

Tidings



March 2022

Easter

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Vice Conveners

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CHURCH - vacant

MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

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Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

“Lock and Load”

A war against terror. A war against a virus. A war in Ukraine. A war against poverty. Everywhere, it seems, there is trouble and the need for peacekeeping efforts. Disruption and fear are rife and we wonder what we can do.

After two years of pandemic, in which we’ve experienced lockdown, being locked out of things that are important to us like church as well as the conveniences of life, several unlocking events along with mis-starts and disappointments, I don’t know about you but I feel like we should be looking for a locksmith! Perhaps Peter felt like that when he was in jail, after a lifetime of living in a country that had been occupied by the Romans. He certainly did his duty and made good use of his time. If Jesus handed Peter and the Apostles the keys of the Kingdom (Matt.16:19), and if they’re truly been handed down to us in this time and place, it may feel like we have time to make up. How will we use the time allotted to us?

We have received a lifetime of grace and training that has brought us to this point. Sometimes our enemy is seen, sometimes unseen, but we are invited to do battle for Christ our King. Fortunately, our weapons are spiritual and have been forged in prayer. A shield of faith, breast-plate of righteousness, a belt of truth, a helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit which is the word of God, and shoes taking the gospel of peace (Eph.6:10-18). Have we discovered how to use them?

At the end of the Second World War, as popularised by the John Wayne film “Sands of Iwo Jima”, the Americans experienced one third of their losses on a single island. Yet, they prevailed against all odds. It made famous the saying “lock and load”, as they prepared for the assault, and that saying has been a rallying call in other films as well. Their training was arduous, even as our experience may have been. The timing had to be right, even as our time has to be right. But, are we ready to act? How will we do our duty, as we reply to Christ’s instruction in every generation to “lock and load”? In the coming months, I trust we will find out.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Thought for the Day

Already we're well into 2022 though I'm not quite sure what happened to 2020 and 2021. I think as I get older, time certainly seems to go by so much more quickly and the pandemic has accelerated things many fold.

Through the wonders of modern technology it was great to be able to record short homilies and I'm grateful for the messages and telephone calls of appreciation I received. When I was able to record in the Church it felt wonderful though there was something missing - a congregation - I was alone. Eventually last year I was delighted to lead worship in the Sanctuary and see people I hadn't seen for so long. I was astounded by how much growing youngsters can do in such a short time!

Though we are often alone - during enforced lockdowns or for whatever reason - is this part of God's plan? Readers of the four Gospels, the accounts of Jesus' ministry on earth are familiar, from the time He spent alone. Along with others, Moses also spent time alone. He experienced 40 years as a shepherd in Midian - a fairly solitary life - before God then called him to go back to Egypt to lead the Hebrews out of captivity. God had a purpose for him.

Like the time Moses spent on his own as a shepherd, sometimes God sets us apart in order to prepare us for what's coming next. Nothing happens by chance - there is always a purpose in His plan for His children.

Douglas



Monday Club

By the time you read this short article we will be nearly at the end of February and looking forward to some better weather.

Your committee hopes to meet in the very near future to try and determine the best way forward to get the club running again.

At the moment there are still restrictions imposed by the Church of Scotland and whilst they may be totally relaxed soon; it's my personal guess that face masks will require to be worn for several months yet. Let's hope I am wrong!!!!

Charlie Duguid



Saffronhall Singers

We have continued to meet weekly by Zoom, and approximately 35 members have joined in these sessions, however at the time of writing we have plans to meet in person from 21 February. Unfortunately, Church of Scotland rules have made it impossible for us to meet in the church halls and so we have decided to move to the clubhouse of the Caledonian Bowling Club for the remaining six weeks of our session. The vast majority of members have opted to return in person from then and the others are hoping to be able to join us in the new session. Sadly, three of our soprano section, Cathy Clark, Helen Orr and Elizabeth Clements, have decided to resign from the choir due to changing circumstances and they will be missed, but on a positive note, we have a new member, June Law, joining the sopranos.

We are looking forward to being able to sing together once more.

Campbell Barr

Boys' Brigade

A short update.

The Junior Section, as well as the usual company night activities, took part in the battalion quiz. Due to the restrictions in place the quiz was held on a normal company night with the boys' results being forwarded to the Battalion.

We entered 2 teams and both scored well. As I write this, the results have not yet been announced but hopefully by the time you read this, we will know how we have done.



Also by the time you read this Ross Smart will have completed his youth leader training and be a fully trained officer. Many congratulations.

The Company Section are taking part in the Bible quiz which also has been hit with restriction so the brief is to make a 5 minute video about a bible story and at this time we are in the middle of what Hollywood call pre production the anticipation for its release is bigger than any of Marvel's offering of recent years.

Well that's what we have been up to hope you and yours are keeping healthy in these trying times. Until next time goodbye.

Graham Horne
Captain



Anchor Boys and Bluebells

After a very long time off, it has been lovely to be back with the boys and girls and to see so many new faces joining the company.

We have had a very busy start to the session learning about nature and making bird feeders, talking about all those people in the community who help us, as well as making our Friend Tree to show everyone the new friends we've all made at the Anchor Boys and Bluebells.

We've also been playing lots of fun games and the kids have even been teaching the leaders games we didn't know.

We look forward to the upcoming weeks with lots of activities planned for Easter and the coming Spring.

If you know any boys or girls aged 5-7 who would like to join us, please pass on their information to the Church office or just come along on a Wednesday night at 5:30pm.



Alan Young
Officer in Charge



Watch out for the magazine which will be back again soon!

Finance

At the time of writing, the 2021 accounts are being finalised and will be presented to the Trustees on 8 March for approval before presenting them to the congregation at the Annual Stated Meeting.

The Gift Aid claim for 2021 has been submitted and paid by HMRC. The total gift aided income was **£84,670.91** which gave us a refund of tax amounting to **£21,167.73**. This is an increase from last year partly due to the church re-opening, partly due to Giving Sunday and partly due to non-members making donations by way of a thank you for the streamed services during lockdown – one from as far afield as Ipswich.



The table below shows a breakdown of the different elements included in the return along with the previous years' figures for comparison. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Method of Giving	Total donated 2021	Total donated 2020
WFO envelopes	£ 7,734.41	£10,992.00
Annual cheques	£ 3,125.00	£ 3,100.00
Standing Orders	£73,406.00	£69,478.70
Other donations	£ 405.50	£0
Total	£84,670.91	£83,570.70

At present we have 167 declarations in place representing 222 members and 5 non-members. If you pay tax and would like to contribute extra to the church at no cost to yourself, please speak to me. For every £1.00 you contribute HMRC will refund us 25p of the tax you have already paid. Also, if you stop paying tax or change your address it is important that you let me know.

Once again many thanks to everyone involved in the finances of the congregation, including yourselves, for your commitment in supporting God's work in the church locally and nationally especially during this continuing difficult time.

Marilyn Henderson

Finance and Gift Aid Convener

01698 427892

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Drama Kirk

Drama Kirk will return to the heart of the town with the Easter story this Good Friday!

"I Am With You, Always" is a new script, specially written for Drama Kirk by Scottish playwright Simon McCallum. It will introduce new characters we have not met in previous years; and some new scenes from scripture will be included, for example the beatitudes.

We are delighted to welcome Nicholas Elliott back to lead the cast as Jesus, alongside many of our local cast. The play will take place on Friday 15th April at 2pm in Castle Street, Hamilton.

Drama Kirk are still looking for disciples, crew and stewards to join the company – please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. And if you can't join the company then please do come along as we take the heart of the gospel to the heart of the town – spread the word!



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*

*22 November 2021
Peter Condie*

*24 November 2021
Shirley Alexander*

*11 December 2021
Margaret McMillan*

*22 December 2021
Elizabeth Lochore*

*6 February 2022
Ann Sinclair*

*February 2022
Sheila Porter*

Baptism

"Let the children come to me"

*30 January 2022
Parker Cassidy*



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
we are told that there are battles in heavenly places;
and we are instructed to do our part
in pursuing your Kingdom on earth.
May the glory be yours
as we receive the honour to serve beside your Son
the Captain of our hearts.
Help us to do our duty
that all might know that whether our task be large or small,
the one whose service we perform
is the almighty.
Amen.

