

Tidings



June 2024
Summer

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

Mr Alistair Buttery
Mr William Craig
Mrs Linda Smith

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMISTRESS

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

CONVENER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs Marilyn Henderson
67 Sycamore Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7HF ☎ 01698 427892
Email: finance@hamiltonold.co.uk

TREASURER

Mr Alan Blue

PROPERTY CONVENER

Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson
CHURCH - Miss Gillian Davidson
MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Wendy Culross

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,

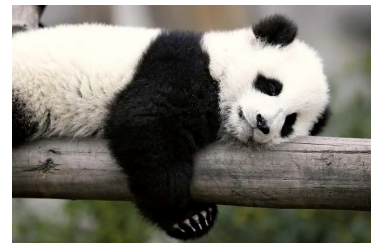
“Vanity, Vanity, all is Vanity”

All is vanity, wrote the wise man of Ecclesiastes (Eccles.1:2), possibly wise King Solomon. He was talking about our labours, but might as easily have been talking of our personal appearance or status. And so, I wonder whether we might have considered that when it comes to our approach to worship and service to our God and His kingdom? Surely our efforts are not in vain?

It's not uncommon for some to think that certain jobs or roles are beneath them. Someone else will do it, or we can pay someone to undertake an onerous duty that could otherwise easily have been accomplished with the efforts of a few hearty souls. What blessings are found in working together, even if it's a simple duty like putting away a few chairs or moving some crockery. It produces camaraderie and a sense of belonging.

On a different note, perhaps we know some who have shied away from the church due to a perception of how they are viewed – they don't dress or speak the right way. Alternatively, through embarrassment of how they look if they have had a bump or a fall, it's tempting to stay away until we look “just right”.

I recently had a similar experience of the latter when I had to have a couple of impacted wisdom teeth removed. They had been bothering me for decades and it had finally come to crunch time as they were damaging adjacent teeth. Having been given notice of the appointment, I started regrowing a beard so that I might hopefully cover any bruising. Alas, I would have needed a beard to make a Yeti proud, as the bruising made me look like a Panda. But, what should I do about Sunday worship? Ought I avoid it out of vanity and embarrassment, or take the hit of a few wisecracks? Well, sometimes it pays to be able to laugh at yourself, so I took the latter approach.

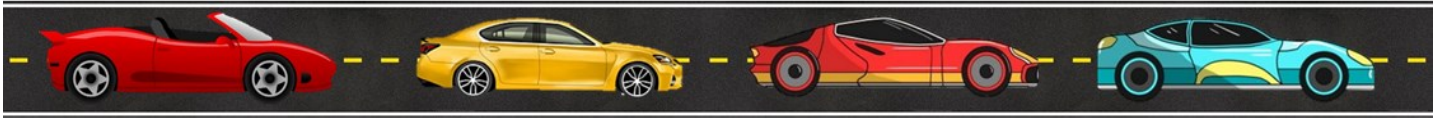


We really do have a wonderful and loving church family, and an even more understanding and compassionate God. Let us never forget that when faced with choices about seeing, supporting, and working together, at church or in the street. Working for the kingdom of God is never vanity.

Your Minister and friend (and part-time panda),

Ross





Hamilton Old Parish Church

Strathmore Cup



**Join us for our Strathmore Cup Holiday Club
for P1 – P7
Monday 29th July – Friday 2nd August
9.30am – 12.30pm
or bring a packed lunch and stay until 3.00pm**

**For further details or to register please contact Andrea
by telephone on 01698 281905**

Click on the QR code to register



What's On

June

Sunday 02	9.30am	Early Morning Service (Café Church)
	10.45am	Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Sunday 09	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion
		<i>Father's Day</i>
Sunday 16	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 23	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30	10.45am	Morning Worship



July

Sunday 7	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship

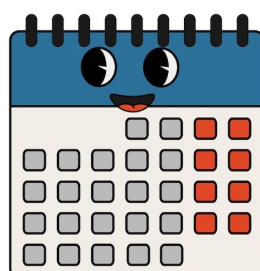


Strathmore Cup Holiday Club 29 July - 2 August



August

Sunday 4	9.30am	Early Morning Service (Café Church)
	10.45am	Morning Worship "Holiday Club"
Sunday 11	10.45am	Morning Worship "Back to School Sunday"
Sunday 18	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 25	10.45am	Morning Worship



Monday Club

On 11 March the club had a very interesting talk/presentation by the Lanarkshire Bee Keepers, and we also had our AGM after the talk. The main outcome of the AGM was the resignation of our long time secretary and vice president, Nesella Barr. Nesella was instrumental in bringing the club from the North Church when we formed the union with the Old Parish Church. Nothing was ever a problem to Nesella, she just got on with things. However, as the years pass by and having the Saffronhall Singers a few hours after our meeting, Nesella was finding that it was getting too much of a rush. The club will miss her and she will be a hard act to follow. We are currently on the lookout for a secretary and this will be discussed at our next committee meeting, as we look for a way forward. The meeting also decided to donate £300 to the boiler fund.



25 March was our final club meeting of the session. The Saffronhall Singers did a great job in entertaining a large turnout of members and I am told it was an afternoon to remember.

On 8 April, the club held its annual outing to Callander House then on to Linlithgow Golf Club for a delicious high tea. Again, we had another good turnout, with a total of 43 attending. Robert and Linda were going on to a family visit in Edinburgh, so they took their car, which was a real bonus as our coach could not access the golf club itself due to a tunnel and a rather steep incline. Linda was kept busy ferrying several of our members up the incline, the majority managed to walk down and thankfully the rain stayed away!!

The majority of our members are in their 80's and the club requires an influx of "younger" recently retired members to come and join us on a Monday afternoon and perhaps come on to our committee. Could I ask anyone reading this to please contact myself or any committee member if you are thinking about joining us?

Have a nice summer folks and enjoy your holiday.

Charlie Duguìd



Old Kirk Reflections

Every day nowadays seems to be a national or international day of something. Right through the Summer there are various "days" marking, commemorating or celebrating something or another. Let me share with you a few that caught my eye for June, - National Cheese Day on the 4th, National Best Friends' day on the 8th, National Fudge Day on the 16th and finally, Take Your Dog to Work Day on the 21st. As a great lover of cheese and fudge, I'm certainly looking forward to celebrating these national days!

As Christians, every day should be important for us and one in which we celebrate Christ. Some might see Sunday as the important day as that's the day we go to church. Christ is with us always, not just on a Sunday or any other "special day", but He is with us today and every day, so let's celebrate that.

The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 118 at verse 24:

"This is the day of the Lord's victory; let us be happy, let us celebrate!"

Douglas

Drama Kirk was delighted to be part of the Holy Week services once more this Easter, making good use of our own sanctuary to support telling His story, integrating the drama into our nightly worship. For the first time, the role of Jesus was played by one of our own company, Alex MacLean, rather than hiring in a professional actor as we've done in previous years. This brought the company closer together and certainly made it feel like more of a team effort! We were delighted to have some new members join us, too, and we hope we'll see them back in the future.



As part of this year's Passion Play, the Old Parish hosted a visit from the Church Moderator, who joined one of our dress rehearsals and chatted with the company. We had other new opportunities, such as the chance to explore how the disciples would have felt on Saturday with Jesus in the grave. It was a very special Holy Week and we are grateful to all involved and to those who took the time to thank Drama Kirk for their contribution.

Our next planned activity won't be till Christmas, however until then we continue to highlight that we need more support to continue our work – behind the scenes as well as performing.



Anchors

We continue to meet on our Wednesday nights with a regular attendance of 10-12 kids each week.

Having recently returned from a few weeks break over Easter we are continuing with our program or arts & crafts as well as looking forward to brighter nights where we can enjoy some games outside as well.

Looking further ahead towards summer, plans are starting for a special treat towards the end of the session.

Any boys or girls in P1-P3 are more than welcome to join us at 5:30pm on a Wednesday night in the church halls or contact Alan Young for any more info.

Alan Young
Officer in Charge



Scottish Bible Society

The Bible Society of South Africa aims to make the Bible available free to Grade 7 children in the poorest parts of South Africa. Pray that the children will read them. Many young girls in Guatemala become mothers at an early age due to abuse from family members some girls as young as ten or eleven. One girl said the Bible Society is giving much needed support and helping her to see her beautiful baby son as a gift and both he and she are loved by God and not to blame for what happened. She is trying to forgive and move forward but that it will be a long process! The work of the Bible Society goes on spreading the Word of God and his love!

Muriel Eadie



Fellowship Committee

The fellowship group are in process of considering arranging visits for Central Station tours. The plan would be that those interested would make their own way to the station to arrive at least 15 minutes before their intended tour and when it is over make their own way home.

Perhaps if you wished to get a bite to eat or even a seven course meal either before or after the tour, that would start or finish the day nicely.

The numbers for each tour are restricted to 18, while younger people must be between 12 and 15 years and be accompanied at all times. There is a limit of 3 youngsters per adult.

As of now, it may well be the tours will be arranged for July, but there are no fixed dates yet. Once numbers are finalised dates and times will (hopefully) be arranged and preferences recorded.

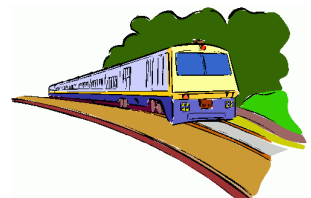
Tickets are priced at £15 and would need to be paid when booked.

Names and phone numbers can be given to either Mairead Ronaldson, me or the Church Office.

If further information is required please contact me or Mairead Ronaldson and we will try to help.

There is also full information on the tours online at glasgowcentraltours.co.uk.

Iain McLean
Fellowship Convener



Finance and Gift Aid

Our 2023 accounts were approved by the trustees on 12th March and presented to the congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting on 28th April. These showed that our regular offerings fell by 8.5% compared to 2022. This was mainly due to the loss of a number of members. Our income for the year was not enough to cover our expenditure and the accounts show a deficit in the General account of £22,995. We were fortunate to receive £13,106 by way of a grant from Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. This was the VAT element of the work carried out on the heating system in the church.



A claim has been made to HMRC for £1,602 on donations of £6,408 under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. This scheme allows us to claim up to £2,000 on donations of £30 or less which are given by members who do not have Gift Aid Declarations in place, up to £8,000,

Our gas and electricity contracts have now been transferred to e-on with preferential rates arranged by 121.

I hope everyone enjoys a relaxing break over the summer months whether at home or further afield.

Marilyn Henderson

Finance and Gift Aid Convener

01698 427892

finance@hamiltonold.co.uk



Hyzone

An invitation is extended to attend the Hyzone Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 6 June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the St John's Centre, Hamilton.

Margaret McCartney

Saffronhall Singers

Our session finished at the end of March with a concert in the North Hall for the members of our Monday Club. We also welcomed friends of the choir and friends from the congregation and everyone seemed to have enjoyed our performance. Refreshments were served at the end of the afternoon. Thanks to all who helped set up, serve tea and coffee and help leave the hall ready for the evening.

Later that day, we enjoyed our closing dinner, once again at Bothwell Castle Golf Club, finishing off with some “party pieces” and communal singing.

Over the summer months I will be looking at sourcing new music, adding to the recordings I have made on the keyboard and reviewing our Carols By Candlelight recording to prepare it for release in December as well as enjoying bowls and holidays!



Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer.

Campbell Barr

Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
02/06/24	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
09/06/24	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
16/06/24	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs A Davidson
23/06/24	Flower Fund		Mrs S Craig
30/06/24	Flower Fund		Mr K Brown
07/07/24	Mrs H Brown		Mrs H Brown
14/07/24	Mr J Stenton		Mrs J McHarg
21/07/24	Mrs S Gosling		Mrs S Gosling
28/07/24	Mrs A Gibson		Mrs A Gibson
04/08/24	Mr & Mrs I Samson		Mrs S Samson
11/08/24	Mrs K Morrow		Mrs L Clayton
18/08/24	Flower Fund		Mrs M MacLean
25/08/24	Flower Fund		Mrs H McGreevy
01/09/24	Flower Fund	Mrs M McGlynn	Mrs E Goodwin
08/09/24	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs A Davidson

Thank you to everyone who gifts flowers, contributes to the flower fund and helps with delivery. This is very much appreciated. Dates throughout the year are still available and contributions to the flower fund always welcomed. If any dates are unsuitable and you are unable to organise a swap please contact Colin Davidson either via the office or on 07305 055924.

Andrea



I just want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our Church family who showed concern or sent good wishes during my short stay in hospital earlier this Spring. Your thoughts and prayers were much appreciated.

Douglas

Appreciation to Church and Saffronhall Family!

I have been deeply touched by the messages of condolence received on the passing of my dear brother, Jack. 'Presence ministry' means so much to all of us who experience loss and grief. A friend recently shared with me from the book of Habakkuk that the grave is greedy and that death is never satisfied. How true. For sure, our grief illuminates how much we have loved. It's a price worth paying - as we know too well from our Lord and Saviour who paid the ultimate price for the love of us all. Thank you for sharing the challenging journey faced over the last few years of my brother's declining health. Listening ears, caring hearts, prayerful support have upheld me in difficult times.

In appreciation.. from *Karen*



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*

2 February 2024

Margaret Foster

25 February 2024

Margaret Balmer

26 February 2024

Flora Hunter

9 April 2024

Jack Rollins

10 April 2024

Janet Bence

20 April 2024

William Henderson

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

5 May 2024

Luna Hewitt

12 May 2024

Caleb Reid





PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
as we bring before you all our concerns
help us to remember that we are always in your loving care,
and even when we feel forsaken, you are there.

The example of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we pray,
reminds us of this.

But, especially might you remind us of this
when our personal concerns overwhelm us
and when we struggle to see the larger picture of your grace.

Help us to support each other
even as we serve you and your kingdom.

Amen.

