

Tidings



September 2022

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Mr Alastair Simpson

Vice Conveners

HALLS - Mr George Robertson

CHURCH - vacant

MANSE - Mr Robert Smith

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm



Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

“Location, Location, Location”

What kind of journeys do you like to make? Is it the simple kind, to work or some pastime activity, to church, or for some messages; or is it the larger kind, to exotic locations around the world? For some, these are places of adventure, for others, it's a chance to relax. So many people are taking the opportunity to travel, now that restrictions have been lifted, after memories of the longest journey being between their living room and the kitchen, or up to bed. Lockdown may just have increased our appreciation for our journeys, whatever the scale.

Last Tidings I talked about times and seasons, and this time I would like to talk about place and memory. It seemed an appropriate topic after finally having been able to visit Oberammergau, this year - a journey with which many others will have familiarity. We travelled by car, and the journey there and back again enabled us to visit ten different countries. Yet, for me, the high-point (pun not intended) was rounding a corner in the Austrian Alps and seeing a crystal clear lake reflecting the mountain tops and forests. I could have stayed there forever – yet we couldn't stop as it was the day of the Passion Play. We could record and memorise it, we could give thanks in appreciation, but we had to move on yet carry something of it with us.



How many times in life have we wanted to freeze a moment in time? A precious memory, of a place, a family member, a special occasion, a smile, or even a grumpy retort that summed up someone we love. Our sense of time and place and person are often wrapped up with the sounds, smells, and emotions of that precious moment. In the midst of the years, and in the scale of eternity, it was a small but beautiful punctuation mark in the journey of our lives.

Whether at home, or as we return to our regular journeys to the sacred space that we find in our church building and with the church: our worshipping community, our church, our people, the family of God – I hope that we might take the opportunity to hold our precious moments up to God. In all the hilltops and valleys that we have experienced in life, we have so much to share and to appreciate and for which to be thankful. As Paul wrote, “Be thankful in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1Thess.5:18).

Your Minister and friend,

Ross





After a busy three years completing our commitments to our GoForIt funded project, Drama Kirk may have less activity planned for this year but are still very much looking forward to identifying opportunities.

One such event is likely to be a celebration of the 250th anniversary of East Kilbride Old Parish Church which will see Drama Kirk involved in a very different kind of Sunday service...more in due course!



Over the summer we have had opportunity as a family to enjoy a couple of brilliant but very different pieces of biblical drama.

The first was of course Oberammergau, which was a wonderful experience. As fabulous as it was (and we loved so much about it; how beautifully the Old Testament tableaux were interwoven with Jesus' story, the role of the choir, the scale of cast, the thorough coverage of the events of that fateful week) what struck

me more than anything was the sense of commitment from the community. From the houses painted for different characters, to what was sold in the shops, how the village was arranged and of course the number of people involved – this is a town where Jesus is visible all year round. Part of the town's DNA.

We then travelled to Lincoln to see their mystery cycle, which depicted parts of scripture from creation (told through a series of footballs) to a very simple but heartfelt Passion. They did not aim for a realistic depiction of events but instead explored creative tellings. What struck me was how engaged our boys were (and I don't think it was just because of Satan's naughty language). The simplified and humorous ways of sharing the stories really engaged them.



Both of these experiences have led me to ponder how we develop our fresh expression of church. How do we root what we do in mission, led by and for our local community? How can we use Drama Kirk to ensure Jesus is visible in Hamilton? And how do we continue to create and play, in order to share the gospel in a creative and engaging way, for audiences old and new?

Much to ponder. As always, if you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to get in touch. All are welcome in our plays, to misquote a hymn ☺

dramakirk@gmail.com

Hamilton Old Parish Church Jubilee Celebrations



PIC•COLLAGE

Monday Club

Hopefully everyone has been able to take advantage of the recent spell of decent weather and has enjoyed a break/holiday.

The committee met in June to agree the start back date after the Pandemic, which is Monday, 10 October at 1.30pm.

The other firm date we have is our Christmas Dinner in 'The North' Hall on Monday, 28 November at 12.30pm for a 1.00pm start.

We have had to abort the visit to the New Lanark Hotel due to increased costs all round and the money that members have paid will be used for the Christmas Dinner.

Carole Gordon has resigned from the committee; but will return to give a presentation on Israel, in October. To date we are waiting on confirmation from several speakers and a full list will be announced in the next issue.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting and please remember that new members are always welcome, so please do not hesitate to invite any new friends or neighbours that you have got to know over the last couple of years, since the club last met.

Charlie Duguid



Finance

In 2019 the General Assembly demanded a new system be put in place for funding the Ministry and Mission of the church to leave more money with congregations for mission. It was felt that the old system was a mystery to most people and not transparent enough and seen as an income tax which just kept going up. From January 2023 a new scheme called Giving to Grow is to start which is designed to be open, transparent and easy to understand.

In the past the national church calculated how much money was needed for its work which had to be approved by the General Assembly and a scale was used to assess the amount due from congregations to pay for the work. This scale was calculated on a three-year rolling average of a congregation's income. In a radical change the amount of money actually raised will be used to plan and budget for posts and work plans and will only be done when funding is available. The calculation will now be based on the most recent available year e.g. the 2023 assessment will be based on 2021 income. This means the assessment will be more responsive to changing circumstances.

This will hopefully mean a reduction in our contribution to the national church and leave more money with ourselves for mission work.

At the moment our income is still in excess of our expenditure and we are fortunate that our gas and electricity contracts are fixed until next year.

Marilyn Henderson

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Sunday Live! Fun Day



Strathaven Miniature Railway
&
Strathaven Park

Saffronhall Singers

At the moment we are planning to resume our Monday rehearsals in the Session Room, starting Monday, 19 September, meeting weekly at 7.30pm until Monday, 12 December, with the exception of Monday, 17 October which will be a holiday. Obviously, we will review arrangements should there be any restrictions in place at the time but at the moment we believe things are back to normal.

Many members took advantage of the meetings we had in February and March in the clubhouse at the Caley, enjoying the fellowship and the chance to sing together again, albeit one metre apart (!) but everyone was keen to resume the 22-23 session back in the church.

We accepted a request for a concert from The Guild at Bellshill Central Parish Church on Monday, 30 January 2023, having confirmed we had enough of our members willing to commit to supporting this. Another Carols by Candlelight in December is under consideration and what format this could take. Watch this space!

At the moment it seems a bit strange starting to plan for the coming session after such a long break, but hopefully things will start to fall into place as time goes by.



Campbell Barr



1st Hamilton Anchor Boys

Open to all kids **P1-P3 (age 5 - 7)**

Starting 24 August 2022

Wednesday evening 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Hamilton Old Parish Church Halls

£1 a week with free tuck-shop.

Come along and make new friends (or even bring your other friends with you) while learning and enjoying fun times, stories, arts & crafts and playing games.

If you would like any more information, please contact
Alan Young (Officer in Charge)
07841518651



Boys' Brigade

Well, the summer is almost over and its time for the new session to begin.

While we were away the Junior Section had their annual summer trip. This time, we went for a day out to the Glasgow Science Centre and as you can see from the accompanying photographs both young and old children had a great time, we even managed to stop off for an ice cream on the way home.



Well to future business, the first night of the 2022-2023 session will be on Wednesday, 7 September which will be our traditional enrolment night. The Church Halls will be open between 6.30pm and 8.30pm when existing and future Boys' Brigade members will be able to enrol for the session ahead.

The first proper night will be the next Wednesday, 14 September (times are shown below). This year as well as the usual fun and games we have 2 of our Company Section members who will start working towards their Queen's Badge which is the highest award that anyone can achieve in the BB. We wish them well.

Our Annual Enrolment Church Service will be on 2 October and after the service we would like to invite all parents and friends to join us in the Church Halls for refreshments and after that I hate to say it but its all downhill to Christmas.

So from now on it's heads down and full steam ahead. I don't want to tempt fate but I am looking forward to the first full session in a few years without any disruptions from you know what (I dare not say its name).

Graham Horne
Captain



THE BOYS'
BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here



The Choir

September this year brings the start of a welcome new session for Choir.

There have been many changes in our group over the past two years. We were saddened at the death of our longest serving member, Peter Condie, at the grand age of 101. Jim and Rona Maxwell have retired, and I am grateful for the sterling service and commitment in tenor and alto sections both have given over many years. Tom Kerr and Carole Gordon have now moved house, but again have given devoted service over the years.

We are pleased to have “young” Peter Condie in the Tenor section and some months ago Emma Culross joined the Sopranos. It is a pleasure to welcome both, and Peter is picking up his father’s love of singing.

Emma is currently a pupil at Hamilton College, and earlier in the year she was successful in winning the Young Musician of the Year competition receiving the Junior award with an excellent vocal performance. Well done.

We have not been able to recognise and celebrate many happy occasions over these past months as we would normally do. There have been several special birthdays, family weddings, the arrival of grandchildren, and we have missed being able to share in these together.

Several choir members have also had health concerns, and are either on the road to recovery or waiting procedures over the next few weeks. We wish them all well.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the beginning of September as we prepare to lead and support the Congregation in worship. Mid week meetings will begin on Wednesday, 7 September at 7.00pm and we will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9.50am prior to Morning Worship.

Helen C Simpson
Organist



Fellowship Committee

In an effort to try to encourage folks to come back to socialise, the Fellowship group are asking everyone to consider whether a Christmas lunch might be an idea worth following up. If you think this might work, please contact Andrea in the Church Office (01698 281905 or office@hamiltonold.co.uk) by Sunday, 18 September 2022 and let her know how you feel.

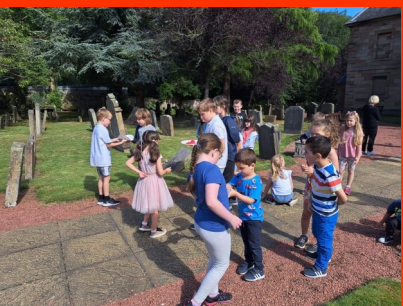
Assuming those who consider it reasonable do contact Andrea, and depending on numbers, the proposal might be followed up.

At this stage, it is simply an attempt to try to move things back towards "normality", whatever that is.

Thanking everyone in anticipation.

Iain McLean





What an adventure our children had at our "Space Academy 2022" being led by Captain Ross, his Fleet Admirals and Lieutenants! The holiday club was attended by 49 children over the course of the week. Great fun was had by all with games and crafts, singing and dancing, and listening to our daily bible story. Our rather naughty mascot "ET" was always up to some sort of mischief!!

Most of the children stayed for the afternoon too and enjoyed a film and cartoons.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making "Space Academy 2022" such a success, in particular our very enthusiastic children who joined us each day and to their parents for supporting the holiday club.

Old Kirk Reflections

How loyal are you? We see loyalty in all sorts of areas of our lives. We have the loyalty we owe to our family and friends, to organisations we belong to, to the Church, to our employer.

Very often there's some sort of reward to recognise your loyalty. Here I'm thinking of some of the larger supermarkets. We're very familiar with the various loyalty schemes that are out there and I'm sure your purse or wallet has at least one loyalty card in it. Tesco clubcard, Boots advantage points, Morrisons more, BP rewards - each one promises great rewards in return for your loyalty to their brand.

There's also another type of loyalty many of us are on the receiving end of - that of our pets. It's often said a dog offers unconditional love and loyalty to its owner. I'm sure, if you have a dog yourself, you'll echo that sentiment.

In the book of Ruth, Chapter 1 tells us about a very special relationship and loyalty. Naomi's husband has died, as have her two sons. The sons' wives however, show their loyalty by stating they want to stay with her. Naomi says they should go back to their own people and, while Orpah does exactly that, Ruth was staying! Her strong sense of loyalty was to her mother-in-law, to Naomi.

In Proverbs 20:6 we read, "Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find who is truly reliable?"

We know we have one friend who's always reliable, that one friend who will never let us down.

We know Jesus Christ!

Douglas

Doors Open Days

This year, Doors Open days will take place on 17 and 18 September. The Church will be open for at least some period during those days.

It will not be restricted to visitors, so if any one wishes to come into the Church and be given a tour and be shown some things which I am sure many of the member are not aware of and have not seen.

There is no need to book, just turn up. Tea and coffee will be supplied in the hall during the open hours.

We hope to see some of our members there.

Iain McLean

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2022

Scottish Bible Society

Preserving Bible Work in Ukraine amidst war is a priority for Ukrainian Bible Society. Staff are working hard however some have been forced to leave their homes due to the life threatening situation there and volunteers are guarding Bible Society's warehouses due to frequent robberies. Please keep them in your prayers! Lots of work being done in Poland to help as well as all over the world.

SCOTTISH
BIBLE SOCIETY
The Word for the world

Muriel Eadie



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*

*30 June 2022
Robert Shackelford*

*2 July 2022
John Pollock*

Wedding

"That they be the one"

*13 August 2022
Daniel Pacitti to Laura Gosling*

*19 August 2022
Craig Horne to Lynsey Cuthbertson*



PRAYER

Almighty God,
whose ways are past tracing out,
you bid us to join you on a journey.
As we follow your Son,
on this trip of a lifetime,
grant that we might be enabled
to enjoy each fresh vista
and every leg of the journey of our lives.
May our eyes remain wide
to your glory,
present in every precious moment,
and flowing with us
on the hilltops and in the valleys.
May we glorify and enjoy you
forever.
Amen.

