



Tidings



Harvest
September 2019

MINISTER

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Mr John Downie

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CHURCH - Mr David Leishman
MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Mr David Young
Mrs Wendy Hay

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Dear friends,

Sometimes it feels that the changing seasons affect the mind. What is your state of mind? With all the influences of life, including joys and tribulations, expectations and actual change, our state of mind can have a huge impact on how we view the world and act within it. Some face illness, bereavement, retirement, school, a new job, incident and accident, or any number of changes to their perspective or their role in life. Managing that change is not always easy and it can have an impact upon, and be impacted by, our state of mind.

I'm reminded of Rudyard Kipling's poem "If", which states:

*If you can keep your head when all about you
are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
but make allowance for their doubting too;
if you can wait and not be tired by waiting*

...

*Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
and – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!*

The language is of its time, and I don't think is intended to be misogynistic, but does it place unrealistic expectations on its readers? After all, there are many reasons for struggling with our state of mind and not all of them have medical or stress-based causes. Some like Dr Sebastian Bailey talk of four states of mind that are externally and internally focussed; those that are harmful as well as those that are helpful. It's easy to run on autopilot, when familiarity turns to mundane, explaining in part the cause of so many car accidents close to home. On the other hand, being engaged with our environment and actively seeking other perspectives can be challenging but helpful. Similarly, when engaging in our own internal dialogue, it's useful to think deeply about things, but is detrimental if we become critical of ourselves and others. Indeed, we can be our own worst enemy when it comes to criticism.

From time to time we all face unexpected changes, place unhelpful expectations upon ourselves, and judge accordingly. Thank God, literally, that Christ does not view us as we see ourselves or even as others see us. Early in his ministry he declared, "for God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge but to be its saviour" (John 3:17). Rather, the judgement works by our response to His light (v19). And, that is worth thinking about and being engaged with. Whatever our state of mind, He is the source of peace (John 14:27).

Your Minister and Friend,

Ross



What's On

September

Sunday 01	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Bowls Afternoon
Sunday 08	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Tuesday 10	7.00pm	Meeting of the Kirk Session
Sunday 15	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 22	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court
Sunday 29	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



October

Sunday 06	10.45am	Morning Worship - Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 13	10.45am	Morning Worship - Rev Dr George Whyte
Sunday 20	10.45am	Morning Worship
		Charity Lunch
Sunday 27	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



November

Sunday 03	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Bereavement Service
Sunday 10	10.45am	Morning Worship - Remembrance Sunday
Tuesday 12	7.00pm	Meeting of Kirk Session
Sunday 17	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 24	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Woodburn Court



Church Flowers

For as long as anyone can remember Elizabeth Gardiner has been responsible for arranging the flowers in the Church each Sunday. This she has done willingly and without complaint. Now, however, she is unable to continue, and efforts to find a successor have failed. In order to continue the important and much appreciated custom of not only enhancing the appearance of the Church but also providing a tangible memento to those who are particularly in our thoughts, an alternative system will be required. Elizabeth will continue to make up the rota.

It is proposed that all those on the Flower List who have agreed to provide flowers on a particular date be asked to put their flowers in the vases provided. This also applies to the Rose Bowl. If this seems difficult it is suggested that tied bunches, available in all supermarkets, be used. These can be put straight into the vases without further arrangement. It has been customary for this to be done on a Saturday morning when the Halls are open or via Andrea in the Office.

In this way we will be able to continue our valuable contribution to Church life.

Company Section



Battalion 5-a-sides

We could only enter a senior team for the Battalion 5-a-sides competition. The boys played well only losing one match. However the game we lost proved decisive. The team who beat us won all of their matches and the overall competition.

Going into the tournament we had been doing well and building up a good points tally towards the Battalion Sports Trophy. Competition had been fierce between ourselves and the 2nd Hamilton. We had been neck and neck in the competitions over the year. On the day the 2nd Hamilton entered teams in both the Senior and Junior competitions. By the end of the competition they were just one point behind us.

All to play for and only the Swimming Gala to go !



Battalion Swimming Gala

It would be fair to say our team for the swimming gala was not the strongest. The boys said beforehand they would be lucky not to drown, rather than finish as winners. We have very honest boys. They were not the strongest swimmers. They may even have come close to drowning. But they took part and did their best. By the end of the Gala the 2nd Hamilton had beaten us by one place.....and one point.

Across the session, taking into account the cross country, badminton, table tennis, 5-a-sides, and swimming gala, the overall result for the Battalion Cunningham Memorial Sports Trophy was a draw.

Standing how well the boys from each Company did across the year, the standard of competition between them, and the spirit in which all matches were played, a draw and a share of the Trophy was genuinely the best and fairest result. I would have felt bad had we scraped the trophy by a point. I would – of course - have felt considerably worse had the 2nd Hamilton scraped the Trophy by a point. The 2nd have won the Trophy on many occasions over the years and deservedly so. This year is the first in which the 1st Hamilton's name has ever been engraved on the Trophy - but again deservedly so.

The boys deserve huge credit for their effort and commitment throughout the year. They have made their mark, and by winning even a share of the Trophy, have written another chapter in the Company's history.

Battalion Parade

The Battalion Annual Church Parade to Bothwell Parish Church had a very poor turnout from the Company Section. Only Euan and Colin were there. Euan and one of the laddies from the 2nd Hamilton had the honour of being presented jointly with the Sports Trophy.



Practice Hike

The full Company Section participated in a Practice Hike at the end of May. The principal purpose of going out on the Hike was for the older boys to satisfy the Duke of Edinburgh regulations, which require a Practice Hike to be undertaken before a full Qualifying Hike. The boys did really well. We camped around Spango Bridge near Crawfordjohn, left early the next morning, and made good progress round the route. For the younger lads this was their first time out with us, and gave them the chance to put into practice their camping and navigational skills. For the older boys it was an opportunity to finely hone (or vaguely try and remember) how to use a map and compass. It was a successful hike, and it was great to have all of the boys out working and enjoying time together.



Expedition Weekend

David, Ewan, Euan, Euan and Cameron all took part in the Battalion Expedition weekend. The initial plan was for David, Ewan and Euan to walk the Duke of Edinburgh Silver route, and Euan and Cameron to follow the Bronze route. By the first checkpoint on the Saturday morning Euan and Cameron had the bit between their teeth, and chose to walk the Silver route instead. It was a long day for them but they kept their heads down and ploughed on. Often when out in the hills it is as much about mental resilience as physical fitness. They eventually made it back to the campsite just before darkness fell. Overnight the weather was atrocious. The rain stotted down all night and by morning most of the tents were flooded and everyone was more than a little scunnered. However they collected their gear and walked the final stages of the route, albeit with stiff legs and Euan suffering from an ankle sprain the day before. It says a great deal for their character and determination that they saw the hike through to its end rather than calling it a day.

Queen's Badge Presentation

The session was brought to a close with the Old Kirk hosting the Lanarkshire District Fellowship Queen's Badge Presentation. The event brings together the boys from the four Battalions in the District who have gained their Queen's Badges, and is the most prestigious District event held each year. The Chief Guest was the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Haughey, and various other highheids attended the Presentation also, from The Boys' Brigade and beyond. By all accounts the Presentation went extremely well, to the extent the District has threatened to ask us to host the event again in the future. Mebbes aye. Mebbes naw ! There was a huge amount of work and time involved, and while technically the Kirk was the host, sincere thanks are due again from the Company to all who helped with the provision of the purvey, and to everyone who gave so willingly of their time and talents on the day itself.

All sections of the Company will resume on Wednesday 11 September 2019. If you know of any boys of BB age who are interested in coming along please encourage them to do so.

Thank you

Alistair Buttery
Captain



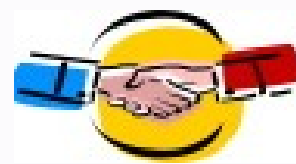
Monday Club

The club will resume for the new session on Monday 14th October at 1.30pm. We meet in 'The North' Hall and new members will be made most welcome. Here is the syllabus for the first half of our session:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 14th October | Molly Cumming: speaking about The Lanimers. |
| 28th October | Hugh Kerr: giving us more on some of his kayaking adventures |
| 11th November | Jimmy Rexter: A child's view of World War 2. |
| 25th November | Christmas Lunch. |

Details for the second session will be published in the next issue .

Charlie Duguid



Choir

It seems no time since writing the article for the June Newsletter that I find I am planning for a new session of Choir in September.

We have normally completed our Sunday morning choral contribution of Introits and Anthems at the end of our session in April when our midweek meetings stop, and generally through the summer months have Introits only. However this year we were able to include Anthems throughout May and June and I am grateful to Choir for their support and preparation time on Sunday mornings prior to worship.

Planners are now in place to begin our new session on Wednesday 4th September at 7 p.m. and a warm welcome awaits for anyone in the congregation who would like to share their vocal talent. If you could be interested in joining Choir please do come forward and have a chat with me any Sunday morning after service. We have had the pleasure of welcoming Emma and Thomas Hay for the first part of the service and they have worked very hard at home each week learning Introits and following their music notation.

I have been able to accommodate several friends in the congregation who have mentioned a favourite piece of music or hymn that has particular meaning for them, and I am happy at times of reflection either before the service or during the offering to include music which is both meaningful and personal at a particular date in the year.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 4th September and please remember to bring all your music from April to 25th August forwards for filing. As always alphabetical and numerical order will help you navigate the choral chaos that usually ensues on such an evening.

Helen C Simpson
Organist



Guild

One Journey Many Roads

Year 2 - Companions on the Road

Here we are preparing for another session. I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and some of the good weather on your travels.

Guild projects continue to flourish - total from November to April is £127500.

Syllabus from October to December is as follows:-

October 02	Dedication Service Rev Ross Blackman <i>NOTE: change of time 1.30pm in the Church</i>
October 16	Malawi Fruits Kevin Simpson
November 02	Paralympians A & M Neilston
November 16	Financial AGM
December 04	Hamilton South Guilds Together Carol Service at St John's at 1.30pm



Members of congregation welcome at any meeting which takes place in the Session Room at 2.00pm unless otherwise stated.

I look forward to seeing you all on October 2nd.

Avril Boothroyd
Coordinator

Fellowship Committee

At the time of writing, we are assisting with the preparations for a Musical Extravaganza by Glasgow Light Orchestra in the Church on Friday 30 August, with refreshments in the halls at the interval. Then on 1 September, our annual bowls day will be at Hamilton Bowling Club, followed by a buffet meal in the halls. For more information see the weekly intimation sheet.

On the weekend of 7/8 September, Communion weekend, our Church is taking part in the "Doors Open" scheme. This is an opportunity for those who have not had a guided tour of the Church and have not had the history explained to them and would like to do so. The Church will be open on Saturday 7th from 10.00 am until 4.00pm and on Sunday 8th from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the halls after your visit.

Our Charity Lunch is this year being held on Sunday 6 October, following the morning service. More information re the cost and names being taken will follow soon.

Then, and I am sorry to mention this so early, the Congregational Christmas Lunch will be on 15 December, but more information will follow in the weekly intimation sheet nearer the time.

Iain McLean

Fellowship Committee Convener



Link Committee

Our next Event will be our Autumn Social which will take place on 26 October 2019 at 2pm in the Church Halls. Entertainment has still to be confirmed and this will be followed by an afternoon tea.

If you are 80 or over and would like to attend our social events can you please pass your details to the Church office or phone Andrea on 01698 281905.

Helen McGreevy

Convener



One Good Friday

Our Passion Play 2020 will take place on Good Friday, 10th April. It is going to be a very special demonstration of Christian unity.

The team behind the Trafalgar Square Passion Play (Wintershall) have developed "One Good Friday" to nurture other towns and cities, enabling them to perform their own plays. New locations are still signing up. Bath, Bishop Auckland, Guildford, Horsham, Liverpool, Spelthorne and Worcester will be performing the same script at the same time as us! Hamilton is – so far – the only Scottish town to be involved in this wonderful initiative.

The script is a traditional re-enactment of the Passion which will last 90 minutes. Can we add the aspects to the story we have been unable to have in previous years? The thief on the cross? The Sanhedrin? The temple guard? To do this we will need the help and involvement of many. Please do consider how you might like to be involved. Or is there someone you know who you could encourage to be part of this?

Let's put Hamilton on the map and be part of something special.



Holiday Club 2019



Drama Kirk

HOPC's Go For It funded programme, bringing the gospel to life through drama, has submitted its first six month report to some very positive feedback. Our first six months has of course included the Passion Play, our involvement in the General Assembly's Heart and Soul event and the launch of the interactive bible study series, "The Word in Action", as well as preparation for our dramatized walk with Moses.

There is much to look forward to in our next six months, which will include another bible study focused on Joshua; our nativity which will again be part of the reindeer parade; an evening of improvised, bible-based comedy where the audience chooses the scenarios to be acted out; a fundraising concert and preparations for next year's Passion Play.

The Drama Kirk Committee is very grateful to everyone who has been involved in supporting the work. From our actors to our "Tablet Warriors" everyone can have a role to play in this exciting ministry. Please continue to support us!

Prayer

God of all creation, you are the centre of our world.
The pivot round whom all of us turn.
You call us to dream: to dream of far off horizons;
to dream of new possibilities;
to dream of a world in love with you,
and each other.

Help us, Jesus, to draw wider and even wider circles,
building communities that look out to see you
in the faces of friend and stranger alike.

Holy Spirit, may our loving know no borders
in all that we do, as a church here in Scotland,
and with friends all around the world.

Amen.



World Mission

By the end of 2018, United Mission to Nepal in their reconstruction work in Dhading district had achieved:

- 4516 students attending 36 newly constructed schools. 42 toilet blocks have been built at the schools.
- 37km of footpaths, 8km of paved roads and 8 bridges have been rebuilt.
- 8 micro-hydropower plants repaired to generate electricity.
- 55 communities, schools and health posts have access to safe drinking water and 358 toilets have been constructed. 222 water filters have been installed in schools and 57 water testing units have been established to monitor the water quality.
- 3411 students and teachers have been trained in caring for the water supply and the importance of good hygiene and sanitation.
- 217 people have been trained to serve in 17 local government committees.
- 2014 people have been trained on issues of child protection, gender-based violence and child marriage.

Nessie Garrett

Walk with the Word: Exodus



On Saturday 10th August Drama Kirk led a guided walk with a difference, as a cast and crew brought to life the plight of Moses and the Israelites in the desert – well, in Chatelherault Park!

Our prayers were answered and the weather was extremely kind to us. We led three walks on a route of about a mile, lasting an hour, each with an audience of around 50. We had a cast of just over twenty, including two professional actors. We also built our own Ark of the Cov-

enant to what is thought to be the right dimensions. People really enjoyed the experience of marching behind it.

A storyteller led us through the time in the wilderness, starting with the parting of the red sea. Our scenes included God providing manna and quails, Moses getting the ten commandments, Aaron making the golden calf, spies entering Canaan, snakes attacking the camp and then - finally - entering the promised land. God (in the guise of Jim Henderson's wonderful voice) guided the Israelites throughout.



Feedback from our audience has been very positive, with people enjoying the surroundings, walking together as a group and the sense of being part of the story. Comments included, "It's a great way to communicate with all ages. Overheard children fascinated by the story and how big and great God is! All actors contributed a lot to making the story come alive and so believable (which it is!) and underlines the truth that God's Word is Alive and active! Narrator was humorous my daughter says!! Also I was pretty impressed with God's Voice and technology behind that and The Ark, so well done with that, costumes and props".

It was also another good opportunity to share our work with others. There was a lovely piece in Life and Work, Photo and blurb on the homepage of the Church of Scotland website, social media responses from London and Paris and (closer to home) good coverage in the Advertiser.

"Walk with the Word" is a planned series of walking events as part of our GoForIt funded project; where participants will have the opportunity to walk with well-known bible characters and discover more of their journey. Next summer we hope to bring you "Walk with the Word: Emmaus". In 2021 we will travel with Paul.

Many thanks and hearty congratulations to all involved – cast, crew, stewards and everyone supporting this ministry.





BACK TO BRAZIL.

After a busy, but good six months in Scotland, we are now back home in sunny Sao Paulo. Possibly a bit too sunny for comfort.

We are just about settled back in after having a ten-day missionary training week with Action Brasil, then our annual ABBA retreat. Both went really well. The training week was full of meetings and long conversations with new candidates and a number of lectures, and after everything, five new missionaries have been accepted into the mission! It is very exciting to see people dedicating their lives to God's calling. The ABBA retreat was more a time of rest with worship time and a Bible study in the morning, then free time to spend time with the team in a very informal environment. A great time to catch up and share with people about our time in Scotland.

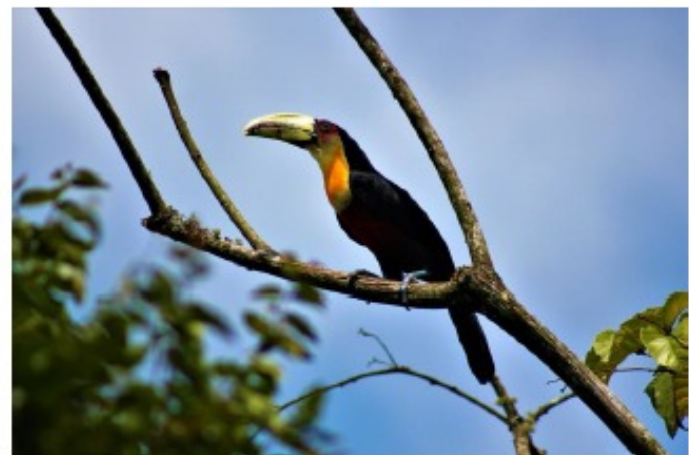
The children are back at school, and now me and Silvana have a few days to breathe a bit. Since getting back, it has all been a big rush, and we've hardly seen each other. So we have been spending time in the garden, weeding flower beds, I still haven't got round to hacking into our vegetable patch, as it has been growing for six months!! Our hens are coming back home this week also, so that'll be nice to have good healthy fresh eggs again, and cockerels singing at stupid o'clock, but that's ok! Our toucan family is back again and are nesting in our garden. It is a real blessing to sit back and watch the mother and father taking care of their young.

We start back with the children at Casa Semear next week, and we are really looking forward to sharing God's love with whoever we come across. Remember, it's not just the children we minister to. We (you too) all have to share with whoever He puts in our paths. We have a meeting with our team this week to plan our year ahead, and to discuss a few changes, and new ideas.

PRAYER+PRAISE...

- We are thankful that we were able to raise enough support in Scotland to be able to come back to what God has called us to do.
- Pray for our team. Not everything went smoothly. There were some little issues that I have to try and help settle. They aren't huge, but need care.

God bless!! Robert, Silvana, Vinny, Rafael, Marianne and Helena!



Flower List 2019

September	01	Mrs McLean
	08	Mrs Downie
	15	Boys' Brigade
	22	Mrs McGilliard
	29	Mrs Kerr
October	06	Mrs Porter
	13	Mrs Keir
	20	Mrs Dick
	27	Mrs Lindsay
November	03	Mrs Stoddart
	10	Mrs MacLean
	17	Mrs Wyllie
	24	Mrs Smith
December	01	Mrs Maclean
	08	Mrs Macintyre

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers.

E Gardiner

01698 427852



Flower Delivery

September	01	M Baird
	08	M Eadie
	15	H Troop
	22	M Green
	29	A Munn
October	06	G Davidson
	13	S Nicholson
	20	J Jarvie
	27	F Brown
November	03	E Nelson
	10	J Dick
	17	M Dyett
	24	M Maclean
December	01	N Barr
	08	M Henderson

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

Andrea Davidson

01698 281905

Rose Bowl List 2019

September	01	P Scott
	08	G Keir
	15	J Swinton
October	22	M Gilbert
	06	E Smith
	20	N Barr
November	27	J Jardine
	10	L Craig
	24	M Henderson
December	01	F McIntosh
	08	E Reid



Flower Circle

Please meet in the Halls on Friday 4 October at 9.30am in order to decorate the Church for Harvest.

E Gardiner

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely display of flowers I received on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I was really delighted with them, so much so that they are now displayed pride of place in the common room here at Woodburn Court. I truly am, so very grateful.

Colin McLean



Thank you very much for contributing towards my fundraising. It will go towards making a difference to lives of many people.

Many thanks

Rachel

Brownie Young Leader

MEIKLE FAMILY!!

August 2019

robert.silvana@gmail.com

SERVICES, CAMPS, GROUPS, MOVING HOUSE AND A WEDDING.

The first half of this year came with many blessings. We have managed to get the services up and running again at Casa Semear with the help of an American minister and his Brazilian wife. They are hoping to open a church within the community and they are using Casa Semear as a base. They are taking care of the services, and have a kid's club beforehand along with visitation in the favela. We are really happy with this, as it has given us a great opportunity to spend time as a family at the weekends. Our two boys have been going to our church's youth group on Saturday nights, and are fully engaged with the young folk there. When we came back to Brazil last year, Vinny and Rafa were wanting to be baptized, so they done the baptismal course and were baptized at the church youth camp in June!

We had a group come from Ohio, in June, and they were with us for just under a week. It was a youth group from a Mennonite church and they helped lay tile on the top of the Volunteers flats (Laundry Area). We had intended on laying tile since it was built, but the funds only arrived after a silent auction here in Sao Paulo. The group helped with the tile laying, children's club and with a day camp on the Saturday. It was a BUSY week!

We had a bittersweet feeling last month as we had to say goodbye to one of the women that served with us at Casa Semear. We had been praying for a long time for the Lord to send her a husband, and God answered our prayers. Hallelujah! God is good! But it meant saying goodbye after six years of faithful service. She asked me to take the wedding, which was a real privilege. After the wedding, Jai moved away to a different city, and we pray for the Lord's blessings over her life.

We have moved house! After being in Scotland last year, and having everything nearby, we decided to move back to our own house in town. With the children being more involved in church activities and after school activities, being closer has helped a lot. We don't have as much space, but it is ours, and we are happy. It was hard giving up the green and trees and nature, but now we have moved, life has been less stressful. Less driving.

A new school year has started, Vinny is now in High School, and is loving being in a different league to his siblings. He thinks he is really cool. Rafa just can't stand school, but that is him. Marianne is enjoying school and turns 10 this month, seems like 16, but only 10!

God bless!! Robert, Silvana, Vinny, Rafael, Marianne and Helena!





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*

*10 May 2019
Mary Reid*



Weddings

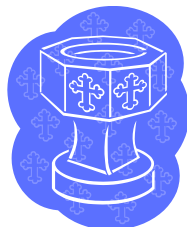
"That they be the one"

*27 July 2019
Lynette Mellor to Keith McMahon*



Baptisms

*21 July 2019
Ben Martin Hooper*



**Almighty God,
help us to rest in you.**

**When the world changes
and we feel as if it is spinning out of control,
or when all seems mundane
and none more than "them others",
help us to focus on you.**

**When our questions are many
and our answers few, or distressing,
help us to trust in you.**

**For you are God -
you still the waters
of nature
and of our hearts,
and you are God.
You are God
and we need to remember
that you are God.**

**We fail
to rest, to focus, to trust, to remember;
we fail.
But you are God.
So, do for us
all that we need and more besides,
through Christ, with Christ, in Christ.
Amen.**

