



Findings



September 2016
Harvest

MINISTER

Rev Ross Blackman Bsc MBA BD(Hons)
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)
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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

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Dear friends

After a summer break with some well deserved rest I am sure that your minds, like mine, are turning to a new season of activity. The various organisations associated with the congregation are re-starting. We anticipate what may come and perhaps take stock of our role within it. Whether it is attending or helping with the various groups and clubs, offering encouragement to others, or enjoying the camaraderie of friends, there is something to look forward to.

Previously I have used agricultural metaphors for the activity of the church. Why change the habits of a lifetime! Each season has its own role. There are early plantings and late plantings. Generally, we sow in the springtime, the summertime shows growth or the rest of fallow land, in the autumn we harvest and celebrate, and then we begin preparations for the following year. Indeed, “a person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God” (Eccl. 2:24).

Human life often follows a similar pattern, including cycles of renewal. I suppose that whatever season of life we find ourselves in, the roles may change over time, but there continues to be activity, always activity. Sometimes it is paced, sometimes it is “all hands to the pump”, sometimes it is celebration, and sometimes it is recovering perhaps even from disappointments or loss, large and small. Thank God that, by faith, we are assured that Christ walks with us in every season and supplies power for every activity.

Since I last wrote we have enjoyed running a summer Holiday Club for the children, and I am greatly indebted to those who volunteered in all sorts of capacities. The seeds were sown in the spring and resulted in 36 children engaging with the subject of prayer and the stories of the faith of Daniel and his friends. This was incredibly encouraging for a first event. This autumn the adults will have an event to consider the breadth and depth of the work of the church - local, national, and international. Hopefully, it will give us pause to consider how we are stewarding our resources and preparing for the following year[s].

Wherever we look there is growth of one kind or another. We do well to examine our own growth and those of the seeds we have laid down; while we pray for a good harvest, give thanks for all things, and celebrate the good. Reaping and sowing, sowing and reaping. May God grant you grace and bless you richly in all you do for His kingdom.

Your Minister and Friend

Ross



What's On

September

Sunday	04	10.45am	Morning Worship Sunday Live! "Big Breakfast"
Sunday	11	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion - Old Parish
Tuesday	13	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	18	10.45am	Morning Worship Rev Norman McKee
Sunday	25	10.45am	Morning Worship Christian Witness to Israel

October

Sunday	02	10.45am	Harvest Thanksgiving
Thursday	06	2.00pm	The Gathering
		7.00pm	The Gathering
Sunday	09	10.45am	Boys' Brigade Dedication
Sunday	16	10.45am	Morning Worship Rev Norman McKee
Sunday	23	10.45am	Morning Worship
Saturday	29	2.00pm	Link Committee Autumn Social
Sunday	30	10.45am	Morning Worship

November

Sunday	06	10.45am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	08	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	13	10.45am	Service of Remembrance
Saturday	19	11.00am	Christmas Fayre
Sunday	20	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday	27	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Joint Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion



Giving for Growth – The Gathering

Thursday 6 October 2016 at 2pm or 7pm is an exciting and important date in our Church Calendar. On that day we will be given important information which will give all of us an opportunity to review our givings.

An invitation, the first since 2010, to the gathering will be delivered to your home and we would encourage you to attend. The visitor may be new to you so please make her welcome.

Musical entertainment, presentations and of course our Old Parish hospitality will be the order of the day!!

Boys' Brigade Company Section



Over the first weekend in June four of the boys took part in the Battalion Expedition weekend. For the first time in years we had reasonably good weather and even the sun made an occasional appearance. For those of us out in the hills supervising it made a welcome change to enjoy the good weather rather than sitting drookit and scunnered.

Jack Anderson completed his Silver Duke of Edinburgh hike which was a tremendous achievement, since it required a long hike in a short timescale carrying a heavy pack. For David Chisholm, Ewan McIntosh and Euan Baird it was their first time with the BB out in the hills. They did well and returned home more or less in one piece managing.....this time.....to avoid the lions, tigers and bears they were concerned about before we left, and which apparently lurk in the Callander hills waiting for unsuspecting hillwalking boys.....or dinner as they're otherwise known.



On Saturday 18 June 2016 the boys and officers took part in our triathlon raising funds for this year's World Mission Appeal. The challenge involved a 10km swim, followed by 10km run, and ended with a 10km bike ride.

The pool at Hamilton College was clear and still as the challenge began. At that stage swimming four hundred lengths seemed pretty daunting, but we have never shirked a challenge. Under the watchful gaze of Frank Gardiner, and "wur chinas" Gillian Buttery and Deborah Scott, who had all kindly volunteered to record the lengths swum while no doubt enjoying our misery, the officers Iain Gray, Graham Horne, Gordon Scott and me, accompanied by David Anderson all ploughed up and down....and up and down....and up and down.

Looking at the tidal waves and splashes created it would be fair to say that we may have lacked some grace and style – less of hot knives and more like several pairs of wellies through butter – but it was effective. Helped by Ewan and Cameron McIntosh, and then Struan Wilson and his family, the lengths quickly mounted up, and remarkably we reached our total in just under two hours - well within the four hours for which we had budgeted. It was extremely satisfying to get the day off to such a great start, especially without anyone having to be hauled out and emptied of water, and no water wings in sight.

After a buffet lunch in the halls prepared and served by the said chinas and Nanette McLean, we then headed down to Strathclyde Park for the 10km run. The rest of the participating Company Section boys arrived, and the earlier swimmers were joined by Cameron Marks, Sam Walker, David Chisholm, Euan Baird (with his father and brother Cameron) and Euan Davidson. Various groups of runners and walkers then set off to complete the next leg of the challenge. Our ranks were added to by Margaret Green and Gillian Chisholm, who came along to lend their support, and by Graham Horne's two dugs, all of whom went round the Park in jig time. The Davidson family turned out in force to cheer us on. The two chinas and Nanette joined in as well to make it a full house.....almost !

Sadly not all of us could damage our old knees further by taking part in the run. For reasons of health and safety (which is our story and we're sticking to it) Gordon and I cycled halfway round the Park then had to sit on a bench in the sun waiting for all the troops to pass safely by. It was a tough job but someone had to do it. We do take our responsibilities very seriously !

Everyone taking part completed the full 10km without difficulty, especially Struan Wilson, David Chisholm and Cameron McIntosh, who ran all the way. Some day they too will have knees like ours.



After the run it was back to the halls where the survivors saddled up then rode down to the Park for the 10km ride. Scott and Lynn McIntosh were there for the final part of the challenge but unfortunately didn't manage to cycle far having to help Euan Baird whose arm had fallen off.....at least the arm of one of his pedals had fallen off putting his bike out of action. Scott and Lynn kindly helped him back to the start.

By this stage legs were tiring but led by Graham Horne we completed the required two circuits of the Park. It was great to finish the triathlon and what had been a long and energetic day. After a much needed and well-earned rest, inscribed medals were presented to all the participants, recording the achievement and hopefully serving as a reminder in the future of a good day and a tremendous effort, all in the aid of our fellow Boys' Brigade members in Kenya. Thank you to everyone who took part and came along to support us.

As always the total raised will be disclosed in due course.

Alistair Buttery
Captain



Anchor Boys and Bluebells

A very warm welcome is extended to all boys and girls aged 5 to 7 years to join us on Wednesday evenings.

The new session starts on 7th September at 5.30p.m.

The items included in our programme are stories, crafts, games and lots of fun.

The first evening is mainly for registration purposes but we will have something of interest for the children.

Nanette McLean
Leader in charge

Choir

At the beginning of August I learned of the death of one of our former choir members, Mrs. Mary Aitken. Mary was a very regular faithful member in the Alto section of The Old Parish, where she served for many years until her retiral. I have conveyed our sympathy from the Choir.

Many of the choir have enjoyed a refreshing summer break and we now look forward to our new session beginning in September when we shall be looking at music to support worship and cover the Church year.

Early in the session we will be involved in the Stewardship day to be held on the afternoon and evening of Thursday 6th October. The choir will use the display opportunities in the Session room to give the congregation information on how we plan, prepare and contribute to the music Sunday by Sunday, and it is hoped that the congregation will support this event to learn of the work and witness given by choir members and the other organisations.

Choir folders can be uplifted on Sunday 4th September ready for our first meeting on Wednesday 7th September when we will meet at 7pm in the Session Room. Please return that evening, all music used over the summer months in numerical and alphabetical order and be prepared for lots of new learning curves!!

A warm welcome is extended to anyone in the Congregation who could be interested in Church music. I will be happy to chat with you at any time.

Helen C. Simpson

Organist
helensimps@sky.com



1970 Ladies' Club

Please note that we will now be holding our meetings in the afternoon and our first meeting will be on 15 September at 1.30pm in the Session Room.

15 September	Nostalgia – Kevan Smith
29 September	Rev Ross Blackman
13 October	Old Hairmyres Hospital – John Mitchell
27 October	Dolls Houses – Marjorie Robertson
10 November	New Lanark – Ainsley Gough
24 November	Jewellery – Sandra Stevenson
8 December	Christmas Lunch

We are looking forward to meeting up with present members and any ladies who would like to join us will be made very welcome.

Avril Cunningham
President



Property Committee

The work to the main roof of the Hall and ventilator is now complete and a new roof to the lower roof to the rear of the Halls is now to be replaced.

Many thanks to David Leishman and his team of volunteers who have been tidying the pathways and flower beds around the Church during the summer months.

A designated wheelchair space has now been created next to the sound system desk.

John Downie
Property Convener

Sunday Live

The summer session came to a close with a mini Olympics comprising of games for all ages. It was great fun and I was exhausted just watching! This was followed by prize giving on 19 June where we did a parody on Britain's Got Talent renamed Sunday Live's Got Talent. Pupils and staff were suitably rewarded with reading material and vouchers for the senior children.

Seven Sunday Live members read the lessons on Sunday 7 August following the summer club held in the Halls.

Sunday Live will start the autumn session on Sunday 4 September when, once again, refreshed and rarin' to go we will provide Christian Education for our children in an environment of fun.

Sandy Messer

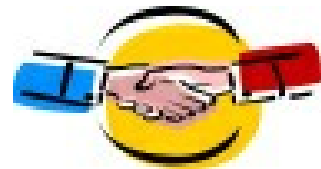
Sunday Live Administrator!



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



Monday Club

We start back earlier this year to take advantage of visiting speakers who will be speaking to the congregation on Sunday 25th September on Israel. Therefore our first meeting will be on Monday 26th September. This meeting will be open to members of the congregation who want to hear more about this topic.

The Monday Club has been asked to take a stall at the stewardship event to be held in the Church halls on Thursday 6th October. We will be promoting the club to members of the church by handing out information about ourselves, our speakers and photos of trips will be on display. If you have any other thoughts on this matter please speak with myself or any of the committee members.

There will be an afternoon and an evening session for this special event. If you would like to help at our stall that would be very much appreciated.

Here is the list of speakers and subjects for the first half of our new session.

26 September	Christian Witness to Israel	
17 October	Kirsty Buchan	Casa Semear
31 October	Irene Dick	Gie's a joab!
14 November	Rona Maxwell	Laura's Story
28 November	Gaille Gray	Headway
12 December	Christmas Lunch	

All our meetings start at 1.30pm and finish with a cup of tea by 3pm. Can I extend a warm invitation to anyone in the Church who has Monday afternoons free to come along and join us. You will be made most welcome.

Charlie Duguid



Link Committee

The Link Committee are holding their autumn concert on Saturday 29 October when we will be entertaining our guests in the upper hall with a "Touch of Class". Followed as usual with afternoon tea.

Jim Naismith

Convener

Guild
Be Bold Be Strong
Year 2 - Go in Joy



Preparations for the start of the session 2016/2017 are listed below:

October	05	Rev R Blackman - Dedication Service
	19	Mrs J Steele - Tigers
November	02	Rev Fiona Nicolson - My call to the Ministry
	16	Financial AGM and Projects update
		13 - 20 Guild Week
December	07	Christmas Afternoon Tea

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 5 October at 2.00pm.

Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator



Saffronhall Singers

Our new session will begin on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in the session room when we look forward to welcoming everyone after the long summer break. We will be revising some of the newer pieces we had been working on during the spring but also quickly revising our basic repertoire as we have two engagements before Christmas. We have been invited back to Auchlochan on Monday 17th October and we are going to entertain an afternoon group at the United Reform Church in Rutherglen on Wednesday 2nd November.

Once again, we will be hosting a Carols by Candlelight in the church on Friday 9th December, performing a variety of Christmas music, old and new, sacred and secular. We do hope many of the congregation will join us and our friends for this happy night.

Campbell Barr



Fellowship Committee

On 7 June, we (or at least some of us) enjoyed the golf day at Troon. We were again fortunate with the weather which held up for us. Congratulations went to Donald Paterson and sad commiserations to Dale Strachan as runner up. Must look at their handicaps before next year.

The trip to the Kelpies was, despite terrible rain just as we got started the guided tour, enjoyed by those who went. Due to the rain the intended stroll around Linlithgow was abandoned. As per last year, the meal at West Lothian Golf club was first class. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

The suggested restricted Doors Open days on 10 and 11 September has been cancelled but consideration is being given by us to arranging a one off Doors Open Day for our Church and Halls sometime in the near future, so keep an eye open for more information in the Intimation Sheet.

As intimated in the last issue of Tidings, arrangements are being put in place for the Charity Lunch, the Church Christmas lunch and Carols by Candlelight later this year, together with the visit to the King's Theatre on 7 January 2017 for the pantomime Cinderella starring Gregor Fisher.

As usual, our thanks go to everyone who has supported our efforts in the past and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

Iain McLean
Convener

Flower List 2016

September	04	Mrs McLean
	11	Mrs Downie
	18	Boys' Brigade
	25	Mrs McGilliard
October	02	Mrs Kerr
	09	Mrs Porter
	16	Mrs Keir
	23	Mrs Dick
	30	Mrs Lindsay
November	06	Mrs Stoddart
	13	Mrs MacLean
	20	Mrs Davidson
	27	Mrs Smith
December	04	Mrs MacLean
	11	Mrs Macintyre



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

September	04	Mrs M Baird
	11	Mrs M Eadie
	18	Mrs L Smith
	25	Mrs M Green
October	02	Mrs A Munn
	09	Mrs M Frew
	16	Mrs S Nicholson
	23	Mrs J Jarvie
	30	Mrs F Brown
November	06	Mrs E Nelson
	13	Mrs J Dick
	20	Miss M Dyet
	27	Mrs N Naismith
December	04	Mrs N Barr
	11	Mrs M Henderson



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

Kate Morrow

01698 420748

Flower Circle

Would the members of the Flower Circle and anyone who is interested in helping to decorate the Church for Harvest please meet in the Halls on Friday 30 September at 9.30am.

Elizabeth Gardiner

427852

Rose Bowl List 2016

September	04	P Scott
	11	G Keir
	18	J Swinton
	25	M Gilbert
October	09	E Smith
	23	N Barr
	30	J Jardine
November	13	L Craig
	27	M Henderson
December	04	F McIntosh
	11	E Reid



The Scottish Bible Society

“Light in Amazonia” project in Brazil - a hospital boat run by the Bible Society of Brazil which visits riverside communities providing medical and dental care as well as distributing free Bibles.

Community Bible Experience revolves around a new format of the NIV Bible, stripped of verses and chapter numbers. It reads as a flowing narrative much as it was intended to be read. It allows the whole of the New Testament to be read in just 8 weeks. People read everyday and get together every week to discuss what God has said through His Word in their lives. It encourages daily Bible reading. It gives a sense of the “Big Picture” of the Bible, and enables the Bible to be read in context with introductions at the beginning of each book explaining who each book was written to and why.

To find out more, call Adrian Armstrong, Head of Bible Engagement on 0131 347 9827 or email adrian.armstrong@scottishbiblesociety.org

Muriel Eadie

Safeguarding

Many of you will know the feeling....just when you think you are winning, someone moves the goalposts! This was the experience David and I had in the spring when the implications dawned on us, of the minister’s plan to offer a summer holiday club for children. We had been busy telling organisations and the kirk session that all new volunteers were subject to the “safe recruitment” process and of course, this would apply to any of the volunteers needed to help out at this club. From experience, we know the actual PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) process, managed by Disclosure Scotland, takes about six weeks, so when holidays were factored in we knew we had to move quickly. Consequently job descriptions were created and all volunteers who would be working with the young people were asked to complete application forms, provide two references and apply to join the PVG scheme. We are delighted to say that this was all carried out with great enthusiasm and cooperation and we were similarly pleased when all the references were returned in good time.

The net result is that 13 new names have been added to the church Safeguarding Register, all cleared to work with children. As a congregation, we are very, very grateful, firstly to all the volunteers for being willing to give up their time to help and secondly, for their willingness to engage with the complex requirements put in place to ensure our young people are kept safe.

Training for all volunteers is mandatory and so encouraging everyone to attend one of the presbytery run courses is our main target over the next few months. Courses will be advertised in the intimations each Sunday and at least one course will be offered later in the year in our own church.

Nesella Barr / David Young
Safeguarding Coordinators

Almighty God,
you are more than we can comprehend;
and you give us abundantly more than we need.

You dispense love in all your dealings,
you are loving,
you give love,
you put love in our hearts,
you are love.

As the Psalmist asks:
What can I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of his people.

Lord,
grant that we might always
drink deeply of your gifts of love.
Whether it be personal blessings
or the company of your people,
in simple service or communion,
help us to give and receive
wholeheartedly,
for you.

Our saviour, Jesus Christ,
spared nothing.
May his abundant gift
make up for any and every lack in us,
as we pray in his worthy name
to your praise and glory.
Amen.



Gift Aid

Later in the year, you will all be invited to participate in a stewardship campaign, to help address the financial difficulties affecting the church, local and national. Many of you will be asked to give some consideration to signing a gift aid declaration. I would like to make the following points clear.

- You must pay sufficient tax to cover your claim.
- The church receives an additional 25% of your donations.
- If you have already signed a declaration you do not need to do so again.
- A declaration is active until you tell me to cancel it.
- You do not need to commit to a set amount every week or month.
- Your contributions are confidential.



If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, in person, by phone or by email.

Nesella Barr
Gift Aid Convener

01698 329177, nesella.barr@blueyonder.co.uk



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 May 2016
Eleanor Hutton*

*18 July 2016
Margaret Rose*

*1 August 2016
Mary Aitken*

*2 August 2016
Frances Moffat*

*4 August 2016
William Cherry*





Lord of life,
 you give and you take away,
 you set the cycles and seasons of life,
 and round they go.

You gave wisdom to Solomon
 and for a time the nation knew peace,
 yet even he waxed and waned.
 He preached of the timing of everything under heaven.
 A time to be born and a time to die,
 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 a time to love and a time to hate,
 a time for war and a time for peace.
 You have made everything beautiful in its time,
 and you have put eternity into our hearts.

We remember the wars of our own nation,
 those past and those present.
 We remember the veterans, those lost and those hurt,
 for all bear scars within or without.
 We remember families on each side of the conflicts,
 praying for their loved ones,
 knowing anxiety, fear, and loss.

The entire history of humanity is soaked in blood
 but the enduring high spot is the blood soaked cross
 of one who can empathise with all,
 who has fought for all,
 and won.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
 we will remember them.

Amen.