

Mini Tidings



April 2021

MINISTER

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

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Andrea Davidson

DEPUTE SESSION CLERKS

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Mr William Craig
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Mrs Helen C Simpson BEd (Music)
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Email: finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

TREASURER

Mr Alan Blue

PROPERTY CONVENER

Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson

CHURCH - vacant

MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr David Young
Mrs Wendy Hay

CHURCH SECRETARY

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

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

Dear friends,

“We’ll Meet Again”

Who could have imagined, one year ago, that it would have taken society over a year to get the first building blocks in place to start to get back on track. It has been a difficult year, and one in which we have all had to prioritise our interests within the significant constraints placed upon us. Nonetheless, it has not been a year of hibernation; and we’re getting to the tipping point where the majority of people will have been vaccinated and are starting to plan a new chapter in our lives.

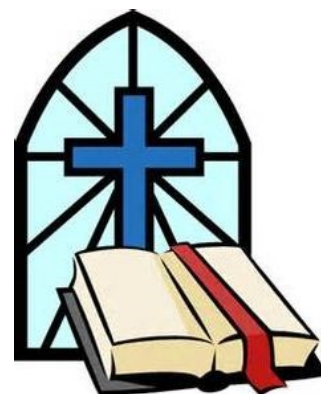
It can be useful to look back, consider where we are, and then successfully plan where we want to go forward. Past, present, and future. I am pleased that we will have an opportunity to do some of this at our Stated Annual Meeting. This is the meeting where, after worship, the congregation is presented with a summary of the activity and finances of the congregation. You may recall that last year this had to take place online and a phone-in was available for questions, which inevitably was not suitable for everyone. This year we will be able to open the church, and we may need to hold additional services as we are limited by regulations to 50 people in the church and a further 20 in the halls. I should also add that public singing is not yet permitted either. But, “step by step, we’re moving forward, little by little we’re gaining ground”, as the hymn writer reminds us.

We will meet on Sunday 25th April at 10:45am, but you will need to book a seat. Preference will be given to those who have been unable to access online services. If demand is high we may need to organise additional services, so please note your preferences in anticipation of that eventuality. The 10:45am service will be livestreamed online in any case, and once more there will be a phone-in for those who might like to ask questions. An audio recording of this service will also be available that afternoon for those who use the regular phone-a-service facility on 01698 533199.

Meanwhile, our monthly early informal family service has also resumed at 9:30am and will be held on April 11th, May 9th, and June 6th. The children’s summer holiday club is being planned. Hopefully, we may see some level of normality after the summer holidays. I don’t know about you, but I am more than ready for it! I can’t wait until we can meet again.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Covid 19 GUIDELINES SANCTUARY
C. of S. Covid Protection Levels and Churches v1
Guidelines issued 29th of October 2020 & January 2021
CONGREGATION ENTRY & EXIT PROTOCOLS

10/03/2021

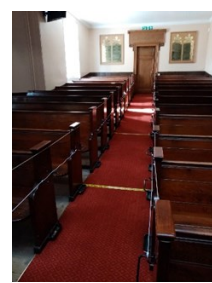
- Social distancing discs applied to the ground area at the entrance to the church and along the length of the path towards car park gates at 2 metre intervals.
- PLEASE NOTE:-Main front door and secondary front door from car park entrance to be left open at all times including during the service this will aid in circulation of fresh air within the building.
- Infra-red automated hand sanitiser placed at entrance to church building. (See picture below)
- Face coverings to be worn by all entering the Sanctuary at all times. Minister or official taking service only once in place can remove face covering if they are more than 2 metres from congregation.
- Offering plate // pouch to be available at entry door. No offering uplifted during service.
- Elders on door duty to record who attended service (Trace and Protect requirement). Pre booking encouraged through the office allows for list to be printed in advance. Advise attendees to enter sanctuary and follow guidance from elder within regards seating.
- On entry to sanctuary only seats marked for occupation to be used, all others are closed off with cord. Follow directions of Elder on duty regarding which seats are to be occupied first. On departure from the building leave by the side door indicated. With the attendees closest to exit door leaving the building first as directed. All to keep to social distancing that is in force at that time see markings on floor.
- Church organ cannot be used at this time. Clavinova permissible alternative. Intimations, order of service all to be displayed on screens.
- Members of the congregation are not allowed to sing within the building. Suspended till guidelines change about this activity.



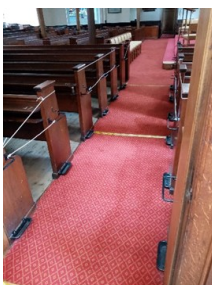
Social distancing discs



Alcohol gel dispensers



Social distancing tape



Cord closure to pews



Pews with no
cushions, bibles
or hymn books

HAMILTON OLD PARISH CHURCH**GENERAL FUND BUDGET****YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	BUDGET 2020	ACTUAL 2020	BUDGET 2021
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Offerings			
Weekly freewill offering	33,000	15,774	25,000
Standing order donations	72,000	79,303	77,000
Tax on gift aid donations	25,000	20,763	22,000
Open plate offerings	7,500	1,660	3,000
Other offerings, donations etc.	12,500	2,659	5,000
	150,000	120,159	132,000
Other ordinary general income			
Weddings and funerals	500	420	500
Hall rental	17,500	11,455	14,000
Christmas Fair	0	0	0
Investment income	13,000	11,796	13,000
Other income		200	
Total ordinary general income	181,000	144,030	159,500
EXPENDITURE			
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work	99,875	99,875	86,513
Presbytery dues	3,072	3,072	3,000
Local staffing costs:			
Travelling expenses	3,500	2,051	2,500
Minister's telephone expenses	550	435	360
Pulpit supply	420	120	420
Other salaries, NIC and pensions	7,678	9,466	9,521
Building costs:			
Fabric repair and maintenance	19,000	25,974	24,000
Heating and lighting	9,000	6,849	9,000
Cleaning	11,500	8,570	12,000
Insurance	8,100	7,958	7,500
Water rates	1,000		1,100
Manse council tax	3,110	3,095	3,100
Other local costs:			
Finance costs	1,250	1,108	1,250
Telephone, postage, printing, stationery etc	4,000	2,771	3,500
Other expenses including Communion, music, IT	12,000	12,315	12,000
Depreciation	962	962	962
Total ordinary general expenditure	185,017	184,621	176,726
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	-4,017	-40,591	-17,226

The accounts for the year ended December 2020 are available to view online on the Church website - hamiltonoldparishchurch.org, or, if preferred a printed copy can be obtained from the Office.

PRAYER

Almighty God,
in all things you are constant.
Your love for the world has never ceased;
Your wisdom transcends the sum of all Philosophers;
Your power is limitless,
and is declared throughout the universe
by all of creation.
You are the constant
and our lives revolve around you
even as our planet revolves around the sun
revealing all the seasons of our lives.
Give us a heart to appreciate
the seasons,
the power,
the wisdom,
the love,
in Christ.
Amen.

