



# Tidings



Easter  
March 2016

**MINISTER**

Rev Ross Blackman  
Parish Halls, Leechlee Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 640185

**SESSION CLERK**

Mr Louis Munn JP DL

**DEPUTE SESSION CLERK**

Mr William Wilson

**ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS**

Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music)  
138 Kylepark Drive, Uddingston, G71 7DD ☎ 01698 815360

**DEPUTE ORGANIST**

Mr Campbell Barr

**CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mrs Marilyn Henderson

**TREASURER**

Mr Alan Blue

**PROPERTY CONVENER**

Mr John Downie

**Vice Conveners**

HALLS - vacant

CHURCH - Mr David Leishman

MANSE - Mr Alex Stoddart

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Mrs Nesella Barr

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

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

**CHURCH CARETAKER/CLEANER**

Mrs Forbes Hood,  
Parish Halls, Leechlee Road, Hamilton ML3 6AQ ☎ 01698 281905

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Dear friends

It is a pleasure to be able to write to you at the start of 2016. In coming to the Auld Kirk, I had anticipated a steep learning curve and the challenge of putting a few names to faces over the first couple of months. The truth is that I have been so busy I have not had time to notice in what direction the curve was pointing though I have had the opportunity to ascertain some of “the usual suspects” and the incredible amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Over the festive holidays I had anticipated a short reprieve to assess the lay of the land and sketch out some early plans but, as Burns was wont to say, “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley”.

I arrived in time for the start of Advent, and now we already face Lent together. This will present its own challenges on the lead up to reflecting on Easter morn, a morning that should rightly dawn in all of our hearts. It is a season when we reflect on the meaning of sacrifice, even the ultimate sacrifice. As Paul stated, “Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die” (Romans 5:7). The only exception to that general rule is when it involves our nearest and dearest. What would we not sacrifice for our own?

So, developing the theme of relationship within families, the Kirk, the wider community, and with God, has been my focus, and they are linked. They are linked in time, on one scale or another. They are linked in space, insomuch as we bump into each other in the home, church, and town. They are linked in the emotions, as we recognise our familial bonds, our fraternal bonds, our Christian bonds, and our national bonds. In each we acknowledge a sense of being, a sense of belonging.

Yet, in a generation fixated on individuality, on independence of mind and body, and in a time of austerity, it is easy to lose our sense of connectedness. It is easy to forget that each of us lives in relationship with each other, and that requires compassion and sacrifice if it is to run smoothly. However, as Christians, there is but little difference in how our relationships ought to be manifested. These layers are distinguished only by proximity, and this gives us a unique opportunity to explore them. In our Sunday morning services we have been encouraged to develop the foundation of our devotional life through attention to scripture, reading just a chapter of the New Testament each day. Now we tease open our relationships within the Kirk and what it truly means to be a church family as children of God living and working together. I want to leave you with a single question: What would we not sacrifice for our own?

Every rich blessing, now and always

Your Minister and friend

*Ross*



## What's On

### March

#### Mother's Day

Sunday	06	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	08	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	13	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Joint Communion Service at HOPC

#### Palm Sunday

Sunday	20	10.45am	Morning Worship followed by Congregational Meeting
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### Holy Week

Holy Week Services will be held in St Mary's Episcopal Church.  
Full details will be available via the Intimation Sheets during March.

Sunday	27	6.30am	Dawn Service followed by breakfast
		10.45am	Easter Day Service followed by Communion
		3.00pm	Woodburn Court

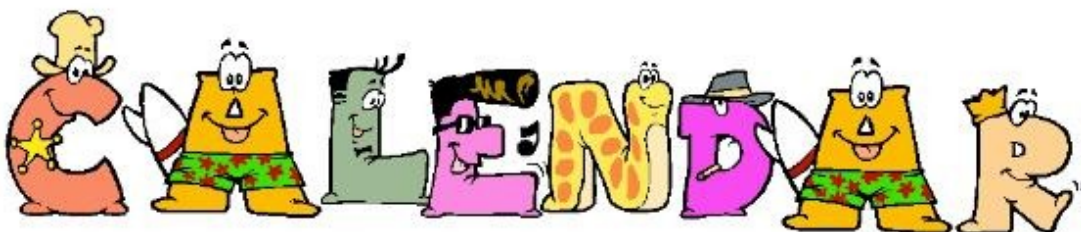
### April

Sunday	03	10.45am	Morning Worship
	10	10.45am	Morning Worship
	17	10.45am	Morning Worship
		6.30pm	Divine Light Service
	24	10.45am	Morning Worship
		3.00pm	Woodburn Court



### May

Sunday	01	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday	08	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	10	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	15	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	10.45am	Morning Worship
		3.00pm	Woodburn Court
		1.00pm	Heart and Soul, Princes Street, Edinburgh
			Start of General Assembly
Sunday	29	10.45am	Boys' Brigade Service & Presentation of Awards
		3.00pm	Woodburn Court



## Stewardship & Finance

At the time of writing, the 2015 accounts are being finalised but are expected to show another deficit. The budget presented to the Kirk Session in January showed a projected deficit of around £21,000 for 2016. At this rate we will run out of money in a few years so we need to do something NOW. We are looking at ways to cut back expenditure however any savings will be small and will not amount to £21,000. To balance the books, we therefore have to increase our givings. The finance committee is planning a Gift Day alongside a Stewardship Campaign in June. Meetings have been set up to move this forward. A fundraising group has also been set up comprising of representatives from all organisations. A number of good ideas came out of a recent meeting and this group will now look at what events to have, who will run them and the timing of them so we don't have clashes or too many at the same time. Hopefully these measures will see our church finances return to a positive position.

*Marilyn Henderson*  
Finance Convener



## Property Committee

The Church car park is being increasingly used by people outwith the congregation, it has now come to the point when a barrier is required to allow members to use the car park when visiting the halls or parking for a short period of time. Details on its operation will be given when it is erected.

Repairs to the Hall's roofs will take place over the coming months when scaffolding will be required to be erected to facilitate the works.

Beadles, please note that after Services the external Church doors are required to be **secured and checked they are locked**, as on 3 occasions this has not been carried out.

We are all saddened by the death of our Halls Convener Jim McCartney. Jim was a valuable member of the Property Committee for many years and gave his time freely and willingly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and son Neil.

*John Downie*  
Property Convener



## Fellowship Committee

Since the last issue, we had the congregational Christmas lunch on Sunday, 6 December, and followed that with a most enjoyable Carols by Candlelight evening in the Church on Friday, 11 December. Our gratitude is extended to everyone who contributed to the concert, the Saffronhall Singers conducted by Campbell Barr (can someone please get some new jokes to him for next year, please), and those who contributed with shortbread, etc. on the day, and with the clearing up afterwards.

On 9 January, we had a trip to the pantomime at the King's Theatre Glasgow, where we saw Snow White and the 7 Dwarves, an event which proved popular enough to have some folks asking if we intended doing the same again this year, (oh yes they did) and the answer is we plan to do so.

We are currently planning our "Burns' Lunch", which is being held on Sunday 21 February after the morning service. There are singers, speakers, readers all in place, so we can now hope that it all goes as well as we think it will.

The next planned item will be the Easter breakfast following the dawn service, so we expect most of you will be there.

*Iain McLean*  
Convener



### Crèche

A crèche is held in the Church Halls every Sunday from 10.30am until the end of the Church Service. If you would like to have a baby or a young child looked after during this time please come and see us in the room next to the Office.

*Catherine Southgate*



### Sunday Live

Christmas is still ringing in our ears as we prepare for March Tidings. Our memories are of advent calendars, selection boxes, Christmas crackers, Nativity Play and Christmas Pie Sunday complete with a visit from Santa. Didn't we do well!!

Mother's Day (6 March) and Easter (25 March) are on our "to do" list.

An outing is planned and details will be forthcoming. . . One thing for sure it looks very energetic and not suited to the writer.

We would also acknowledge how indebted we are to the late Jim McCartney. Margaret was our leader for many years and Jim was involved in all our fund raisers and outings. We will miss him.

Current teaching materials are being reviewed with the advice of our leader the Rev Ross Blackman.

Our offerings for 2015 of £270.00 were passed to the Kirk Session to be passed on to those children less fortunate than ourselves.

Happy Easter to all our readers.

*Sandy Messer*

### 1970 Ladies' Club

We are finishing our current session with our annual Coffee Evening on 10 March when we will be entertained by the Caley Male Voice Choir. This is followed by the AGM and Beetle Drive on 17 March. Please note this is a change of date from the one in the syllabus.

*Avril Cunningham*  
*President*



### Link Committee

Our next event will be our Easter Service which will take place on Saturday 26 March at 2.00pm. The invitations will be delivered by your Elder with the Communion cards.

*Your Convener*  
*Jim Naismith*



### Old Kirk Dancers

The Country Dancers enjoyed their Christmas Dance which was held in the Stonehouse Lifestyle Centre during December. This was an exceptionally super evening with 80 dancers in attendance.

The class is now well under way after the Christmas break and an invitation is extended to all to join in the fun. It is also a great way to exercise.

We meet on Tuesday evenings 7.45pm to 9.45pm. Look forward to seeing you.

*Irene Mathieson*



## Guild

Be bold be strong "Go in Peace"

We have enjoyed a variety of speakers on interesting topics and are looking forward to hearing "Mary Slessor" talk later in February.

The Guild finishes with a musical afternoon by a "Touch of Class". Tickets are available for this event. I hope we can have the support of our Church family (men and women) to join us on this occasion.

We have introduced a "Martha Table" at Guild (to raise funds). Members bring along items for sale and if something takes your fancy put a donation in the box.

I hope you managed to complete one of our quiz sheets (TV programmes past and present) recently.

Thank you for your continued interest.

*Avril Boothroyd*  
Coordinator



## Brownies

The Brownies had another great evening at the pantomime at Motherwell in December, and their Christmas party followed the next week, another fun night. We started back in January and the girls decided they wanted to do the Fire Safety badge which we are going to cover over the next few weeks, with a trip to the Fire Headquarters in February, which should be good. We have three new Brownies who are going to be making their promise later in February. We are once again going to be organising a coffee slot on Sunday 6 March, your support would once again be appreciated.

If anyone knows of any girl aged 7-10 years who would like to come along on a Tuesday evening 6.15-7.30pm to join in at brownies they would be made most welcome.

*Helen, Linda, Lynn*

**Brownies**



## Saffronhall Singers

Our session is progressing well and attendance has been excellent throughout. In December we were delighted to host the Carols by Candlelight in a well packed church and feedback indicates that everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The music will become available on the church website shortly. There are some technical issues to resolve before that happens. Thanks are due to Paul McCrudden who manned the sound desk and to Jim Henderson who deals with editing and transferring everything to the website. We must also thank the Fellowship Committee for the lovely supper provided. Proceeds from the evening were shared between the Fellowship Committee and the Singers and this income was added to our donation to church funds.

At the time of writing, we are busy preparing for a concert in Gilmour / Whitehill Church in Burnbank and hopefully, by the time you read this article, we will have enjoyed another successful evening. Our last few rehearsals for this session will focus on learning some of the new pieces which we hope to add to our repertoire. Our final practice will be on Monday 21 March and we will resume on Monday 19 September.

Thanks to everyone for the loyal support and enthusiastic contributions to our group and I would particularly mention our gratitude to Lilian, our accompanist who gives us such excellent support week by week.

*Campbell Barr*

### Revised Elders' Districts

As you may recall when Hamilton North and The Old Parish united it was decided by the Kirk Session to maintain each church's elders' districts in their original format, for a short transitional period, to allow our respective members and elders some time to familiarise themselves with the union and get to know each other. I'm sure you will agree that in many respects that process has been seamless and we are now enjoying the fruits of everyone's efforts in what is recognised as being a very successful and harmonious union.

However some elders have become increasingly concerned as time has passed about apparent duplications in areas being covered, evidenced in some cases by different elders visiting different families in the same street. This coupled with the fact that some districts have, for a variety of reasons, recently lost elder coverage prompted a complete review of elders' districts within the united parish to achieve a more equitable and geographically appropriate spread of visiting responsibilities throughout the eldership.

The difficult and rather complicated process of revising the districts has just been completed by Malcolm Macintyre and I am indebted to him for all of his hard work over many weeks. Consequently we are now about to introduce the revised districts, possibly in time to allow elders to visit before our next Communion in March. The majority of districts have remained largely unchanged. However, inevitably a minority of districts have changed considerably and some for a variety of reasons now have different elders appointed to them. I am conscious of the fact that nobody relishes change for the sake of it but would ask you to accept that if your particular district or elder has changed then that has been for the best of reasons. Elders are free to visit any member so a change of district elder should not mean that a previous relationship built up over many years has to end and I would seek and appreciate the cooperation and understanding of all members and elders in that regard.

If any member or elder has a serious difficulty with the revised arrangements please do not hesitate to speak to me.

*Louis R Munn*  
*Session Clerk*



### Choir

We are well into the session and continuing with our mid week rehearsals on Wednesday evenings preparing each week for Sunday worship. The music now takes us through the season of Lent and into Easter. The choir will again be delighted to support the Link Committee at their annual service at the end of March.

Attendance has been excellent both on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday mornings, and fortunately we have had a kinder start to the winter months in weather compared to last year.

Thank you to Retta Mullen for our Christmas chocolates, and to the donor of the very large box of chocolates to the Choir in January "in appreciation". We managed to devour each box over two weeks!! - we did do our rehearsals first though .

Ross has already introduced us to several new hymns and I am always pleased at how well you attempt new music as a Congregation. When a new piece is included in the service, and to help you, if you are listening carefully at the start of the service, the organ will be quietly sowing seeds of a new melody for you to try.

Our final mid week meeting this session will take place on Wednesday 27 April when all music should be returned up to 24 April. My thanks to Campbell, who will deputise, when I take a few weeks break in April to recharge on Vitamin D!

*Helen C. Simpson*  
*Organist*  
[helensimps@sky.com](mailto:helensimps@sky.com)



## Company Section

### Rev Ross Blackman

We are delighted that on 19 November 2015 the Reverend Ross Blackman was ordained into the Ministry and inducted as Minister of the Old Parish. Euan Davidson from the Company Section presented Ross with a Bible on behalf of the congregation. Ross now becomes the Company's Chaplain and has been already to visit the Anchors and Bluebells, and the Junior and Company Sections. Christian faith underpins all of the work done in The Boys' Brigade, and we look forward to working closely with Ross exploring and developing the boys' own faith, and to involving him fully in the Company's activities.



### World Mission

The presentation of The Boys' Brigade World Mission cheque to the Moderator of the General Assembly, and the presentation by the Moderator of the trophies to the Companies raising the highest amounts, took place at South Queensferry Parish Church on 20 November 2015. We are grateful to Ewan McIntosh, David Chisholm and Graham Horne for attending the event on behalf of the Company, and receiving the Company Section Trophy for the highest total and the Best Average Trophy for the highest amount raised per boy.



### National Senior 5-a-sides

Russell Anderson, Sam Walker, Lewis McParlane, Cameron Marks, David Anderson and Jack Anderson took part again this year in the National Senior 5-a-sides held in Greenock. We were drawn in a group that had some pretty decent teams and despite a good effort we didn't make it through to the next round. For some reason on several occasions the referee viewed as dirty tackles what we regarded as robust challenges, so at least it was some compensation that we managed to finish high up in the crime count with one sending off and a variety of other robust challenges committed! The boys do make us proud. Very proud.



### Battalion Badminton

A team comprising Lewis McParlane, David Chisholm and Euan Davidson went to take part in the Battalion Badminton Competition on 14 November 2015. Having arrived at Hamilton College for a 9am start confusion reigned when the caretaker advised there was a problem since that he could not find Annette. No one knew who or where she was until it became clear that he was actually looking for a net! Sadly without Annette the competition had to be postponed to 16 January 2016, when Struan Wilson, David Chisholm and Euan Davidson represented the Company in the team and individual competitions. All three played extremely well and received silver medals for coming second in the team event, with Struan receiving an additional silver as runner up in the Senior Individual. Congratulations are due to all three lads for turning in such a great performance.



### National Table Tennis

Cameron Marks, Struan Wilson and Jack Anderson did very well again this year, making it through to the last sixteen of the National Table Tennis before being knocked out by 1st Grangemouth. While it was disappointing not to progress further into the competition, Grangemouth won the national competition last year, and all three lads in their team play regularly for a table tennis club and in their own Battalion's Table Tennis league. As always though it was good to meet and share time with boys and officers from other Companies.



### **Badgework**

The boys have completed a number of badgework classes, including a course run by Russell Anderson on refereeing. Russell is now a qualified referee and as part of his Queen's Badge, and in his incomparable style, he ran a class over several weeks on the rules of football rounded off with a highly entertaining quiz. It was great fun and perhaps what we learned may help with the National 5-a-sides next year. Then again – probably not.

Fraser Ewart and Cameron Marks have now taken over where Russell left off, taking classes on politics and democracy and road safety and alcohol respectively. Fraser is in the process of completing his Youth Leader Training to become a fully qualified officer, and has just to undergo a residential training weekend at Carronvale. That happens to include Valentine's Day but he is already showing the right attitude in giving priority to all things BB!

Cameron along with Russell is moving towards completion of his Queen's Badge, and the experience of teaching the boys will stand him in good stead for the Completion Residential at Carronvale at the end of April.

Meantime as part of their Queen's Badge leadership work Struan Wilson has been helping with the Anchor Boys and Sam Walker has joined the staff in the Junior Section. Both of them have adapted well to working with the younger age groups and the boys are enjoying working with new and (slightly) younger leaders!

It is great to see all of these young men doing such good work and contributing so much to the Company, and building so strongly on their existing leadership skills.



### **Sophie Young**

Finally, we are delighted to share in the tremendous news about the birth of Sophie Young, and the great joy she has brought to Alan and Lynne and their families. Sophie also becomes an important and very welcome addition to our wider BB family - though enquiries may need to be made with David Attenborough to see how it is biologically possible for two such dedicated Boys' Brigade officers to have had a wee girl!!

### ***Alistair Buttery*** ***Captain***

#### **Junior Section**



We are delighted to welcome two new additions to the Junior Section. Ryan Crompton & Calum Mackay recently joined us, and have both settled in very well.

The Boys recently visited the Fire Station in a joint visit with the Anchor Boys & Bluebells. Despite the Fire Engines being called out to a fire within 5 minutes of the tour starting, the boys enjoyed the visit. The Fire Engines returned in time for the boys' to have an opportunity to fire the Water Hose from the Engines.

The boys have sat their bible papers and we await the results, which are usually revealed at the Quarter Deck service. We are now preparing for the General Knowledge competition which takes place at St Machan's church in Larkhall on 11 March. We have been very successful in this competition over the last few years, so we look forward to trying to reclaim the trophy.

Over the course of the last 6 months or so some of the boys have been working on a project building historic model planes. To supplement this, we have arranged a visit to the Museum of Flight at East Fortune airfield where the boys can see real aircraft up close, including Concorde! This is currently planned for the beginning of April.

### ***Alan Brown*** ***Leader-in-charge***

## Monday Club

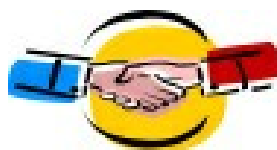
Our first meeting of the year, suited the folk with a sweet tooth! Carole and Alistair Gordon talked to the club about the “sweets we remember”. As well as reminding us of our childhood favourite sweets, samples of sweets were duly passed round and enjoyed by all, very much!!

The second meeting of the club was held on 25 January, The Bards birthday and “Oor Ain Folk”, with a guest piper, entertained a record turnout of members. Tea and bannocks, completed a totally enjoyable afternoon.

Our last two meetings of the session, are a Musical Quiz, hosted by Nadia Meek, on 7 March and the AGM on 21 March, which will finish by community singing of popular hymns from Songs of Gods People and some from the old Third Edition Hymnary.

The annual coach trip will be on Monday 25 April, we will be visiting Scone Palace, Perth leaving the Church at 12 noon, and be home for 7pm, with a stop for High Tea . Final details to be confirmed to members, nearer the time.

*Charlie Duguid*



## Anchor Boys & Bluebells

The Advent season was a busy time for the boys and girls. In the lead up to Christmas we made over 90 cards to be sent out to our over 80 year old ladies and gentlemen. The children love doing this and are always interested to hear that their cards are greatly appreciated by the recipients.

The annual Carol Service was held in Flemington Hallside Church but due to lack of support, the future of this service is in doubt.

A very well attended film night was held in the North Hall with Anchor Boys from several companies in the battalion attending. A huge thank you is due to our own Mr Horne who decorated the hall and was our “projectionist” for the evening. Thanks too to Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner for providing ice cream etc. and for all their behind the scenes help. Our drookit car park attendant’s help made the visitors attendance much easier. We appreciate the permission given by Hamilton Bowling Club to park in their spaces.

Our party was the final event of 2015 when we had fun and games and the highlight was a visit from Santa.

Our Liaison Elder, Mr Stoddart, agreed to contact Santa and give him our thanks. We are very fortunate to have such generous folk who send donations of goodies throughout the year so thanks to Mrs. French, Mrs Taylor, Miss Condie and Mrs. Davidson.

We are now into our second half of the season and have made our posters for the wall on a “Winter” theme.

A visit to the Fire and Rescue HQ proved to be a great success, Mrs Shona Scott talked to the boys and girls and was able to answer numerous questions on all aspects of the work. While we were there a call came in and we were able to see two fire engines leave with sirens and blue lights flashing. We were shown uniforms, firefighting equipment and the children were allowed to use the hoses. A wonderful time was had by all.

Congratulations to Alan and Lynne Young on the safe arrival of Sophie.

Boys and girls in P1-P3 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 5.30pm in the Halls.

*Nanette McLean*  
*Leader in charge*



## Prayer

Lord, as our journey of faith takes us into new perspectives of what it means to be family, may your grace be with us. As we journey together, bring us closer together in bonds of love. We acknowledge that it is easy to rub one another up the wrong way.

We chafe and are irritated when our personal boundaries are reset.

Without your grace and love we would struggle.

But just as the darkness gives way to light and the days lengthen, we dare to hope.

We look forward to new things. We look forward to our time together, with you and with each other. We remember the cycle of life and the seasons.

The spring and summer beckon. We start to make plans. Yet we recall that our providence is in your hands.

Heavenly Father, you do more than just love your children, you are love itself.

Help us to reciprocate that love to you and to others.

Help us to recall our fondest moments of true love, re-lived not just in memory but tangibly; and help us to pour out that love on every occasion.

Give us eyes to see your love and grace. As your children, help us to emulate you through meditating on the example of your Son and observing the very best of human endeavours. Our efforts may be dim compared to the brightness of all that you do, but they demonstrate that something of the image of God is still present in humanity.

Grant us a vision of your kingdom, as we live and work together and seek to glorify you in all we do. Set our feet on paths that are righteous and good, but also companionable. Lead us and guide us, that our hearts might be entranced with you and all that you are doing in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Teach us to dance to your tune.

Thanks be to you, our God, in Christ our saviour.

Amen



## Safeguarding

As I indicated in the December magazine, as a church we are being required to implement various procedures as dictated by General Assembly. These deliverances seek to ensure that, as a congregation, we do everything in our power to protect our vulnerable groups. As coordinators, David and I have the responsibility of keeping everyone informed as well as managing the PVG process. Someone recently asked what PVG stood for – it is short for Protecting Vulnerable Groups.

When a volunteer wants to work with young people or vulnerable adults, they are required to join the PVG scheme, which is managed by Disclosure Scotland. They have to complete an application form and provide evidence of identity and address. David and I check these forms and record what documents we have seen before sending them to the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office in Edinburgh where they are reviewed before being submitted to Disclosure Scotland. Background checks are then carried out and within a period of about four to six weeks, a letter is issued confirming that the person is approved to work with the relevant vulnerable group. Their name is then added to the church Safeguarding Register.

Recently, organisation leaders were asked by the kirk session to introduce “safe recruitment procedures.” This means new volunteers will have to complete an application form, provide references and be interviewed in addition to joining the PVG scheme. Accountability is the keyword here – we have to be seen to do everything “by the book”. Relevant documentation has been issued where needed. Copies can be obtained from the church office. All Safeguarding material is available in the Safeguarding section of the Church of Scotland website.

Training for all volunteers and other groups is our next priority and it is hoped that training events can be organised within our own church. Watch this space!

Please do not hesitate to speak to David or me if there is something you would like explained. Our contact details are on the Safeguarding poster on the notice board.

*Nesella Barr / David Young*

## Faith

You know just every care we have,  
- our fears and worries too.  
Help us to grow in depth of faith  
as we bring our thoughts to you.

We often cannot find the words  
to say what's in our heart,  
but you can see our every need  
- and faith and trust impart.

Strengthen us in our darker hours,  
refresh our lives anew.  
Remind us that our constant hope  
lies in our trust in You.





### Gift Aid News

I have just recently submitted our gift aid claim to HMRC and I am delighted that there is a very slight increase in our income. The total gift aided income in 2015 was £78060.91, which will yield a refund from HMRC of £19,515.23. In addition, I was able to claim back a further £1250 which represents the tax on donations of £5000 through the open plate, Sunday by Sunday. This is a relatively new scheme known as GASDS – Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, introduced to allow us to claim tax on donations which previously would not have been eligible. The limit for this type of claim is set to rise to £8000 in 2016 /17 which is good news for us. Below is a more detailed breakdown of our gift aided income with previous figures from previous years for comparison. **Please remember these figures only relate to income that is gift aided.**

This year, I was able to add in some additional one-off donations to the FWO totals and this is something we are looking to expand. There is also a one-off donation included in the annual figure. If you are making an additional donation to the church, it can be added to your gift aid donations and the tax reclaimed. We will be implementing a system in the near future which will make this easier to manage. Watch this space!

Method of giving	Total donated 2015	Total donated 2014	Total donated 2013
FWO envelopes	£18906.11	£17716.15	£13881.44
Annual cheques	£3100.00	£2050.00	£3240.00
Standing orders	£56054.80	£57499.80	£59911.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>£78060.91</b>	<b>£77265.95</b>	<b>£77032.58</b>

Thank you to all those who have responded to our appeals to increase our income so that we can avoid dipping into our reserves. As a congregation we would hope to be able to fund our activities through regular giving. Gift Aid is a very valuable method of increasing income, at no additional cost to members. If you pay tax, either income tax and / or capital gains tax, you are eligible for the scheme. There is no commitment to a fixed amount or specific period of time. The only requirement is that you pay sufficient tax in the year. Please speak to me if you want to find out more or leave a message with the church office and I will get back to you.

Finally It is important that

- You notify me if you stop paying tax.
- You tell me if your address changes. When I submit a claim, I have to include your post code. HMRC could ask to see my records at any time.

Many thanks for all your continued support.

*Nesella Barr*  
*Gift Aid Convener*



### Sunday Coffee Rota

Volunteers are urgently required to assist with serving tea and coffee after Sunday Service.

If you are able to assist can you please contact the Church Office on 01698 281905.

If you can spare some time it would be greatly appreciated.

### Flower List 2016

March	06	Mrs Laird
	13	Mrs Wright
	20	Miss Mullen
	27	Mrs Hunter
April	03	Mrs Gardiner
	10	Mr McLean
	17	Mrs Shearer
	24	Mrs Condie
May	01	Mrs Cunningham
	08	Mrs Ronaldson
	15	Miss Adams
	22	Mrs Gibson
		Mrs Wilkinson
June	29	Mrs Dick
	05	Mrs Irvine
	12	Mrs Graham



**Donations to the fund are always welcome since they assist with the special occasions such as Harvest.**

**Thank you for your generosity and co-operation.**

*E Gardiner*

01698 427852

### Flower Delivery

March	06	Mrs H Simpson
	13	Mrs G Keir
	20	Mrs M McKinnon
	27	Mr B Clarkson
April	03	Mrs C Gordon
	10	Mrs C Elder
	17	No delivery required
	24	Mrs J McHarg
May	01	Miss E Sorbie
	08	Mrs P Scott
	15	Mrs N Garrett
	22	Mrs L Macintyre
	29	Miss D Hastie
June	05	Mrs A Cunningham
	12	Mrs E Irvine



**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 2016

March	13	E Reid
	20	B Stoddart
	27	E Hunter
April	03	E Irvine
	17	M Eadie
May	01	B Smith
		E Sorbie
	15	V MacLean
June	22	F Hunter
	12	E Harley



### Flower Circle Easter

Would the members of the Flower Circle and anyone who is interested in helping to decorate the Church for Easter please meet in the Halls on Friday 25 March at 9.30am.

Some greenery is required - mainly small for posies.

*Elizabeth Gardiner*

427852

### Data Protection within the Church of Scotland

The Church of Scotland has been tasked with implementing the Data Protection Act of 1998. For many years we implemented what we as a congregation thought was best for our own individual church. Last year however the Church of Scotland issued guidelines and instructions on how each Presbytery, should comply with this legislation to make it more uniform across all congregations.

After attending a Presbytery training and awareness course last year, we have implemented a Data Protection Policy and a Privacy Policy both displayed on the church notice board, and also now available on our web site. This affects all members of the congregation. Initially we need to gather and evaluate what Data we do have and how we record, store, use and delete this information held within the church and its organisations. During 2016 we will be implementing training for all members who hold data about individuals within the congregation and its organisations, on how best to handle, store and use this sensitive information. I would like to thank Elders who have already come forward with useful information and/or suggestions about some of the information published or on display within the premises of the church and action has been taken on those that were relevant. If you require a personal copy of our Privacy Policy then please speak to the Church Secretary who will provide you with one.

*Ian Samson (Data Protection Coordinator)*

Telephone :- 01698 281905

E-Mail -- [Office@hamiltonold.co.uk](mailto:Office@hamiltonold.co.uk)



### Thank You

I would like to thank the many friends in Hamilton Old who have assured me of their good wishes and prayers for my new duties as regular supply preacher at both Gilmour & Whitehill and Hamilton West churches during their vacancy. I have been well received by the two congregations and am enjoying this opportunity of service to the wider church.

*Alasdair Gordon*



**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*

*24 November 2015  
 Thomas Schooler*

*2 December 2015  
 Margaret McLean*

*7 December 2015  
 Agnes Morton*

*7 December 2015  
 Margaret McAllister*

*14 December 2015  
 Linda Watson*

*22 December 2015  
 Cameron Barr*

*28 December 2015  
 George Mears*

*3 January 2016  
 Robert Thomson*

*4 January 2016  
 James McCartney*

## *Weddings*

***"That they be the one"***

*13 December 2015  
 Jennylyn Rosaroso to Richard Samson*

*28 December 2015  
 Claire O'Neill to Ian Greenshields*



