



## Hamilton: St. John's Parish Church

Church of Scotland  
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

[www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk)



stjohnschurchhamilton



# Centre

Dear Friends

Those of you who have attended (either at St John's or elsewhere round the country) a Heart and Soul Swing Band concert will know that when we are performing it is very clear that we are having a great time! What fewer people perhaps realise is that every time we perform we are also raising money for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme and have been touring the country with our own mix of old and new swing, jazz, soul, blues and gospel music for just over five years now in order to do that fundraising. We have now raised a grand total of £17,714 with our last two gigs (in North Berwick: Abbey Church and Kirkcaldy: Linktown) raising over £1300 each from the offering taken on the night and the Gift Aid added to the totals.

We find ourselves in settings where the audience is made up of Church of Scotland members, worshippers from other local congregations (including other local denominations), people passing a venue who hear the music and want to know what's going on or (in our most recent venue) people who have no association with church at all but have a passion for music and as a result of attending are now thinking an interest in church might not be such a bad idea after all.

Sharing music with others as we do in the Heart and Soul Swing Band is worth doing. We share a *love* of music, an *interest* in music, the *playing* of music, *listening* to music... and as a result we create for ourselves a way in to discussions that we might not otherwise have the opportunity to share. People will ask us about our faith because they heard us sing about it in a fun and joyful way. As people who should always be looking for ways to share the gospel with others, these are opportunities we shouldn't pass up.

It is with this in mind that I want to remind us all that the Heart and Soul Swing Band is returning to St John's in December for our first ever *Christmas* Concert. It will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm and the whole band, who absolutely love coming to St John's to perform, are really hoping we might be able to fill the building for the occasion. Now, that's quite a bit of pressure so I thought it best to let you know in September that in just three months' time we have a goal set for us that depends upon each of us inviting others to share in this musical Christmas evening and doing all we can to publicise it between now and then.

Just a few weeks ago I was planning St John's Sunday worship through until the end of January, as I do at this time every year, and I was thinking how far away that seemed.

September 2017

I suspect, however, that December will be here much more quickly than any of us would care to imagine. So please, take this opportunity to think who you could invite to St John's on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Take this opportunity to think who you could have conversations with about the Good News of the gospel (maybe even for the first time) because the Heart and Soul Swing Band are providing a 'way in' to those discussions for you, and take the opportunity to be brave enough to act upon those thoughts for the benefit of Jesus Christ, his kingdom and his Church.

His work is our work. His Good News is ours to share. His church is ours to express in new ways and now is our chance. May this musical expression of faith prove fruitful to the Church of Scotland HIV Programme and to those of us who seek to serve Christ in this place.

with love and best wishes  
Joanne

## **Session News: September 2017**

We remember the life of Arthur Lindsay and his service to our church. Arthur was a well kent face at St John's. He was an ordained elder (retired from active service), a regular worshipper, a frequent customer in the Forum café and a great storyteller. Arthur created a lot of good memories round here for many of us and although he will no longer be amongst us he will be remembered fondly. Some of the stories told about him include reminiscences of his involvement in the Drama Club, his knowledge of the history of St John's and its groups including the Friendly Hour, and of course his love of trains. He always arrived at church quite early on a Sunday and took the opportunity to chat with those who were on duty before taking his seat up the back. Although he will no longer be present with us we will remember him and his influence upon us for a long time to come.

As always, the Kirk Session has not met during the summer, but that doesn't mean that the work stops. Our teams and convenors continue to work through the summer on issues ranging from property to pastoral care.

Looking forward to the coming year, we are hoping that 'Path of Renewal' will be a phrase that features a lot in our discussions and activities. Hopefully it isn't a new phrase to you and you have picked up the times that Joanne has mentioned it before. We have taken the first steps to joining this movement and over the course of the autumn we will have a series of meetings that engage not just with the Kirk Session, but more widely across the congregation, led by the presbytery teams that are supporting this exciting initiative.

A big focus of thinking around this will be to consider ways in which we work at the moment and how we can work in different ways to provide new ways of 'being church'. There is a lot of information online about Path of Renewal, including news from churches that are already in the movement. Why not have a look to see what others have been doing? More news on this next month!

Graeme Dodds  
Session Clerk

### **Family Record**

**Death** It is with sadness that we acknowledge the death of the following members of our congregation.

Mrs M Hogg, Hamilton - died 2 June 2017

Mr A Lindsay, Hamilton - died 6 June 2017

Mrs N Burt, Uddingston - died 17th June 2017

Mrs M Kelly, Hamilton - died 2nd July 2017

Mr T Moffat, Hamilton - died 8th July 2017

Mrs E Bryson, Quarter - died 25th July 2017

## **Harvest Appeal 2017**

**Monica Woodhouse, Founder of Place of Restoration, sends the following message as we launch our Harvest Appeal 2017 to raise funds for Place of Restoration – Seeds of Hope, and Samaritan’s Purse - Turn on the Tap campaigns.**

Dear Friends in Scotland

It has become evident through the many abuses that children are subjected to, that Child Protection should be high up on the Government and Local Authority’s agenda. Unfortunately, this fails to be the case in South Africa and has led us as an organisation to seek to remedy some of the failures through the work we currently do within the communities we serve.

My personal motto is “#everychildmatters” because every child is created in God’s image. I also believe that every child deserves at least one adult who cares about them and that children should grow up within a loving family. This has led us to look for opportunities to saturate our own community with that same love and care.

To that end we are .....

1. Teaching parenting skills to more than 400 parents annually
2. Teaching parents and children to cope with death and trauma
3. Teaching healthy living skills to community groups
4. Teaching food gardening skills where appropriate

All of these courses build on one another and create a process of family strengthening. They are also aimed at empowering families to form local support groups which will become Child Watch Communities that will enable child protection within their local area.

Our work has spread and we have trained and mentored 180 community based organisations in South Africa to improve their governance and funding opportunities – the aim of which remains promoting Child Protection.

In addition to the aforementioned, we have started helping other countries – e.g. Namibia, Mozambique, Burundi, Rwanda- to follow our model. We have offered training in Foster Parenting Assessment and Foster Parenting Skills which has led to the de-institutionalisation of government children’s homes and children being placed in families. We continue to help these governments assess, train, and improve the services for children while advocating for family based care for children. This in turn has led us to being connected with UNICEF who have taken our model on board.

None of this work would be possible without God. He is extending our tent pegs and stretching us as an organisation, granting us favour with local and international leaders. For this we are deeply thankful.

We are thankful too, for the work that you, our friends in Scotland do in support of our mission to reach every vulnerable child and to ensure that they are safe and beyond the reach of abusers. Each year your financial contributions and your prayers compliment our work with children, and especially those with special needs. All of the therapy they need is available to them because of your determined efforts to support them through your fund-raising initiatives.

We praise God for you, for all your volunteers and all your donors. As we celebrate 25 years as an organisation in 2017, we are grateful for the seasons you have shared with us.

Yours, in love  
Monica Woodhouse

*This year we are once again being given the opportunity to contribute to the work of ‘Place of Restoration’ and ‘Turn on the Tap’. Envelopes are in this magazine which you can fill and return to the church via the offering plate or by post and our children will be collecting their coins in water bottles, watering cans and plant pots to help raise the funds for this year’s Harvest projects. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.*

## **SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Sunday 10th September      Morning Worship 10.45am  
   **Afternoon Communion 3.00pm**  
   Evening Service 6.30pm
- Sunday 1st October            **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**
- Sunday 17th December      **Heart and Soul Swing Band Christmas Concert 6.30pm**



### October Magazine Deadline



All material for the **October** issue of the Centre magazine is to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 17th September 2017. NO LATER.**

Items can be left in the top right basket marked **Magazine Editors** in the rack outside the office, or by email to: [office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk)

Our Magazine is available to pick up from our Information boxes at the entrance to the Centre.

Or you can view/download a PDF copy here: [www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk/category/centre-magazine](http://www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk/category/centre-magazine)

## **A Musical Reunion**

With  
The Motherwell Symphonic  
Band  
In Aid Of  
Glasgow Children's Hospital  
Charity

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October  
Motherwell Concert Hall  
7:30pm  
Doors Open: 7:00pm

**Tickets: £8/£5 concession**  
**Tickets are available at the box office:**

### **Funds Raised by Motherwell Symphonic**

Last year the concert raised £2000 for CLIC Sargent and this year the Charity is Glasgow Children's Hospital. To date MSB has raised over **£170,000** for various charities.

At this year's concert the band will perform a combination of film music, swing band music as well as symphonic wind band repertoire. Guests are the St John Singers and Woodhead Primary School Choir.

Tickets are available from the Motherwell Box Office or from Hughina Naylor, Anne MacLeod and Anne Mackie.

# Thanks



Thanking everyone for your Prayers, good wishes, gifts and flowers when I was ill and in hospital. It was lovely to receive visits, all really appreciated. I am making progress on my journey back to health.

Joyce Turner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kirk Session, and all my friends of St John's Congregation, for flowers, cards, and gifts on my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Margaret Gibson



## Special Day for the Trayner Family

George Trayner, who is a member of our congregation was named in the 2017 New Years Honours list and awarded the Queens Police Medal.

The presentation took place at Holyrood Palace Edinburgh on 4th July 2017 and the medal was presented by the Queen.

George's wife Judy and daughters Heather and Fiona were invited guests to the ceremony.

The award is for "distinguished service" in relation to family liaison work and George is the first constable to receive it since Police Scotland was formed.



## Messy Church

Messy Church Journeys was held on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August where families enjoyed crafts and activities related to Paul and his journeys. We had crafts and activities such as sponge boats, decorating foam aeroplanes, a journey through the bible treasure hunt, a “create your own trifle” for their reward at the end of a journey, walking in paint, a craft representing Paul in jail, adding their faces onto Paul’s bus and a megaphone to help spread the message louder!



After the activities, the families then moved through to the Church for our celebration where they heard all about Paul and his journeys and adventures. There was even some shock amongst the children as a basket appeared to move from the balcony to downstairs all by itself on demand!

Following the celebration, it was time for our meal together where families enjoyed a picnic style lunch.

If this sounds like something you’d like to join us for our next two Messy Churches are on the following dates:

**Messy Moses – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30am – 12.30pm**

**Messy Christmas – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10.30am – 12.30pm**

If you are able to come along to either or both events please email us [stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com) to let us know you will be attending as it helps with catering purposes.



In May the Brownies at St John's turned 90 and we have celebrated throughout the year culminating in our Pack Holiday to Netherurd along with the Guides and Senior Section in June.

All 60 of us headed off on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June to Netherurd for a weekend of celebration and activities. On the Friday night, we started off the camp with a campfire in the woods where we toasted some marshmallows and sang lots of songs. We had an early start of the Saturday morning to allow for as much activity time as possible. We had three activity sessions that day including activities such as kayaking, archery, high ropes course, caving and low ropes course. We also found time for some crafts, a woodland walk and a wide game! In the evening after dinner it was time for our birthday party! As our camp was Disney themed the girls were allowed to dress up in costumes if they wished and were all wearing their Mickey ears they'd made in the crafts earlier in the day! The party included a Disney quiz, pass the parcel and lots of food! Thankfully everyone was knackered after their long day so after the food and of course singing happy birthday to the Brownies it was time for bed much earlier than



planned! In the morning, we had a further activity session before getting ourselves all packed and tidied before our journey home. It was a great experience, if not exhausting, for all involved and a great way to celebrate 90 years of Brownies at St Johns! I wonder how we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup>?!

As happens at this time of year we say goodbye to lots of our girls who are moving on to Guides or other activities and we hope they have enjoyed their time at Brownies, however, with these girls moving on it leaves space for new Brownies to join so if you know a girl aged 7-10 who wishes to become a Brownie please contact our unit leader on [lesleyauld3489@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyauld3489@gmail.com) for more details.

The Brownies start back after their summer break on September 7<sup>th</sup> from 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

### **Midweek Service**

If you find it difficult to attend a full Sunday morning service, why not come along to our Midweek Service?

The service is held every Thursday from 12.15-12.45pm, and is conducted by the congregation, which means each service is very different. The group now also has several Ministers and lay people taking part.

The services resume for this session on **6th September at 12.15pm**. If you would like to join us you will be made most welcome.

## Sunday Blast

September means the return of Sunday Blast on a Sunday morning. Hopefully by now you will be getting used to your new teachers at school or indeed a new school. Some of you will be moving up groups in the Sunday Blast but I am sure you will enjoy the change and settle in quickly.

Before the summer we had a “Science Party” which was fantastic. It was great to be able to do some really exciting scientific experiments. The do it yourself “gunge” or “slime” was tremendous. I think everyone enjoyed having a shot on the home-made hover board, especially Colin. We owe a big thank you to Karen for organising it, especially after the first group cancelled her booking. The science party was a great idea and everybody loved it.

Coming up this year before Christmas will be the pantomime at the Civic Centre in Motherwell. This year it is “Jack and the Beanstalk” ...oh yes it is! We are going on the afternoon of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December so stick that date in your diary or insert into calendar function of your mobile device. More details will be coming out soon but when they do act quickly as we only have 50 tickets ordered.

I would like to express a big thank you to Jan McCall who is no longer going to be involved with Sunday Blast. I think we all have appreciated the work that she has done with the older group and the commitment, the care and the compassion she has brought to Sunday Blast. Thanks Jan for all you have done.

Remember that it would be great to have new people so why not bring a friend along with you.

**Tom Anderson – Sunday Blast Coordinator**



## **Summer Property update**

This is to give you a taste of what has been going on over the last few months with the Church property.

The manse was first on the list for updating by redecorating the Master Bedroom and bathroom. We are instructed by 121 that a room per year should be decorated and this room was the choice this year. The Church hall facility was also due a facelift as the hall usage does create a lot of traffic which in turn necessitates the redecoration on a frequent basis. It is now approaching 4 years since the renovation and at that time most of the rooms were redecorated.

We had a serious problem with the top kitchen roof as when it rained water poured in through the ceiling. I tried on several occasions to have it repaired but the type of roof we have makes it difficult to pinpoint where the leak is. We reroofed this area and it now appears to be watertight (we have since had a few showers to check it out)!

The Redecoration included the Kitchen ceilings and woodwork, the Youth Room, Millennium Room and the Main Corridor. All the carpets have been cleaned to try to take out the stains caused by spillage. It would help if people taking tea or coffee to the rooms they are meeting in would use a tray as the cups are usually full to overflowing therefore causing the contents to be spilled on the floorcoverings. The toilets and kitchen walls have had a wash down also.

We also had electrical work carried out. We removed the 15 strip lights which had 4 tubes in each from the Clyde Room and the Millennium Room and replaced these with 12 LED fittings. Not only will we save on energy but we also reduced the number therefore saving more energy. The other advantage is we will not require to replace flashing fluorescent tubes on a regular basis as we had 60 of these in the 2 rooms.

The Forum CCTV stopped working prior to the holiday break and this was replaced with a new system with clearer definition cameras. We hope we do not require this but it is a safeguard for the volunteers who man the Forum Café.

We thank the volunteer who looks after our electrical work and in turn saves his father from climbing a ladder to change the lamps.

On saving money as you are aware we now have a new Treasurer and his previous life makes him eagle eyed and he found that each time we entered or left the building using the intruder alarm it was costing us 26 pence. This does not sound a lot until you think we open and close 7 days per week 4 times minimum. We have now changed the telephone number for the alarm to virtually eliminate this cost.

On the alarm front we also have as we do annually have our fire appliances inspected and we required to upgrade 2 of our extinguishers to meet the requirements.

Lastly but not least we as a Church require to have a Property Convener as I intimated nearly 2 years ago to the session that I would like to give up as I felt that as this was the second time I did this the first being 30 years ago, for 8 years and it is once again an 8 year stint this time.

I am sure there will be someone who could take over the job as convener, it is not an onerous job and it does not require to be a retired person male or female. I am willing to assist if required but happy for the Convener to do his or her own thing.

If you feel you may be interested, please contact Joanne or myself to find what is involved and we can expand on the involvement. **Please HELP.**

## **Guild**

The Guild resumes on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 with our rededication service in church at 7.00pm with our Minister Joanne conducting worship. The Guild theme is "Be Strong, Be Bold" and we start our third year of this and year 3 is entitled "Go in Love".



After the rededication we go to the Centenary Hall for a buffet supper prepared by our committee. Time to chat and catch up with friends. We are looking forward to our next session of interesting topics and speakers.

If you are not a Guild member, please think about coming along and giving it a try. We are a really friendly group and we would love to see you.

Marion Baird (Secretary)

### **Friendly Hour - Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm**

Our new season begins on 3rd October at 1.30pm with a rededication by Rev Joanne Hood. The new syllabus will be distributed shortly, but details of our first meetings are below.

**Please note our meetings now begin at the earlier time of 1.30pm**

October 3rd	Rededication by Rev Joanne Hood
10th	Talk - Rev Christopher Rankine
17th	Holiday
24th	Yvonne Watson - Praise Afternoon
31st	Liz McIntyre - Love Letters from a Desert Rat



If you have not been to one of our meetings before, we would love to see you, everyone is made most welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also served during the afternoon.

## **St John's Fellowship**



Meetings Wednesdays at 7.30pm

Our meetings for October are as follows:

October 5th	Opening and rededication by Rev Joanne Hood, followed by Buffet
18th	Mission Aviation Fellowship - An illustrated talk by George MacRitchie

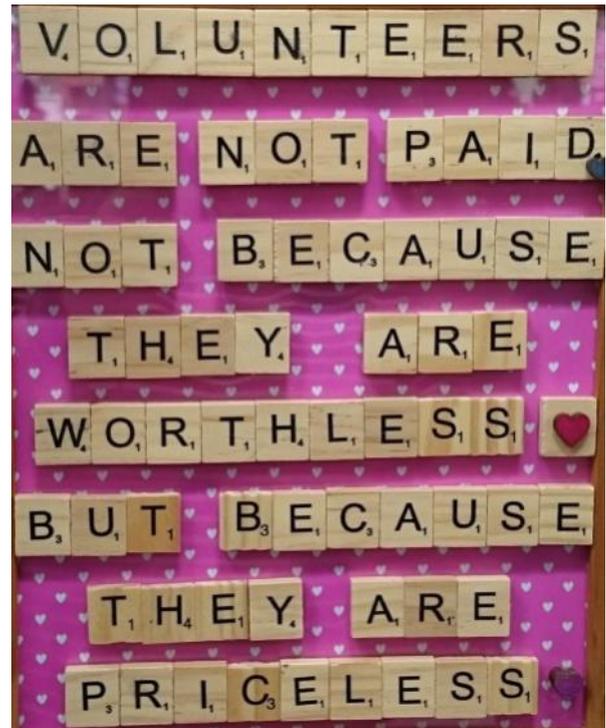
Why not come along to one of our meetings and maybe bring a friend, you will be most welcome.

John Smy (Secretary)

"IN THE BEGINNING..." by Chris Sushynski



"I understand, but the order says 'one golden calf' ..."



## Flower Rota

### **September**

- 3rd Mrs C McArthur
- 10th Mrs J Weir
- 17th Miss M Clelland & Mrs R Junor
- 24th Mrs M Graham

### **October**

- 1st HARVEST
- 8th Mrs M Paterson & Mrs P Bellamy
- 15th Mrs B Murray
- 22nd Mrs D Stark
- 29th Mrs F Landery & Mrs J Johnston

### **November**

- 5th Mrs R Douglas
- 12th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
- 19th Mrs W Howson
- 26th Mrs J Fleming



## Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

### September

#### MARILYN GRAHAM

BILL ANDERSON  
FIONA DODDS  
BILL HOWSON  
SANDRA GRAY  
MORAG IRELAND  
CHRISTINE MARTYN  
ELIZABETH MUIR  
MAUREEN OFILI

### October

#### GRAEME DODDS

LESLEY AULD  
JUNE BROWN  
ROBIN DOUGLAS  
ANNE GILLESPIE  
ELIZABETH GORDON  
CHRISTINE McARTHUR  
CAMPBELL McGUGAN  
BILL MURRAY

### November

#### SHEILA THOMSON

SANDRA BORDON  
IAN FORSYTH  
ANDREA GRANT  
ROBERT JACKSON  
NAN LAW  
DOUG LESLIE  
ANNA McLUCKIE  
GLADYS OFILI

## Evening Services

### September

3rd June Brown & Fiona Dodds  
**COMMUNION**  
10th Eliot Soutter & Mary Soutter  
17th Alex Magowan & Colin MacLeod  
24th Mary Stark & Hughina Naylor

### October

1st Nan Law & Bill Anderson  
8th Elizabeth Muir & Gordon Rankin  
15th George & Katrina Spence  
22nd Karen Limond & Janet Boyes  
29th Bill Howson & George Wade

### November

5th Ann Auld & Doug Leslie  
12th Hazel Lees & Lesley Auld  
19th Marilyn Graham & Anne Bibby  
26th Fiona Anderson & Andrew McLean

## Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
13th September 2017 - Rededication	11th October 2017
8th November 2017	13th December 2017

## ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY

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Graeme Dodds

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Anne MacLeod GRSM (Hons) MMus LRAM

### FWO CONVENER

Ian MacGregor

### TREASURER

Eliot Soutter

### CENTRE FINANCE

Bill Anderson

### GIFT AID CONVENER

Jack Black

### FLOWER CONVENER

Margaret Clelland

### PROPERTY CONVENER

Bill Howson

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throughout the Centre.

