



# Tidings



March 2017  
Easter

**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

**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 - Mr Graham Horne  
CHURCH - Mr David Leishman  
MANSE - Mr Alex Stoddart

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

Mrs Nesella Barr  
Mr David Young

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

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

Dear friends,

We are living in a time when people expect to be able to access things 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Whether it's their shopping, their entertainment, or even their work. How different from when I was growing up in the Western Isles, where people worked Monday to Friday, or Monday to Thursday for the fishermen, so that they could sell their wares. People did their shopping on a Saturday, and inevitably caught up with one another in the high street. Sunday was enforced as a day of Sabbath rest, where every shop was shut, the swings in the play park were chained, and playing football or putting out your washing was forbidden!

It was just before I left England in the 1990s that Sunday trading began to be challenged in England, and of course it spread to Scotland soon after. I understand there was less legal opposition because it had never occurred to the Law Lords in Presbyterian Scotland to expressly prohibit such a practice. It was unthinkable that it might ever occur! However, now Sunday is just like any other day of the week, and now we must intentionally set our periods of rest. Those who do not are doomed to burn out.

What a blessing it is to have our church habits to help set the weekly rhythms of our lives. So, too, with the rhythms of the year, as we celebrate the various seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Summer, and Harvest. Jesus reminded his listeners that even the most ungodly knew how to interpret the seasons and something of the weather (Luke 12:54-56; John 4:35-38). How much more important is it to keep our finger on the pulse and recognise our spiritual cycles.

In agricultural communities, the winter provided a break from sowing, tending, and harvesting crops. There was preparatory work to do and planning for the coming year. The Christian church is little different. The winter is a good time to take stock, and the Kirk Session took that opportunity at their meeting and at an Elders' Conference in January. Their insight and foresight look like leading to some exciting times. Some of the things discussed include: the possibility of additional services of worship and opportunities for more people to express their talents; promoting youth activities and work with other churches; improving our communication including revising this magazine, the use of Social Media, and providing video recordings of the services to the housebound; and seeking to provide training to help us all share our faith to others, hopefully leading to growth in our congregation.

It is quite an agenda and couldn't be completed in a day or even a year. It is envisaged to cover at least five years of activity. Do you think that you might be able to take a part? Even if it were simply to distribute recordings of the services to the housebound, that would be a significant spiritual and social lifeline to a generation to whom we owe our spiritual heritage. It would be one way to assist all of us, the whole people of God together, to enter the rhythms of a precious and treasured spiritual life. Let us all play our part, promoting our Christian heartbeat with enthusiasm.

Your Minister and friend,

*Ross*



## What's On

### March

Wednesday 01	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 05	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Tuesday 14	7.30pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 19	10.45am	Morning Worship followed by Congregational Meeting

### Mothering Sunday

British Summer Time Begins

Sunday 26	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

### April

Sunday 02	10.45am	Morning Worship
Saturday 08	2.00pm	Link Committee Easter Service



## Holy Week

*Holy Week Services are being hosted by the Old Kirk this year and will be integrating parts of a Passion Play into each evening so that we might see as well as hear the journey of Jesus during his final week before the Crucifixion. Highlights of the week are as follows:*

### Palm Sunday

Sunday 09	10.45am	Morning Worship
	12.30pm	Passion Play Triumphant Entry down Quarry Street
	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
		Service led by Rev Ross Blackman with Rev Ian Barcroft preaching
Monday 10	7.30pm	Jesus and the Money Changers
		Service led by Rev Ian Barcroft with Rev Donald Lawrie preaching
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	Jesus' Sermon to the Greeks
		Service led by Rev Donald Lawrie with Rev John Carswell preaching
Wednesday 12	7.30pm	Love and Betrayal
		Service led by Rev John Carswell with Rev Alex McNee preaching
Thursday 13	7.30pm	Last Supper
		Service led by Rev Alex McNee with Rev Joanne Hood preaching
Friday 14	7.30pm	Mock Trial and Crucifixion
		Service led by Rev Joanne Hood with Rev Ross Blackman preaching

### Easter Sunday

Sunday 16	6.30am	Dawn Resurrection Service followed by breakfast
		Service led by Willie Watt of Harvest Fellowship
	10.45am	Easter Day Service followed by Communion
Sunday 23	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 30	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court

### May

Sunday 07	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 09	7.30pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 14	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship



## Hamilton Passion Play 2017: A Walk With Christ

We had the privilege of attending the Passion Trust conference at the end of January – they support the UK's Passion Plays in a variety of ways. It was a really inspiring day hearing about so many creative and powerful ways to share the story of the last week of Jesus' life – ultimately of course the story of our own salvation. We heard this is the church in action; and were reminded that the Jesus of our bible was not merely in church but out on the streets and the hillsides.

Our play will be one of only two performed in Scotland this year. We have this wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with our community in a new way; touching hearts and changing lives.



On Palm Sunday (9 April 2017), following the church service, we will launch our play with a series of linked scenes continuing down Quarry Street to the town square, near Asda. This will depict Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem, with the scenes along the way beginning to reveal a little of the character of Jesus. We hope as many of the congregation as possible will join in, demonstrating to our local community that, just like the disciples of 2000 years ago, we celebrate with our Lord.

We will then use the play to follow Jesus to the cross day by day. Short scenes will be performed during the service each night in church as part of our usual Holy Week services, including both services on Easter Sunday. Services will of course contain all the familiar elements of worship – the Passion Play will simply be a short vignette each night which allows us all to connect with the story in a new and powerful way.

There are many ways you can be involved:-

**Prayer Team:** We need the support of a prayer team. If you would be willing to support the company each week in prayer, can you please either email me ([liz1b@ymail.com](mailto:liz1b@ymail.com)) or let the office know and we will set up a prayer chain. Meantime, please pray that people come forward to support behind the scenes.

**Palm Sunday Celebration:** It would be wonderful to have as many of the congregation as possible join us, celebrating Jesus' life. If you are willing to join us can you please let me, the office or Marilyn Henderson know? (So we can ensure you have a costume if you wish)

**Production Team:** We need a range of talents in order to ensure we can deliver this. If you would be interested in helping with props, costume, set, photography, publicity, marketing, social media, catering, sound, lighting, stage management or administration then please join us in the North Hall on Sunday 26 February at 12.30pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

**Cast:** Rehearsals continue and new members are welcome at any time. We rehearse at 7pm on Tuesdays in the church and have been supported most weeks by Suzanne Lofthus, trustee of the Passion Trust and Director of the Edinburgh Passion Play. She brings with her years of experience, some wonderful stories and a real appetite for sharing the gospel. We have been very fortunate to have her support.

Please do consider how you could support your fellow church members as we prepare to take the Easter story into the heart of our town.

My thanks go to everyone who has supported this in any way so far. I am also very grateful to the Kirk Session for supporting us to develop this project.

I am always happy to talk about our plans and progress – please do get in touch.

*Liz Blackman*





## Stewardship and Finance

It is still too early to give a full report on the effect the 'Giving for Growth' campaign has had since some changes were only taking effect in January and February, however approximately half of the congregation have responded, most positively. It is not too late to return your response form.

Early indications are that the standing orders value has increased quite substantially although several are new and are from members moving from Freewill Offering to standing order. This will obviously have an impact on the envelope income which has still to be calculated and is harder to quantify, except for those who have Gift Aid declarations in place and these statistics are shown elsewhere in the magazine.

The Stewardship group will meet with the Church of Scotland consultant towards the end of March to review the success of the campaign and a full report will be issued shortly thereafter.

At the time of writing, the 2016 accounts are being finalised but again it is too early to say whether the measures we have taken to reduce the projected deficit have been effective or not. The accounts will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting on 19th March.

*Marilyn Henderson*  
*Finance Convener*



## Fellowship Committee

Since our last communication for Tidings, we have been kept busy.

On 29 October, we had a single Doors Open Day when we had a few visitors who enjoyed their tour of the Church. A couple of the visitors were people who had, a long time ago, attended the Church before moving away. It was nice of them to make the effort to drop in and see the changes.

On 4 December, the congregational Christmas lunch was held in the North Hall, and following a fine meal, nicely served we had a visit from a jolly bearded man in a red suit (not Jim Henderson) who produced gifts for each of the youngsters present.

On 9 December we lent our support to the Saffronhall Singers on the Carols by Candlelight evening, a terrific evening much enjoyed by everyone present. Those who did come along did say they would be back for more this year. It also raised a good sum of money for the Church. It is just the best way to start personal Christmas.

On 7 January a bus load of us went to see Cinderella, the pantomime in the Kings Theatre ( oh yes we did)!! The show was so well enjoyed, we have been tasked with arranging a repeat for this year so watch this space for more information.

We have started looking at things to include in the social calendar for this year, so again I will ask you to contact any member of the committee if you have any thoughts or ideas which may be of interest to you and we can guarantee any suggestions will at least be considered.

*Iain McLean*  
*Convener*

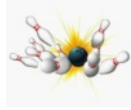


## Link Committee

The Link Committee Easter Service will take place on Saturday 8 April at 2.00pm in the Church followed by tea in the Halls. If you know anyone who is over 80 years old and would like to attend our events can you please let the Office know. Transport will be provided if required.

*Jim Naismith*  
*Convener*

## Company Section



### Battalion 10 Pin Bowling

Sam Walker, Ewan McIntosh and Euan Baird represented the Company at the Battalion 10 Pin Bowling Competition on 7 November 2016. They did well in the team competition finishing in 4th place. Sam did even better and won the individual Senior event.



### Battalion Badminton

Struan Wilson, David Chisholm and Euan Davidson took part in the Battalion Badminton competition on 12 November 2016, and Lewis McParlane also competed in the individual event. In a closely fought contest the team came second out of the nine teams participating, and to round off a good morning Struan Wilson won gold for the best individual Senior.



### World Mission Cheque Presentation

We made the long trek to Aberdeen on 18 November 2016 for the World Mission Cheque Presentation, and to receive the Company Section and Best Overall Trophies. David Chisholm and Euan Davidson came to receive the trophies. We managed to lure Ross along too with the offer of an Aberdeen pizza and to help him escape the preparations for the Church Fayre. It was a long but very worthwhile trip. Pictured with the boys on the left are the Moderator, the Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, and Mr Bill Stevenson, who is now the Chief Executive Officer of The Boys' Brigade. No prizes for guessing correctly the identity of the dodgy characters on the right.....



### Church Fayre

Along with the other Church organisations we ran a stall at the Church Fayre. I am extremely grateful to all of the boys and officers for their time and creativity making items to sell, (more variety than Steptoe's yard), and to Mrs Gardiner for trusting us with her jams and chutneys.



### Company Film Night

We held our Company Film Night on 14 December 2016, using for the first time the big screen in the North Hall. It all went extremely well, and a huge thank you goes to Graham Horne for putting together such a great night.



### **Battalion Table Tennis**

The badminton team of Struan Wilson, David Chisholm and Euan Davidson put in a repeat performance in the Battalion Table Tennis held on 14 January 2017. This time they went one better and won the team event, wrestling back the title from 217th Gilbertfield, who beat us last year. Struan continued his good form and won the individual Senior event. The bookies are no longer taking bets on how he will do in the Battalion Swimming Gala in March!



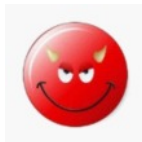
### **Battalion 5-a-sides**

Lewis McParlane, David Anderson, Jack Anderson, David Chisholm and Euan Baird made up our team for the Battalion Senior 5-a-sides, charged with the responsibility of retaining the trophy which we won last year. They played really well with David Chisholm our top goal scorer. The round robin competition came down to a final match between ourselves and the 217th Gilbertfield.

The 217th had a really strong team and had pretty much blootered everyone else. They just needed a draw – we needed to win since we had only managed a draw against one of the companies that the 217th had beaten 6-0! Games were only 5 mins long. 4 minutes 30 seconds in it was still 0-0 and they were heading for victory. Jack then hit a 40 yard (maybe a slight exaggeration) screamer to open the scoring! It was a long final 30 seconds but the lads held on for a very well deserved win.

Credit to Euan Davidson also who turned up for the Junior 5-a-sides. Unfortunately he could not play as a team on his own. Only two other teams were there, and after they had played off in a final, he had the chance to play for one of them in a friendly match.

Whenever we take part in Battalion competitions I believe our lads do so in the right manner – being competitive and doing their best, but also being fair, and respecting the rules and their opponents. It's a well recognised principle that it's not the winning that counts but the taking part. That is and always will be how we approach the competitions we enter. Until we win. After that the taking part can get stuffed - it's all about the winning!!



*Alistair Buttery*

### **Junior Section**

Since the last Tidings Report, the Juniors have competed in two Battalion competitions. Lewis Chisholm, Colin Davidson and Calum Ewart represented the company in the PE competition. I am delighted to say that they won the competition, and will be presented with the trophy at the Quarterdeck. Congratulations, and very well done to all three boys.

Lewis Chisholm, Colin Davidson, Calum Ewart and Euan Parkes represented the company in the General Knowledge competition. We also did very well in this competition, finishing in second place. Well done boys!

Also coming up is the bible competition and a visit to Hamilton Museum.

*Alan Brown*  
*Leader in Charge*





## Anchor Boys and Bluebells

There was great activity in the time leading up to Christmas for the boys and girls. As usual they produced around 90 Christmas cards which were delivered with the Church Hyacinths to our over 80 year olds.

We had a party in the halls and the children were delighted to be visited by Santa. We also held a film night and were joined by our friends from Larkhall and Hamilton Baptist Church. Thanks are due to Mr Horne who put great effort into decorating the hall and setting up the film equipment. Thanks are also due to several kind folks in the Church who donated sweets and ice cream.

The new year saw Libby Stevenson and Alix Burns go off to Brownies and we wish them well in all that they do.

We have been joined by Caleb Nicol who has settled in as a new Anchor Boy.

We now look forward to a varied programme of stories, fun and games and invite any child in primaries 1 to 3 to come along and join us on Wednesdays at 5.30pm.

*Nanette McLean*  
*Leader in Charge*



## Brownies

We welcomed all the brownies back after Christmas, and we especially welcomed 3 new girls who seem to be enjoying brownies so far. The Brownies had a great time at the pantomime - Peter Pan, followed by their annual Christmas party.

We started back last week with the girls making potato scones which lets them finish their culture badge, which also included finding out about Scottish culture ie places to visit, population etc.

The girls have decided this year to have a New Year's Resolution which they have decided on as a group and it was to find out and donate to our local Food bank/baby bank. We have arranged for a speaker to come along in a few weeks time and tell the girls a bit about what they do, and the girls have been invited to go along for a visit to our local Food bank which we think the girls will enjoy. We will try and incorporate this as part of an interest badge.

We have asked to get a slot in the morning coffee rota again this year soon so the girls will be able to hopefully tell you about their visit.

*Helen, Linda & Lynn*



## Property Committee

Screens have been erected to each side of the pulpit and when the service is being conducted from downstairs, the congregation sitting in the gallery are able to see the proceedings.

The carpet in the Session Room has become stained with the spillage of tea and coffee. The carpet is being cleaned, and I would hope when cleaned anyone who spills their tea or coffee will wipe up the spillage.

A handrail is being erected at the entrance to the Church to help those who are not so steady on their feet.

A new door entry system has been installed in the Halls. A screen and telephone receiver have been placed adjacent to the entrance door, and the door should not be opened until you are satisfied who is on the other side of the door. Organisations therefore require to have someone at the door to allow entry.

*John Downie*  
*Property Convener*

## Choir

Our new session began in the second week of January and our planner now takes us through to April.

I am delighted to welcome Marilyn Henderson into the Soprano section and Robert Smith into the Tenor section. They are already giving willingly of their time and talents to contribute to the choir each week and I am very grateful for their support.

We will be preparing a large amount of music over these coming weeks from the evening service for Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 1st March through Lent and into Holy Week in mid April.

The month of April is an important part of the Church calendar and we begin by leading the Link Service on Saturday 8th April, and it is always a privilege to provide musical items for this service.

Holy Week services are being hosted by The Old Parish from Sunday evening 9th April and each evening of that week till Friday 14th April. The choir will be taking part each night and we will be joined by friends from other local Congregations throughout the week. I appreciate the support of Choir in meeting this major commitment.

Folders covering May/June music will be available at the end of April. There will be no meeting of Choir on Wednesdays 26th April, 3rd and 10th May and our final meeting for the session will be on Wednesday 17th May when all music to Sunday 14th May should be handed in for filing by Sandra and Helen.

*Helen C. Simpson*  
Organist  
*helensimps@sky.com*



## 1970 Ladies' Club

The response to making our meeting in the afternoon has been good with a few new members and some former members coming back to join us. We have had a varied programme with talks on a variety of subjects and musical afternoons. We finish our new session with Karaoke Hymns with John Irvine on 2 March and our Annual General Meeting with an afternoon tea on 16 March.

*Avril Cunningham*  
President



## Sunday Live!

Christmas is a magical time of year especially for our children. Christmas begins for us with the distribution of advent calendars and rehearsals for our Nativity Play. We would take this opportunity of thanking Liz Blackman for her production of this blockbuster!! A selection box was presented to everyone as a reward!! Christmas Pie Sunday was enjoyed by many members of our congregation and raised the sum of £101.00 which will be used to subsidise Sunday Live outings. It is also timely to thank our "fairy godmothers" who kindly donate tubs of sweets to keep us munching till summer!!

Two of our children recently did the Bible readings in Church and we look forward to further participation in this part of the service.

Regular visits from our leader Rev Ross Blackman and our liaison Elder Mrs Kathleen Hunter are always welcome. We are all one under God.

Mother's day (26 March) and Easter (14 April) gives us the opportunity to wish our readers happy spring!!

*Sandy Messer*

## 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*



## The Old Kirk Dancers

Our class is doing extremely well at present.

During the 20 & 21 January a number of our members had the opportunity of joining with the Falkirk Branch at a weekend of dancing held in Crieff Hydro, where a total of 380 dancers from all over the United Kingdom took part.

Also, on 23 January we had the invitation to demonstrate a few dances at the Blantyre Congregational Church on the occasion of their Burns Evening, the evening was further enjoyed by the supply of tatties, haggis and turnip.

We would be delighted to extend an invitation to anyone interested in Country Dancing to join with us on Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm in the North Hall.

*Irene Mathieson*



CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) was launched in June 2005 and continues the Kirk's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so we have been offering care and support for nearly 150 years.

We employ 2,000 staff in 70 care and support services stretching from Shetland to Ayrshire, making us one of the largest social care agencies in Scotland. Our services help thousands of people in need every day of the year. Our work is split into 3 main areas:

- **Adult Care**
- **Children and Family**
- **Older People**

The Church of Scotland Social Care Council (operating as CrossReach) reports every year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission.
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church.
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive and others.

**Thank you for taking time to pray for our work.**



The Church of Scotland  
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No SC011353



Thank you to those who purchased the Crossreach calendars and Christmas cards. Thus helping to support the work of Crossreach.

*Betty Smith*



### Saffronhall Singers

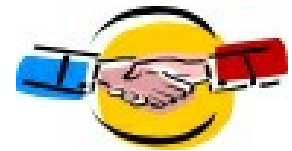
Our singing group continues to go from strength to strength. So far this session, we have welcomed four new members into our midst and so we now have 49 on our role, including the conductor and accompanist. We are very grateful to Lilian Barrie, who week by week, supports our practices and quietly but confidently deals with the varied accompaniments she is asked to play.

In partnership with the Fellowship Committee, we once again hosted a very successful Carols by Candlelight in our own church. It was a happy evening, reminding us of "the reason for the season" and at the same time, raised over £800 for church funds. Thanks to everyone in the fellowship committee for the lovely supper provided and for all the hard work that entailed.

We also participated in the Macmillan Carol Service on Sunday 11 December, performing six pieces from our Christmas programme. Thanks to everyone in the Singers for giving up their time to contribute to this fundraising event.

At the time of writing, we have one more engagement, singing for the Guild at Wishaw South and once again I am very thankful to everyone for their support and attendance at rehearsals. In the final few weeks of the session we will focus on learning some of the new pieces we have bought, as we seek to extend our repertoire. Our session will come to an end on Monday 27 March.

*Campbell Barr*



### The Monday Club

The Monday Club's first foot was our minister Ross, who gave us an in depth insight, into his boyhood days, family travels, training for the ministry and right up to his arrival here, at the Old Parish Church. The second half of that meeting was our Financial AGM, the balance sheet, was accepted by the members present and we decided to give £300 to the Church, earmarked for the fabric fund for the upgrade of heating time clock controls for the halls.

Our own Alasdair Gordon, was the second speaker of the new session, who entertained a membership of 55, with slides and a talk on "Old Hamilton". Again this was very well received by all present. Several new members have joined us in the last few weeks, so if you are still thinking about joining us on a Monday afternoon, you will be made very welcome.

On 13 February we have a welcome return visit of Alex Baird, speaking to us on Burns, 27 February we go Kayaking with Hugh Kerr! The 13 March slot is occupied by our own Naida Meek and the session concludes on 27 March with a Quiz presented by Carole Gordon, which will be preceded by our AGM.

The annual spring outing will be to Dumfries House, Cumnock. The date, times, costs at time of writing are not to hand. Members will be advised re this as soon as possible.

*Charlie Duguid*

**Guild**  
**Be Bold Be Strong**  
**'Go in Joy'**



Another session of the Guild nearly complete with another three meetings - where does time go?

Our closing social will take place on Wednesday 15 March at 2.00pm. We will be entertained by Kirsty & Iain McLean. Tickets available shortly.

Members of Guild meet on 5 April to prepare syllabus for 17/18.

*Avril Boothroyd*  
*Coordinator*

## Scottish Bible Society

Motherwell Action Group raised £1707 by doing a sponsored walk around Strathclyde Park in order to help refugees in Iraq.

Projects being supported by the Scottish Bible Society in 2017:

1. Provision of Bibles and Literacy in Haiti
2. Supporting refugees in Jordan practically and spiritually
3. Learning and listening in Cambodia
4. Family Scripture Engagement and Children's illustrated Bibles in Malawi
5. The Bread of Life project - supporting children at risk in Peru

Scotland and Malawi have shared a long friendship, dating back to David Livingstone. Last year the Scottish Bible Society began a three year commitment to Malawi and will be returning there this year. Clapperton Mayuni (the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Malawi) will be visiting Scotland this year in the spring and will hold a series of meetings around the country. As soon as more details of venues are available we will let you know.

*Muriel Eadie*



## Safeguarding

As I indicated in previous newsletters, training of volunteers is now the priority. Everyone on the Safeguarding register has already joined the PVG scheme and been cleared by Disclosure Scotland to work with young people or vulnerable adults. The General Assembly has instructed Kirk Sessions to ensure all volunteers have attended appropriate training. Indeed, the congregational register has once again been amended and now includes the date a volunteer attended training. This will be monitored by presbytery at the annual attestation of records.

Last year, we hosted two training events in the church, both ably led by Penny Simpson, one of our elders and an accredited Safeguarding Trainer for presbytery and I am pleased to report a good number of our own members attended these so we are well on the way to having all our volunteers trained.

## Reminders

- Everyone on the register must attend a training course: Link Committee, Sunday Live, BB, Holiday Club.
- The Kirk Session has implemented Safe Recruitment procedures. This means any new volunteer must **complete an application form, provide references and be interviewed** in addition to **joining the PVG scheme**.
- Leaders must plan ahead when recruiting volunteers- if there are Safeguarding implications then a job description is needed and the recruitment process above must be followed. The time involved is probably 10 – 12 weeks, for all the administration to be completed.
- Training courses will be intimated as they become available. Anyone attending should notify one of the coordinators, so that the register can be updated. Courses are also advertised on the presbytery website. (There are no courses on the calendar at present.)

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 (Safeguarding Coordinators)*





*The Gathering  
October 2016*



*Our first year with Rev Ross Blackman  
“Our Minister and Friend”*



*Harvest Sunday &  
Baptism*

# 2016 at the Old Parish



*Holiday Club  
Summer 2016*



### Flower List 2017

March	05	Mrs Laird
	12	Mrs Wright
	19	Miss Mullen
	26	Mrs Hunter
April	02	Mrs Gardiner
	09	Mrs McLean
	16	Mrs Shearer
	23	Mrs Condie
May	30	Mrs Cunningham
	07	Mrs Ronaldson
	14	Miss Adams
	21	Mrs Gibson
June		Mrs Wilkinson
	28	Mrs Dick
	04	Mrs Irvine
	11	Mrs Gordon



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

March	05	Mrs H Simpson
	12	Mrs G Keir
	19	Mrs M McKinnon
	26	Mr B Clarkson
April	02	Mrs N McLean
	09	Mrs C Elder
	16	Mrs C Gordon
	23	Mrs J McHarg
May	30	Miss E Sorbie
	07	Mrs P Scott
	14	Mrs N Garrett
	21	Mrs L Macintyre
June	28	Miss D Hastie
	04	Mrs A Cunningham
	11	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 2017

March	12	E Reid
	19	B Stoddart
	26	E Hunter
April	02	E Irvine
	16	M Eadie
	30	B Smith
		E Sorbie
May	14	V MacLean
	21	F Hunter
June	11	E Harley

### Flower Circle

Please meet on Friday April 7 at 9.30am to decorate the Church. Any help is welcome.

*Elizabeth Gardiner*  
427852



### Prayer

Heavenly Father and God of power,  
You are the One of whom Jesus said,  
"my Father is working until now,  
and I too am working".  
Give us the grace, energy, and fortitude  
to seek your kingdom in all we do.  
Help us to give our all  
and like the Apostle Paul  
be willing to be utterly spent  
for the sake of each other's souls.

Forgive us our sins of omission,  
but rather renew our strength  
that we might soar on wings like eagles  
and walk and not become weary,  
in doing good for your glory.  
Enable us to follow  
the one who gave his all  
that we might be spared.

In Jesus name.  
Amen.



*With inspiration from Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 6:33; John 5:17; and 2 Corinthians 12:15.*

### Gift Aid News

I have just recently submitted our gift aid claim to HMRC Revenue and Customs and I am delighted to report that there is a substantial increase in our income. The total gift aided income in 2016 was **£89718.48**, which will yield a refund from HMRC of **£22,429.62**. In addition, I was able to claim back a further **£1365.97** which represents the tax on donations of **£5463.87** 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 now £8000 (from April 2016). Below is a more detailed breakdown of our gift aided income with figures from previous years for comparison.

**Please remember these figures only relate to income that is gift aided.**

Method of Giving	Total donated 2016	Total donated 2015	Total donated 2014	Total donated 2013
FWO envelopes	£20214.00	£18906.11	£17716.15	£13881.44
Annual cheques	£4325.00*	£3100.00	£2050.00	£3240.00
Standing orders	£59522.48	£56054.80	£57499.80	£59911.14
Additional donations	£5630.00**	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£89718.48</b>	<b>£78060.91</b>	<b>£77265.95</b>	<b>£77032.58</b>

\*Note. There are payments of £975 in this figure which were donated in 2015 but not banked until 2016 so appear in 2016 income and were claimed in 2016 Gift Aid.

\*\*note – these are likely to be one-off donations as a result of the stewardship campaign and so have not been counted as part of regular giving.

This has been a great response to the appeal to the wider congregation for support but we must not become complacent. The reality is it costs money to run the church, both locally and nationally and this money must come from the members. Without sufficient funds, the work of our Church will be severely hindered. At the same time, however, we must recognise that many people contribute to the work of the church in other ways and that, for others, personal circumstances dictate how much financial support they are able to give. Judge not...!

### Other statistics.

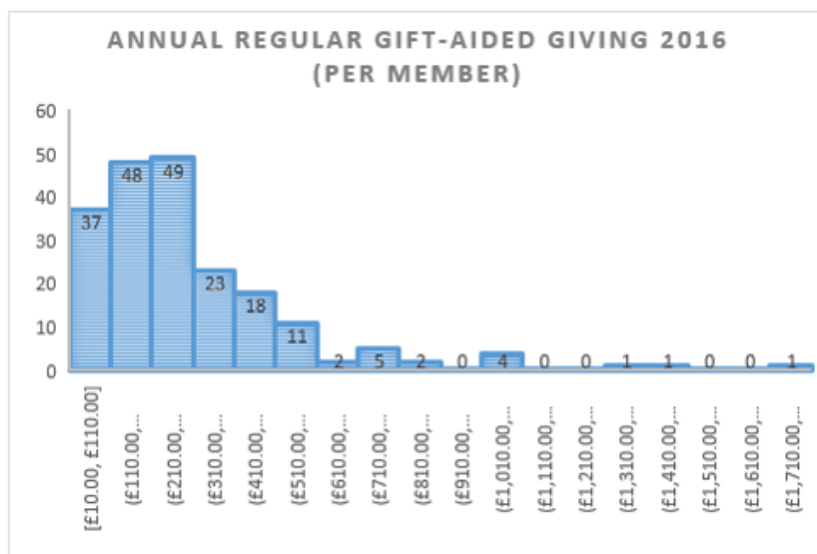
Warning – these are approximate figures. It is impossible to give a definitive report as the situation is complex. The figures relate to the end of 2016 and **are for gift-aided donations only.**

· No of Gift Aid Declarations in place	<b>203</b>	
· No of members represented	<b>291</b>	(some declarations are for couples)
· Average annual donation per member	<b>£304.96</b>	(does not include £975 from 2015)
· No of declarations cancelled during 2016	<b>7</b>	(member deceased or no longer pays tax)
· No. of new declarations	<b>5</b>	(before stewardship campaign)
· No. of new declarations after campaign	<b>22</b>	(5 to take effect from 2017)
· No. of increased SO donations	<b>7</b>	(before campaign)
· No. of increased SO donations	<b>40</b>	(after campaign)
· No of increased WFO donations	<b>45</b>	(based on end of year return for gift aid)

The analysis above does not include any one-off large donations as these would distort the figures for **regular** giving. Also, there are some changes which will take effect from January 2017 so they cannot be quantified at the moment.



As you can see, the stewardship campaign has had a very positive impact on giving and hopefully we will be able to build on this by getting everyone on board. I have produced a very simple graph to let you see individual responses to the call to Christian Stewardship and resourcing the work of the Church.



For the purposes of this analysis, a donation from a couple is counted as being from two members, unless they contribute as individuals. **Again, this represents gift-aided donations only.**

I hope this makes sense to everyone – it is not easy to communicate such information. If anyone would like further explanation, please feel free to contact me, either in person or via the church office.

Finally, please remember to keep me informed if you

- stop paying tax.
- change address.

Many thanks to everyone for the tremendous support over the past year, and thanks also to the counting team and Freewill Offering Convener for helping me by recording the information needed to support our claim.

PS – I have just finished working on the standing orders for January and once again I can see more people have increased their donations. Many thanks.

*Nesella Barr*  
Gift aid Convener

*giftaid it*

### **London Marathon - Good Luck!**

In April 2015 Scott Garrett, the grandson of Craig, Nessie and Flora, fell 25ft landing on his back fracturing three vertebrae leaving him paralysed from the waist down. There was a 95% chance he would never walk again. Over the next 10 months he put in over 700 hours of physiotherapy and by the end of January 2016 he could walk unaided.

On 23rd April, just two years after his accident, Scott is running the London Marathon to raise funds for Spinal Research who help thousands of people like Scott. We wish him well for this event.





***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*

*7 November 2016*

*Isabel Barr*

*23 November 2016*

*Agnes Kerr (Nancy)*

*5 December 2016*

*Andrew Swinton*

*14 December 2016*

*George Crichton*

*19 December 2016*

*Margaret Kinniburgh (Peggy)*

*23 December 2016*

*Miriam Aitken*

*9 January 2017*

*Muriel Jarvie*

*16 January 2017*

*Robert Foster (Bert)*

## *Baptisms*

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

*6 November 2016*

*Olivia Isabella Elizabeth Hamilton*

*4 December 2016*

*Hope Elizabeth MacPherson*

*Abigail Lynda Burgess*



HAPPY  
EASTER

