

Tidings



June 2026

Summer

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MANSE - Mr Alistair BATTERY
WEST CAMPUS - David Gibson

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Tuesday - Friday 9am - 1pm

CHURCH OFFICER

Mr Colin Davidson

ROLL KEEPER

Mr Colin Gibson



Scottish Charity SC010855
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Dear friends,

“Home is Where the Heart is”

Very few people manage to live in a single home throughout their entire lives. Even the marital home might be exchanged as the family grows or as circumstances change. Some opt for an extension or a loft conversion, they change the kitchen or bathroom, and they certainly keep the décor fresh. They may downsize, and wonder which furniture to keep or otherwise dispose of. It is usually precipitated by changing times and changing needs. Fortunately, home is where the heart is.

Another thing that can feel like “home” to us is our church. We tend to think of our institutions, especially the church, as being unchanging; even though we understand that everything has to change with the times. One of the biggest changes for our own denomination in recent times has been Presbytery Mission Planning, as it strove to downsize the portfolio of buildings owned by the church and with the drive for “Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places”. It has, to be frank, caused disarray and dismay up and down the country and at times felt a little arbitrary. Even the threat of the potential closure of a cherished building has caused many to break out in a cold sweat. It can feel like a threat!

This is compounded when it is combined with the Union of a congregation, with the commensurate need to make new friends and discover fresh vantage points as our usual seats or pews change. In this regard, our own congregation and town has been incredibly fortunate in that the Unions of the last 60 years have been both amicable and reviving for all parties.

However, it doesn't come without cost, acknowledged grief, and further change. This is especially the case if we keep an eye to the future and what our congregation is going to need and what the General Assembly through Presbytery might demand. We are, of course, talking about flexible spaces that can be utilised more than on a Sunday for worship, that supports the extension of God's mission in our town, while also dealing sensitively with our buildings.

A quick history of the Hamilton Old Parish church building is worth reviewing: After the Collegiate Church of 1450 was demolished to make way for extensions to Hamilton Palace, the present Parish church was built in 1734. In short order, the lighting had to be improved by a significant redesign of the roof to incorporate a cupola. Pews were the next to be added, and charged for sitting upon! At the turn of the 20th century, an organ was added to the upper rear of the church, before a radical redesign of the interior to incorporate the pulpit and choir stalls into a new organ casing necessitated the removal of one set of pulpit stairs and a reduction in the all-round balcony. This was further eventful when the Duke of Hamilton lost the right to sit where he wanted in a famous court case that went all the way to the House of Lords. The only further change to the outside aspect was the re-siting of the Netherton Cross in 1925.

During the ministry of Dr Wylie, the choir stalls were removed to improve the chancel area, also resulting in the removal of some detail of the side pews, though the umbrella stands on the end of each pew and the top hat storage underwires were retained. Ten years ago the sound desk was enlarged and screens, cameras, and lighting were discreetly added, which was providential given ensuing Lockdown. Several town war memorials were also re-homed.

We are now being asked to sympathetically create a more flexible area at the front of the sanctuary by replacing three rows of pews. This will widen the scope of use and provide some necessary comfort to those who cannot sit on pews, including wheelchair users, and for brides wishing to be walked down at least some of the aisle. We have yet to be challenged about the lack of wheelchair access to the chancel, so the building is not yet futureproofed.



Old Parish Church of Hamilton 2025



Artistic impressions of proposed improvements



Similarly, the conditions upon which we were granted the continued use of the West buildings included a mission and business case for the removal of the side pews and chancel area to give full disabled access and flexibility for missional use and a wide variety of performances, while retaining the pulpit and organ for worship. Fortunately and unexpectedly, it was discovered that the pulpit is already on castors!



Hamilton West Parish 2025



Artistic impressions of proposed improvements

For some folk, this has been anticipated. For others it will be a surprise. In the midst of such change, we are perhaps reminded that while God is unchanging and the only constant in our lives, change and re-creation are inevitable. In ancient Israel he stated, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (ESV Isa.43:19). This would prophetically herald the arrival of Christ, and the way that he overturned times and seasons, in religion and faith. In turn, he led us to an age that continues to contain daily challenges but in which we are assured of our eternal destiny. It led to worship in fields, catacombs, and eventually cathedrals and churches. However, for all the disconcerting changes that society has faced, and the church with it, it is still good to be able to say that home is where the heart is – and to be with Christ and his people is home indeed.

Inevitably, the need for change can be both exciting and unsettling in equal measure, even when it tastefully and sympathetically accommodates our individual and collective needs as well as our existing or preferred styles. It can also take a little while to come to terms with things. Consequently, in regard to the proposed building works, larger versions of these pictures are available from the church office and I would be delighted to discuss it further.

Your Minister and friend,

Ross.

What's On

June

Sunday 7	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14	10.45am	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (Session Room)
		Father's Day
Sunday 21	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Sacrament of Holy Communion (West Campus)
Sunday 28	10.45am	Morning Worship



July

Sunday 5	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 19	10.45am	Morning Worship
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service (West Campus)
Sunday 26	10.45am	Morning Worship



Angels and Dragons Holiday Club

27 July - 31 July



August

Sunday 2	10.45am	Holiday Club Service
Sunday 9	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 16	10.45am	Back to School Sunday
	3.00pm	Afternoon Service (West Campus)
Saturday 22	10.00am	Elders' Conference
Sunday 23	10.45am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30	10.45am	Morning Worship



** Please note some dates may be subject to change*

Wednesday Night Anchors

As another session draws to a close for the Anchors, I'd like to thank all of the parents and carers for their continued support over the last year.

We have had a load of fun this year covering topics ranging from God's Creation of the Universe, Harvest and Knights & Dragons; as well as celebrating Burns Night, Halloween and St Andrews Day. We will finish off the year with our BB Church Service and prizegiving, where we will unfortunately lose 2 of our boys as they move onto the Juniors, and as a special treat we will end the year with an outing to The Rainforest soft play in Motherwell.

On behalf of all the Officers for the Wednesday Night Anchors, I'd like to wish everyone a relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone, old friends and new, in September.

Alan Young

Officer in Charge Wednesday Anchors



Thursday Anchor Boys/Junior Section

We have enjoyed a busy year taking part in Battalion competitions and working on our badge work.

We took part in the Junior Section bible competition and hosted the Quiz night, coming 2nd. Well done Owen, JR, Brodie and Joseph.

Our Anchors attended the anchor fun night in Strathaven. The boys all enjoyed it and it was nice to get to meet boys and play with another company.

The badge work for this year is almost complete and the boys will receive their badges during the closing service on Sunday 31 May.

This year we have welcomed 4 new boys which is good boost to our group. As always we would be happy to have any boy from Primary 1-6 join us on a Thursday night.

We will finish for the session on 28th May with a fun night. We will start back on Thursday 20 August at 6.15pm.

Margaret Stewart

Officer in Charge Thursday Anchor Boys & Junior Section

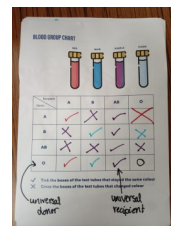
Wednesday Night Junior Section

The Wednesday Junior Section have had a fantastic second term, and are now looking forward to the wind down before summer!

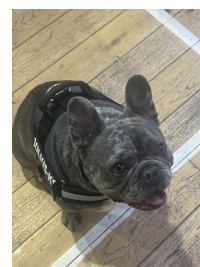
This term we returned to YoungMinds which has become an important aspect of our learning as the boys deepen their understanding of the importance of looking after their own mental health. As part of this we enjoyed a few sessions on communication, something which the boys have learnt is extremely important when looking after their mental health. Part of this included understanding the different methods of communication, and how other aspects of communication including tone, and urgency can convey the same message but in different ways. We also had an opportunity to learn more about sign language, with the boys being able to sign their own names and some common day to day phrases!

The Boys really enjoyed these learning experiences, and we will continue to prepare these styles of nights for continual learning about mental health and communication in different, and inclusive ways!

Science became a hot-topic this term too! With some budding young scientists among us we looked at the science behind blood transfusions, and World Earth Day, including what we can do in our everyday lives to help the planet.



Throughout this term the Wednesday Juniors also welcomed a few visitors! It was great to be able to welcome Gillian to the crew, as she lead the boys through some more challenging activity nights. Some of the activities which Gillian lead included candle painting for Mothers' Day, and baking Roman Fudge - but who is Roman? Roman has become a frequent visitor of the Wednesday Juniors, and I think it's safe to say a fan favourite of the boys. He may have 4 legs, and a bark not a voice, but Roman truly gets on the middle of everything, and the boys love having him around! He will be welcomed back next year no doubt, and some may go as far to say that he's an honorary Junior Section boy.



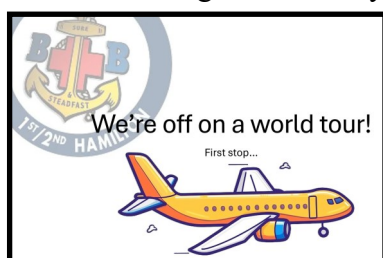
Lastly, amongst all of the fun we've had this term, the boys have actively partaken in sessions about different cultures all across the world, which started with learning about Chinese New Year, and now as the term comes to a close, we have started a trip around the world where the boys will get a chance to learn about different countries, their languages, food and cultures before we head off for our summer break.

It has been another fantastic year for the Wednesday Juniors, and we can't wait to see what next year will bring us! I'd also like to congratulate Joseph T, who will be leaving us to move up to the company section after the summer. We all hope he continues to progress in his BB journey, and remembers that our door is always open for a visit!

Our final night will be the 17th of June, and it will be a fun night before we release the boys (or maybe the officers) for summer. The boys will be awarded their badges on this night to mark the end of year and the end of the fantastic work they have put in this term and last.

Colin Davidson

Officer in Charge Wednesday Juniors



Company Section

During March, Sgt Nathan Farrell attended both parts of the King's Badge completion course at BB HQ in Larbert, Carronvale. His record book is now fully signed off, completing his King's Badge journey. We look forward to the presentation of the award at our closing service at the end of May.

Company work has been continuing on a Friday night and we recently took part in the yearly BB Top Team challenge. One of our teams came 5th in the UK out of 252 teams (and 2nd in Scotland!). A great result given the number of teams involved.

At the end of March, the Company Section enjoyed a Battalion fun night at the new home of the 5th Hamilton, Hamilton New Church Low Waters. We took part in team games, board games, food and fellowship and we look forward to this event again next year.



In May our two seniors, Nathan and Stuart, got some valuable expedition practice camping and walking the Tarmachan Ridge near Killin. Apart from a brief blizzard at one point, the weather was kind and we thankfully stayed dry. And more importantly there were very few midges about! This experience will help towards the Battalion expedition in June. This will take place north of Callander.

Our final section evening will be 29 May, with our Company end of year service being held in the church on 31 May.

David Gibson

Captain



facebook.com/1st2ndhamiltonbb



Congratulations to Stuart on receiving his President's Badge and Nathan on receiving his King's Badge.

Very well done!

Fellowship and Special Events Groups

On Easter Sunday following the Dawn services at HOPC and Chatelherault Country Park a breakfast was held in the North Hall. Those attending having experienced a variety of typical Scottish weather enjoyed rolls and sausage and fellowship. Leftovers were made use of by the Drop in Centre.

Sunday coffee continues to be very well attended each week with around 70 members of the congregation regularly meeting over refreshments and enjoying the opportunity for fellowship.

The Monday Fellowship Group is similarly well attended with members enjoying a varied syllabus of guest speakers who entertain with informative and interesting subjects. Members also take part in various activities too. The group, currently taking a break, will resume in September, meeting on every 2nd Monday afternoon.

In South Lanarkshire the annual Doors Open Day festival takes place over the weekend of 5th/6th September. Typically guided tours are offered of HOPC, the banner display in 'The North' Hall and the West Campus with refreshments provided afterwards. Times will be confirmed nearer the time via intimations.

Yvonne Adamson and Iain McLean

Conveners

Choir

Our current session of choir finished at the end of April and mid week meetings will restart in the new session on Wednesday 2nd September at 7.00 pm. Thank you again to Mhairi and Alison for taking responsibility for filing all anthem copies. We continue to meet prior to worship on a Sunday morning at 9.50 in the Session room. I have the pleasure of warmly welcoming Sally Van Der Meer to the Soprano section and thank her for willingness to share her musical talent in Choir.

The Choir enjoyed providing musical entertainment at the Link Service in March and with a full compliment from choir and the help of young musicians in the Congregation, an entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all - especially with the magnificent afternoon tea provided by the ladies in the congregation. The young performers Kyle Blackman (piano) Nathan Farrell (Viola) and Zoey and Ellie Gibson (vocal) all excelled in their chosen pieces and we congratulate them on sharing their performances so competently.

I recently shared an afternoon tea with family and friends to reflect on the life of Isobel Neilson, a former member of the Choir, who passed away recently. Isobel joined the Soprano section on the closure of St. Andrews Church after spending many years in their choir and she continued her Church commitment and musical journey with Hamilton Old. A highly talented lady, who used her skills musically, artistically and in languages. She was a staunch volunteer to the Burrell Museum where she generously gave of her time sharing her extensive knowledge of artefacts which enhanced many tours. I have placed one of her paintings in the choir room in memory of a special lady.



Helen C Simpson

Director of Music/Organist

Old Kirk Reflections

We live in a noisy world! Be it the traffic outside, roadworks with pneumatic drills, children squealing (happily) during their school break time or next door neighbours simply mowing their lawn. I want to ask however, what is the most deafening noise of all? For many, it might be one of those I've mentioned. I'm going to suggest however, that the most deafening noise is - silence!

Silence, for whatever reason, is always, I feel, a time when we can draw closer to God, both in our thoughts and in prayer. God "hears" our silence and is with us through the quietest and darkest times of our lives.

The bible portrays silence as a powerful and multifaceted discipline; linked to wisdom, worship and strength - a way to honour God. In Psalm 46 at verse 10, we read "be still and know that I am God" and in Psalm 62 at verse 1: "For God alone, my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation."

Rather than it being a time of darkness, may we find light and peace. Let's enjoy the silence we experience and take it as a time of reflection and a time to connect with God.

*Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence.*

Douglas



West Country Dancers

The Country Dancers have now come to the end of the winter/spring session as we now turn to outdoor pursuits for the summer. We have had great evenings of fun, fitness and friendship and finished off our year with a lovely dinner at Hamilton Golf Club in a relaxed and scenic atmosphere. We intend to recommence on the Tuesday 6 October 2026 at 7.30pm if anyone is interested please come along and give it a go.

Jennifer Gibson



Pastoral Care and Welfare Team

It's so good to see the sunshine and feel the warmth after a long, wet winter. Let's hope this summer will be a good one and we can all enjoy it to the full.

Members of the team have been reviewing visits to those in need and arranging new visits. Please keep advising us if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit.

Our team was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Irene Marshall. Irene was a kind, caring person and an excellent visitor both as a team member and an elder. She will be sorely missed.

Maureen is continuing to send out Birthday cards and Thinking of You cards. Donations of cards and stamps are most welcome to help keep the scheme self sufficient. Many thanks to those who have contributed.

Care Home services are continuing on the first Monday of each month, Lornebank at 2pm and Douglas View at 3pm. These are very much appreciated by residents and staff. Thanks go to Jennifer Gibson and team for their dedication. We would like to form a second team to do a monthly service in Woodburn Court. If you are interested in joining this very worthwhile work, please contact myself or Andrea.

Many congratulations go to the Link Team, Lesley and Marilyn, for a very successful afternoon tea on 7th March. Thank you also to our Church Choir and young musicians for providing some excellent entertainment. The event was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by those who attended. Another event is planned for Saturday 31st October – a date for older members to put in your diary and look forward to!!

Elinor Bones.

Convener



Scottish Bible Society

The Bible Society in South Sudan has launched an audio Trauma Healing programme to help many Sudanese who have suffered trauma.

Please keep the teachers using Must Know Bible Stories in your prayers and hope that it will help children learn the stories and learn about Jesus. Give thanks for the Keswick Convention in June. Also the Moray Coast Convention in early August. Magnitude Festival takes place in Lendrick Muir each summer - so mission work continues both here and abroad. Please keep our Holiday Club in your prayers and hope that the children will have fun and learn about God's love for them.

Thanks for all your support!

Muriel Eadie





'Everything in His Hands' Passion Play 2026

Well, our plans for a large-scale outdoor play to celebrate Drama Kirk' tenth annual Passion Play didn't quite go according to plan. It certainly wasn't the Passion Play Wot Went Wrong, but it definitely tested our conviction that everything was indeed in His hands.

We always keep a close eye on the weather forecast, especially from a safety perspective. Whilst we've had cold, wet uncomfortable weather conditions in the past, we've never had to face dangerous conditions, like we did this year. High winds were forecast and - by the Thursday of Holy Week - were predicted to hit 40 miles an hour by 4pm, around the time we'd have been doing the crucifixion. Plan B was required!

We'd been keeping in touch with the local Business Improvement District manager, Malcolm, throughout the week, as Storm Dave was starting to brew. With the plans for the Easter gala day and market stalls, it made most sense for us to follow their plans, meaning that by Thursday morning we knew we were looking for an alternative venue. We were very keen to keep the link to BID and use a community venue, having performed in church the past two years. With Malcolm's help, we were able to secure the former WH Smith site, which - without shelves and stationery - was absolutely massive and perfect for our purposes. Many thanks to Malcolm and to the Regent Centre.

We did have several adjustments to make, including shortening the cross and building a false wall to allow our actors to get off stage. Huge thanks are due to everyone who helped with what was a massive undertaking. Thank you!

The play went ahead and I think the cast and crew are to be very much congratulated for a wonderful performance. I believe I can reliably say it was the best Passion Play ever performed in a stationers (but I am happy to stand corrected!). The turnout was excellent and we were delighted with the level of support. It was wonderful to have some new cast and crew members join us, and to see people perform in new roles. Stuart Davidson took on the role of John for the first time and brought a fantastic energy to the character.



Reflecting on the changes, we feel that the adaptations we were able to make at the last minute were only possible because of the commitment, talent and experience of the team. We are so delighted that so many of the Drama Kirk family have stuck with us over the years. Please do keep the team in your prayers and we are grateful to everyone who supports our work.

Since Easter, we've continued our series of miracles at the West services. We performed the healing of Peter's mother-in-law at the April service and will continue to explore the miracles for the next few services. We've found a lovely way to end that wee series - watch this space!!

Our Passion Play for 2027 will be 'CHOOSE LIFE' and planning is underway. Our steering group will meet in May to discuss this and I'm sure we've now learned the lesson that, no matter how well we plan, everything is truly in His hands and He knows best!

We are always happy to have new people get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. dramakirk@gmail.com

Liz Blackman

Finance and Gift Aid

The 2025 financial accounts were approved by the Trustees on 1 March and subsequently presented to the Congregation on 26 April.

We continue to optimise income from all Church sites, car park rentals, investments, and Gift Aid claims.

We have received the maximum of £2,000 from HMRC Small Donations Scheme for donations under £30 made by members who have not signed a Gift Aid declaration. Members who are taxpayers are encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration, which allows the Church to claim an extra 25p for every £1 of tax already paid. Those interested should contact Marilyn or Amanda or by email finance@hamiltonold.co.uk.

We wish everyone a sunny and pleasant summer.

Amanda Strachan

Finance Convener



Worship Team

Hamilton Old Parish Church hosted the World Day of Prayer service on 6th March 2026 for Hamilton Churches. This was well attended and thanks go to the members of organising committee, Jennifer Gibson for the display and the Fellowship Team for their hospitality. There was good support from members for the Holy Week Services held in St John's Church and it was good to see so much interaction between the town's churches.

A number of baptisms have taken place and it is always encouraging to see new families in our midst. The Minister led a service for Beckford Primary in the West Campus on 1st April, which is a new connection. In addition to regular Sunday morning worship in the town centre, services at the West Campus have continued on the third Sunday in the month, including a Communion Service in March. The Banner Group continue to change the remarkable banners in our church regularly to help us reflect and enhance our worship. Some new hymns from God Welcomes All have been used and there has been a strong support for the choir, with our visiting choristers very welcome when they join the regulars. It's great to see support for our church music, including participation by our young people. Participation by a wide number of members continues to grow and sharing our caring for others through prayers is an area which is still developing. The Worship Team would like to express its thanks to the Minister, Director of Music, Local Worship Leaders, Choir and members of the congregation who took part in the many services over Lent and Easter.

Despite a storm forecast and last-minute change of venue, Drama Kirk staged a magnificent Passion Play to mark their 10th Anniversary. All of Drama Kirk's efforts to help us engage with scripture and see new meaning in Biblical event is deeply appreciated and it is wonderful to see the younger members of our congregation getting involved. Congratulations and thank you to all the Drama Kirk family, especially to Liz Blackman for her continued dedication and service to the work of Drama Kirk.

If you feel you'd like to take part or help with any of the many ways to be more involved in Worship, please get in touch.

Rhona Arthur and Bill Craig

Joint Conveners



Hamilton Old Parish Church



**Join us for our Children's Holiday Club
for P1 - P7**

Monday 27th July - Friday 31st July

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
or by email - holidayclub@hamiltonold.co.uk**

Flower Rota

Date	Main	Rose Bowl	Delivery
07/06/26	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine	Mrs E Irvine
14/06/26	Mrs M Wilson	Mrs M Wilson	Mrs H McGreevy
21/06/26	Mr C Davidson		Mr C Davidson
28/06/26	Mrs A Davidson		Mrs L Clayton
05/07/26	Mrs H Brown		Mrs H Brown
12/07/26	Mr J Stenton	Mrs H Troop	Mrs M Eadie
19/07/26	Mrs S Gosling		Mrs S Gosling
26/07/26	Mrs A Gibson		Mrs A Gibson
02/08/26	Mr & Mrs I Samson		Mrs S Samson
09/08/26	Mrs K Morrow		Mrs M MacLean
16/08/26	Flower Fund		Mrs H Troop
23/08/26	Flower Fund		Mrs S Craig
30/08/26	Flower Fund		Mrs M Latimer
06/09/26	Mrs D Foster		Mrs D Foster
13/09/26	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



Thank you to everyone who made donations during Christian Aid Week. The sum of £665.00 was raised and an additional £72.50 will be added to this figure by way of Gift Aid.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for their kind messages, cards and flowers received on the passing of Alex.

Thank you also to Rev Blackman for his support at this time.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Beth Stoddart

The Marshall family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and messages of sympathy following the recent passing of Irene.

It is great comfort to know that she was held in such high esteem by so many.

Thanks also to Ross for all his guidance, for conducting such a comforting service and the meaningful tribute to Irene.

Malcolm Marshall



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*

*11 February 2026
Alexander (Alastair) Cameron*

*7 March 2026
Irene Marshall*

*8 April 2026
Alexander Inglis*

*April 2026
Isobel Neilson*

*10 May 2026
Malcolm Macintyre*

Baptisms

"Let the children come to me"

*16 November 2025
Shivonne Russell
Graham Marshall*

*11 January 2026
Shire Paterson*

*18 January 2026
Adam Mortimer*

*19 April 2026
Skylar Opara*

*31 May 2026
Mason Foster Michael*





PRAYER

Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are unchanging
and are closer than the turning of a shadow.

You comfort, lead, and support us
through all the challenges of life,
and promise us rich blessings
in this life and the one to come.

Help us to keep in mind
that we are to look to the interests of each other
and to carry each other's burdens,
as we truly love our neighbour
and especially the household of faith.

Grant us the strength
to do all that you might ask of us,
as we seek your Kingdom,,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.