

Tidings



March 2024
Easter

MINISTER

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

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Mrs Andrea Davidson

DEPUTE SESSION CLERKS

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Mr William Craig
Mrs Linda Smith

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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 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,

“You’re my Best Friend”

Recently, I’ve been quite exercised about how we demonstrate our friendship to each other in the church. Having come through the devastating period of lockdown, with all the disruption it has caused to social life and relationships, it makes you wonder if things will ever be the same again. Yet life events are often cyclical, so we ought not lose hope. Even the church will recover, as people remember their first love of Christ and his church (Rev.2:3-5). It seems inevitable because God has not given up on us (1 John 4:19).

My mind turned to past friendships, and my childhood best friend who lives many miles away in Jersey. I don’t see him often enough, though we keep in touch. Along the journey of life there are those I’ve grown closer to, those who have drifted, and those who have passed away. It reminds me of an old Christian friend of mine, now departed to glory, who once commented that more of his friends were in heaven than were left on earth. It can sometimes feel like that, though that’s not a thought that ought to leave us despondent. We anticipate a great reception when our turn finally comes.

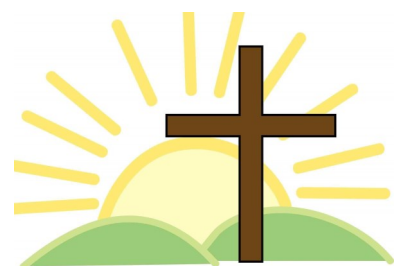
My mind then turned to so many different songs about friendship. The song, “You’re my Best Friend” echoed in my ears. It was written by Bass guitarist John Deacon as he learned to play the piano, and recorded by Freddie Mercury and Queen in 1975, hot on the heels of their huge hit “Bohemian Rhapsody”. But my ear wasn’t long in turning to the refrains of “What a Friend we have in Jesus”, written in 1855 after a series of tragedies experienced by the Irish immigrant to Canada, Joseph Scriven.

Last but not least, we look forward to sharing Communion as friends in Hamilton West Church in March, as we work towards a church Union. It will be lovely to worship in that Church, just as we have all come together in warm fellowship in the Old Parish Church. It’s reminiscent of the lead up to the Union with the North Parish, and very welcome.

Our friendships endure, our love endures – of friends, family, God, and His church. Yet, we do well to take none of them for granted. Every single one is precious. I would like to encourage us all to nurture them rather than neglect them. Even lifting a phone can make someone’s day. Meeting face to face... can be a tonic for the soul.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross



Monday Club

The club has gained several new members in the last few months but there is still plenty space to accommodate more, so don't even think about it!!! please come along on a Monday afternoon and join us.

Looking back to our Christmas lunch, we had an excellent meal but the highlight was the very spirited singing from the children of the nursery school who we invited upstairs to join us with some Christmas songs/carols.



At our first meeting in January, Karen Gillon gave us a splendid presentation on the work of the Woman's Guild which was received very well by all the members..

On 22 January we started off with our financial AGM. We have decided to increase the annual membership fee to £8 and keep the meetings fee at £1. Due to the finance of our proposed spring outing and as we are waiting to see if the council will give us a grant, we have deferred the contribution to the Church until our main AGM.

Our speaker for our Burns afternoon was not available due to an accident and myself, Campbell, Nesella and Muriel all contributed, along with the members singing Burns songs. We had quite a merry time! Finishing with oatcakes/cheese etc etc.

12 February we have a mystery guest and on 26 February we have Elaine Perry and Sheila Moore on Guide dogs for the blind.

11 March we have Lanarkshire Beekeepers and our AGM and on 25 March we have a musical afternoon with the Saffronhall Singers.

Members will be advised asap re the spring trip which is proposed for Monday the 8 April to Callendar House then on to Linlithgow Golf club for a high tea. We will possibly have some spare seats on the bus and once members have been allocated, seats will be offered to Church members nearer the time.

Charlie Duguid

Old Kirk Reflections

Spring has sprung and we see colourful clumps of snowdrops and crocuses brightening up verges and gardens. Spring brings with it "hope". Hope for so many things - better weather, successful crops in our gardens, beautiful flower displays in gardens and parks. We might also hope for personal things like getting a job, enjoying better health, finding it easier to make ends meet. Lots of these hopes are included in our prayers - both for ourselves and for others. Prayers give us hope. God gives us hope. In the old testament book of Jeremiah at verse 11 in chapter 29, we read "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." As we move through this season of Spring, may your prayers be answered and may God grant you some of what you hope for.

Douglas



What's On

March

Sunday 03 9.30am Early Morning Service (Café Church)
 10.45am Morning Worship

Sunday 10 ***Mothering Sunday***
 10.45am Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Joint service at Hamilton West
 3.00pm Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Joint service at the Old Parish

Tuesday 12 7.00pm Meeting of the Kirk Session

Sunday 17 10.45am Morning Worship

Sunday 24 ***Palm Sunday***
 10.45am Morning Worship



Holy Week in Hamilton

Sunday 24 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church
 Monday 25 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church
 Tuesday 26 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church
 Wednesday 27 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church
 Thursday 28 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church
 9.00pm St Mary's Episcopal Church
 Friday 29 12.00pm Vigil at St John's Parish Church
 7.00pm Hamilton Old Parish Church



Saturday 30 St Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday 31 ***Easter Sunday***
 6.30am Dawn Service at Chatelherault
 7.00pm Dawn Service at the Old Parish
 Afterwards, all meet for breakfast at the Old Parish
 10.45am Easter Day Service with Communion

April

Sunday 7 10.45am Morning Worship
 Sunday 14 10.45am Morning Worship
 Sunday 21 10.45am Morning Worship
 Sunday 28 10.45am Morning Worship including Stated Annual Meeting



May

Sunday 5 9.30am Early Morning Service (Café Church)
 10.45am Morning Worship – Sacrament of Baptism
 Sunday 12 10.45am Morning Worship
 Tuesday 14 7.00pm Meeting of the Kirk Session
 Sunday 19 10.45am Morning Worship – BB Annual Awards (TBC)
 Sunday 26 10.45am Morning Worship



Finance and Gift Aid

At the time of writing, the 2023 accounts are being finalised and will be presented to the Trustees on 12 March for approval. The date of the Annual Stated Meeting is 28 April 2024.

The Gift Aid claim for 2023 has been submitted and paid by HMRC. The total gift aided income was **£93,474** (£84,199 for 2022) which gave us a refund of tax amounting to **£23,368** (£21,049 for 2022). This included a number of donations to the heating project. The claim would have been just under £5,000 less than 2022 if these donations had not been received. This is due mainly to loss of a number of members during the year.

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 2023	Total donated 2022
WFO envelopes	£6,374.00	£8,755.91
Annual cheques	£ 2,700.00	£4,100.00
Standing Orders	£70,325.00	£71,343.00
Other donations	£14,075.00	£0
Total	£93,474.00	£84,198.91

At present we have 148 declarations in place representing 192 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 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

finance@hamiltonold.co.uk



Scottish Bible Society

Each month volunteers wrap up and pray over each Share a Story Bible sent out for Bibles for Bairns and hope it will encourage families to think about having a Church connection and learning more! In Ukraine the Bible Society team are supporting churches holding Trauma Healing groups to help those who are suffering. Please keep work of the Bible Society in so many troubled countries in your prayers.

Muriel Eadie



PRAYER

Almighty God,

You are not aloof from us,

but, through Jesus, you draw near to us
and prove to be a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Help us to appreciate one another more and more
and never take for granted the sweet time we have together.

Because of your love, expressed through your son,
we are invited to see the reaches to which friendship can go.

We thank you that it has been extended to us
and that we might extend it to others.

As we take a few moments
to name each of our friends in prayer,
we pray your blessing on them,
trusting that they are upholding us in prayer also,
in Christ.

Amen.



Drama Kirk's Christmas offering this year was "Christmas Goes Panto" by Michelle Fogg, which included the usual characters re-telling the Christmas story....but we were also joined by Mr Spock, an Amazon delivery driver and an alien. It was an unusual nativity – not for those reasons – but because it told the story from God's perspective, which really highlighted why He was sending His Son to earth. The town centre performance was cancelled due to snow, however we had the privilege of working in Woodside Primary, spending the full day in the school performing for different year groups and then helping them to perform with us. This is our second year partnering with Woodside and it was again very much appreciated by staff and pupils. This work was supported by a small award from 'Magic Little Grants'.

And now to Easter and Passion Play. The Old Parish will be hosting Holy Week services this year and so we return to the serialised format of our first Passion Play. Can you believe that was seven years ago? We'll be using our own script by Simon McCallum and will perform a scene at each of the joint services, depicting the events that led to Jesus' betrayal, arrest and crucifixion. Betrayal is a key theme in the performances this year, so please do look out for how we are exploring that through drama each evening.

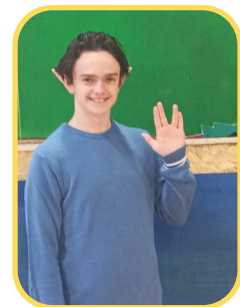
There are always endless ways you could help, beyond the acting that you'll see on the chancel. If you are supportive of Drama Kirk's activities, then please consider how you might like to get involved, and then let us know - dramakirk@gmail.com



"Christmas Goes Panto"

by Michelle Fogg

Performed by Drama Kirk



Saffronhall Singers

We hosted another Carols by Candlelight in December, which was well supported by friends and family of the choir, friends from other churches and weel kent faces from our own church family. The proceeds from this happy evening, £760, were donated to the church boiler fund. We were also really grateful to those who served the refreshments in the hall afterwards. Once again, with Paul's help, we have recorded the event and hope to make it available later in the year, with technical assistance provided by Ross and Jim. We don't know if anyone from the church, who was not able to attend, watched this but we do know that one of our regular supporters, who can no longer attend, used it to stage an event in the complex where she lives now. We were told everyone really enjoyed it and hope to repeat the evening next December with our 2023 Carols!



Over 2023, we lost several members through ill health and sadly, death. We have been fortunate, though, to gain four new members and our current membership is 45, with an average weekly attendance of about 35. I am very grateful for the loyal support and commitment shown by members and our accompanist, Lilian Barrie.

At present we are rehearsing for our next concert which will be in our own church on the afternoon of 25 March, the closing meeting of the Monday Club. In the evening we round off our session with what has become our annual closing dinner, held once again in Bothwell Castle Golf Club. After that, hopefully with the sun shining, we start to focus on outdoor activities and holidays.

Campbell Barr



Anchor Boys

We've had a fantastic start to this session, with a regular attendance of about a dozen kids each week.

As well as our normal arts & crafts and games we have also had Colin Davidson with us each week taking the kids through a variety of science activities including 'the digestive system' and 'how nerves work'. The kids all seem to really get into it and are very knowledgeable about how the body works. We look forward to more from Colin in the coming weeks, we are also going to be looking towards Mother's Day & Easter as well as some special fun treats planned.

If anyone would like to come along and join in on the fun they would be made most welcome. Any child in P1-P3, Wednesday night, 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Alan Young *Officer in Charge*



Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
25/02/24	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson
03/03/24	Mrs M Eadie		Mrs M Eadie
10/03/24	Mrs S Nicholson	Mr & Mrs L Munn	Miss M Richardson
17/03/24	Mrs B Stoddart		Mr C Davidson
24/03/24	Mrs E Reid	Mrs E Hunter	Mrs L Smith
31/03/24	Mr F Gardiner		Mrs L Clayton
07/04/24	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Goodwin
14/04/24	Flower Fund	Mrs H McGreevy	Mrs S Samson
21/04/24	Flower Fund		Mrs H Troop
28/04/24	Miss G Davidson	Mrs A Davidson	Miss G Davidson
05/05/24	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
12/05/24	Flower Fund		Mrs H Brown
19/05/24	Mrs A Whitehill	Mrs J Mathie	Mrs M Green
26/05/24	Mrs K Hunter		Mrs K Hunter
02/06/24	Mr D Hogg		Mr D Hogg
09/06/24	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine

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



May I pass on my thanks to Ross and everyone at the Old for their good wishes after my recent hospital admission and ongoing treatment.

I am making a good recovery.

Thanks

David



Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all who helped in the great hyacinths delivery of the Old Parish Church. Job well done!

Jennifer & Elaine



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*

*9 October 2023
Robert Paterson*

*31 October 2023
Hugh Wyllie*

*21 November 2023
Janette Dewar*

*28 November 2023
Violet Maclean*

*16 December 2023
Margaret Webb*

*18 December 2023
Morris Aitchison*

*2 January 2024
Jean Summers*

*10 January 2024
James Buttle
Gordon Graham*

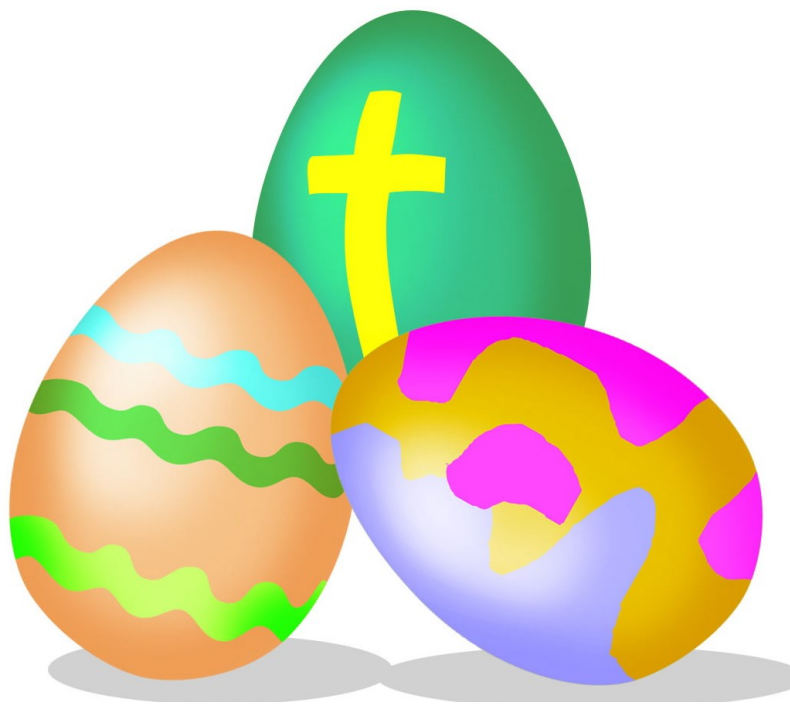
*11 January 2024
Henry "Harry" Dick*

*12 January 2024
Anne Reid*

*13 January 2024
Eileen Wyllie*

*23 January 2024
John Lattimer*

"At Easter time
at Easter time



How glad the world
at Easter time"