Brown
	23	Mrs Stenton
August	30	Mrs Queen
	06	Mrs McKinnon
	13	Mrs Morrow
	20	Flower Fund
September	27	Mrs Nelson
	03	Mrs McLean
	10	Mrs Downie



Thank you to everyone who has gifted flowers over the past year. There are two dates available on the flower list - 20 August and 19 November - and several dates on the Rose Bowl.

*E Gardiner*

01698 427852

### Flower Delivery

June	04	Mrs A Cunningham
	11	Mrs E Irvine
	18	Mrs E Gardiner
	25	Mrs L Clayton
July	02	Mrs K Hunter
	09	Mrs M Gilroy
	16	Mrs H McGreevy
	23	Mrs N Naismith
August	30	Miss M Richardson
	06	Mrs M Latimer
	13	Mrs H Lyon
	20	Mrs C McCrudden
September	27	Mrs B Stoddart
	03	Mrs M Baird
	10	Mrs M Eadie



Flowers are usually delivered after the Morning Service. If the date is unsuitable, please try to re-arrange or contact:

*Kate Morrow*

01698 420748

### Rose Bowl List 2017

June	11	E Harley
July	02	J Orr
	09	F Hunter
	16	L Craig
	30	I Samson
August	13	G Robertson
	20	N Meek
	27	M McGlynn
September	03	P Scott
	10	G Keir



### Thank You

Carole McCrudden and her family would like to thank everyone for their cards and support on the passing of Carole's Dad, Walter Coltart.



Almighty God,  
 What would you have us do  
 that we might serve You  
 in ways that please You.  
 You cast down those  
 with a haughty spirit,  
 but You raise up and bless  
 those who are humble.  
 Help us to see  
 that true humility involves action  
 and the use of what You have given us  
 in ways that bless your people,  
 advance your kingdom,  
 and glorify Your holy name.  
 We confess that we are nervous  
 about letting our light shine.  
 But, with you to guide our way,  
 as a light in a dark place,  
 we realise that we are never alone.  
 Ever lead us  
 and we shall be safe  
 in the will of God;  
 Christ beside us.  
 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*

*14 February 2017*

*Thomas Tait*

*20 February 2017*

*May Hunter*

*24 February 2017*

*Margaret Buchanan*

*27 February 2017*

*Margaret Cornish*

*10 March 2017*

*Jean Smith*

*11 March 2017*

*Annie Dunse*

*1 April 2017*

*Robert Montgomery*

*11 April 2017*

*Donald Sturrock*

*20 April 2017*

*Richard Best*

*28 April 2017*

*Mary Laird*

*1 May 2017*

*Walter Coltart*

## *Baptisms*

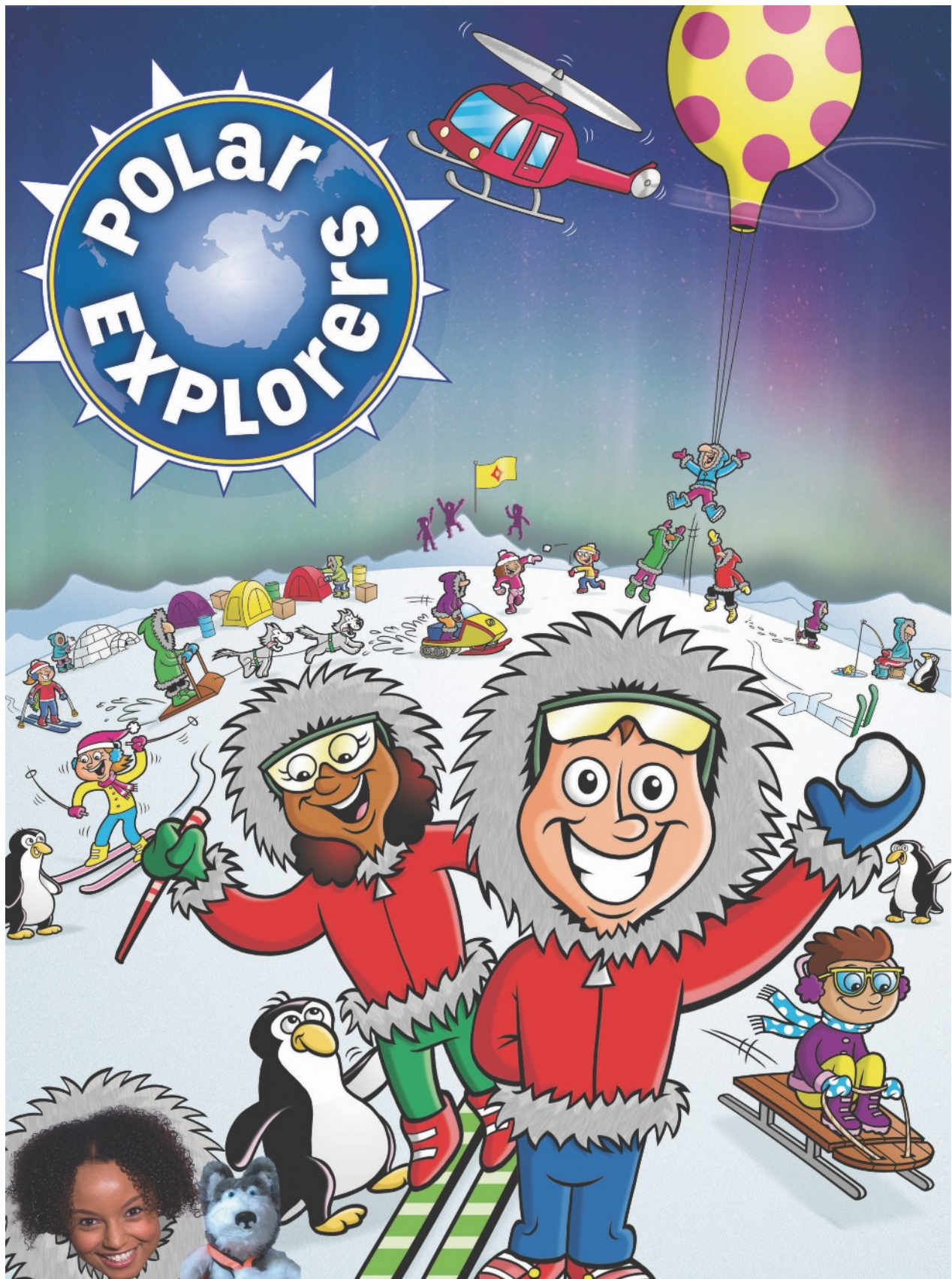
***"Let the children come to me"***

*8 April 2017*

*Gail Fulton*

*Ava Grace Fulton*





Children's Holiday Club  
 Entries to P1, up to P7  
 Tuesday 1 August - Friday 4 August  
 9.30am - 12.30pm  
 Eskimo snacks will be provided

