

Hamilton: St. John's Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Centre

Dear Friends

The month of November brings to us the season of Remembrance which each of us approaches and embraces in different ways for different reasons.

Perhaps some of us have memories of our country at war which continue to haunt our days and nights. Maybe we have loved ones of our own that never came home, whose memory we cherish at other times of the year as well. It is likely that many of us have also been affected by the more recent conflicts round the world where lives are still lost; both those of service men and women and those of civilians in the countries affected by war even now.

Just this past week more than one person has reflected with me how we never seem to learn our lessons in life, at least not the most destructive and life threatening ones. However it is that war, or the threat of war, is playing out for us in these 21st century days (and I'm sure we can all think of the threats and conflicts that currently trouble us most) all it seems to demonstrate for us is that we human beings appear to be more attuned to finding ways to harm one another than to finding ways to make and keep meaningful peace.

Regardless of how it may be that you choose to mark your Remembrance this year, whether at our worship and community events, or at town events or in your own private way - I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you part of the story of one of the young men of this congregation who lost his life 100 years ago on 27th October 1917. I spoke of Private Robert Dawson's life briefly during worship on 29th October to mark the anniversary of his death but I have only been able to do so (now on two occasions) due to the research of Iain English, which he has very kindly made available to me and now offers to you.

Robert Dawson's name is before us every week as we worship. It is on the war memorial to lives lost from our congregation in the first world war.

Robert was the adopted son of John and Margaret Dawson. He died when he was just twenty years old and at the time of his death his adoptive father John was the organist at St John's. He had grown up in the low waters area of Hamilton as had his fiancée Jessie Fletcher Orr, the woman who would go on to become Iain's grandmother. Before

November 2017

she married and had her family, Jessie was Robert's sweetheart and much of what Iain has learnt about Robert has come from correspondence between the two. They were engaged in 1914 when Robert was nineteen years old and Jessie a year older. They corresponded throughout Robert's years of service and perhaps the most poignant of those pieces of correspondence was the last Field Service Post Card Robert sent to Jessie. It was dated the 19th October, at which point he informed Jessie from Flanders, that he was 'Quite Well' (one of the choices on the post card – the best choice) and that a letter would follow. As his battalion moved up to the front line shortly afterwards and Robert found himself fatally wounded just a few days later, that letter would never come.

On 27th October 1917 Private Robert Dawson died of his wounds. His name (with the promotion granted upon his death, to Corporal) is forever before us at St John's. His story is proof to us that our remembrance *has* to be of more than numbers....it has to be more even than just names. His life was short but in his twenty two years he had been many things to many people. He had been a son, a friend, a fiancé, a comrade to the others in his regiment. He had known love, he had made plans, but they were not to be realised and his story would not play out beyond October 1917. His story, like so many others, deserves to be remembered, honoured and retold.

If you wish to know more about Robert Dawson, Iain English has left a copy of his research with me and is happy to let others read all he has discovered about this young man who means so much to him and should also mean much to us.

For Robert Dawson and so many like him, for what his life means to the story of St John's and to the freedoms we enjoy, we say, thanks be to God.

with love and best wishes
Joanne

Session News: October 2017

I wanted to kick-off by updating you on our progress with 'Path of Renewal'. As I mentioned last month, Joanne and I met with two representatives from the national team who are assigned to us during this stage. As a reminder, we have applied to be part of the next tranche of churches on 'Path of Renewal' and we are in a two-way process of finding out and deciding on whether we proceed.

During October, we held a special Kirk Session meeting to allow Rev Sandra Boyd, from the national team, to make a presentation and discuss 'Path of Renewal' in more detail. One of the things that was clear from our discussion is that initiatives that we have put our weight behind in recent times, such as Messy Church and our involvement with the BID, are very much in tune with the basis of 'Path of Renewal'.

It's important to say that 'Path of Renewal' is not a programme or a set down series of initiatives for us to follow. Each congregation taking part is on its own journey to discern what it should be doing and how. What it does do is to provide a supporting framework for Ministers, Kirk Sessions and Congregations to work through this (it's not a quick fix by the way) and to share in and contribute to the collective learning of all the churches that are taking part.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

HARVEST APPEAL - THE OUTCOME

Members of St John's have responded generously to this year's Harvest Appeal. The total sum collected amounted to £2,233, which sum included £248 collected from the children's watering cans and containers (well done the children!). To the sum of £2,233 there falls to be added £378, being the amount of gift aid recovered from HMRC! Thus the grand total to be distributed to the charities amounts to £2,611 - a very successful outcome indeed.

Thanks are given to all who contributed financially, to all who helped with the counting (who included Alex Magowan, David Austin and Dennis Hart) and to Jack Black for extracting the gift aid refund so quickly from HMRC!

This means that £1,306 can be sent to FRIENDS OF PLACE OF RESTORATION (Scotland) and £1,305 to SAMARITAN'S PURSE UK - TURN ON THE TAP, being the two charities agreed by the Kirk Session. The former charity's objectives include supporting and encouraging the work of The Place of Restoration Trust in Margate South Africa in bringing relief to children in need and in caring for those who have been abandoned, abused or orphaned because of HIV/AIDS or poverty. The latter charity's objective is to end water poverty (particularly in areas of Central Africa) by providing water filtration devices within communities where water source is contaminated and unsafe for consumption.

Well done, St John's.

Eliot Soutter, Treasurer.

Family Record

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

Mr George Hunter, Hamilton - died 9th October 2017

Baptism

Grier Millar - baptised 22nd October 2017

New Members

A warm welcome to two new member who have recently joined our congregation.

Rayella Blackstock - 8th October by resolution of the Kirk Session

Liz Magowan - 5th November, by profession of faith

December/January Magazine Deadline



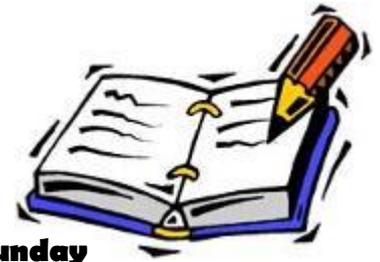
All material for the **December/January** issue of the Centre magazine is to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 19th November 2017. NO LATER.**

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

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

SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Sunday 12th November **Remembrance Sunday**
- Sunday 19th November **St John's 183rd Anniversary & Shoebox Sunday**
- Saturday 25th November Christmas Nativity Scene Switch on in the New Cross Centre **2.30pm**
(with Woodhead Primary School Choir)
- Friday 1st December **World Aids Day event 7.00pm**
We will be joined by Monica MacDonald, Secretary Friends of Place of Restoration. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.
- Sunday 3rd December **Advent Sunday Communion**
Sharing round the Lord's Table to celebrate the start of this meaningful season in the Christian year
- Sunday 17th December **Heart and Soul Swing Band Christmas Concert 6.30pm**

Remembrance Day Word Search

E R T S H N E X S W B K I Y P Y
L V E O A G A O O R W N Y R A R
R I N B A C L R E E F R F E T O
Y O B R M D R L E A X O L V R T
R P U E I E T I N T G L A A I C
R O P E R T M T F H E A N R O I
C A R O A T R E U I M V D B T V
C T W B P Y Y F R E C A E P U T
R E B M E V O N O A H E R O A H
F R E E D O M T R O O P S S O L

BATTLE	BRAVERY	COURAGE	FLANDERS	FREEDOM	HERO
INFANTRY	LIBERTY	LOSS	NOVEMBER	PEACE	POPPY
REMEMBER	SACRIFICE	SOLDIER	TROOPS	VETERAN	VICTORY
WAR	WREATH				

Searching for Jesus

Six months on from our “Walk with Christ”, do we see any lasting impact? In our own walk, do we find it easier to visualise key moments of the gospel story? Are there moments of Holy Week 2017 that have stayed with us, that now resonate more deeply, or that have greater personal significance? And what of the impact beyond our own congregation?

We know that church attendance was boosted during Holy Week and that many people came along to worship with us, some for the first time. I am delighted to say that some of these people are now regular attendees and some have taken membership in the Church of Scotland. We may never know the impact on others, perhaps a wee seed has been planted that will begin to grow at a later date.

So, what next?

Other Churches are keen to continue to work together and that certainly includes Cadzow Parish Church, who will host Holy Week services in 2018. We are currently working together to look at how we might integrate the Passion Play into worship, without recreating the same format as last year.

The last verse of Mark tells us “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message”.

So, we need to go out! Take the whole story into the heart of the town. We plan to do this by performing a complete Passion Play in the town centre on Easter Saturday (31st March). There are many characters and scenes that we did not have opportunity to present in our serialisation. 2018 will allow us to meet Pilate (and his Missus), Nicodemus and even John the Baptist.

We plan to perform the play in various locations around the bottom cross – God and South Lanarkshire Council willing.

Our theme for 2018 is “Renewal Through Resurrection” and I will be praying for renewal of that area of town, renewal of interest in faith, renewal of Easter celebrations beyond the sacred/secular divide, and renewal of the Churches commitment to evangelism.

Let’s build on the 300+ crowd who joined us for Palm Sunday and ensure that Hamilton’s Easter message for 2018 goes beyond chocolate and chicks.

As part of the early stages of planning, our search for Jesus has been successful. Seek and ye shall find.

We advertised through theatrical agents for a professional actor to work with us to portray Jesus and were delighted to have over 30 applicants. So, after sifting through lots of CVs and photos of men with beards, Mhairi, Sandra, Bill, Ross and I met with some potential candidates – and one was outstanding.

I am delighted to share with you that Nicholas Elliott will be Hamilton’s Jesus. Nicky is an extremely experienced actor, who trained at RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) in London and has worked extensively in theatre, film and television, most recently with the National Theatre. We are extremely blessed to have him lead our cast.

Nicky says, “I am very much looking forward to working with everyone and to getting started. I feel very proud to be cast in such a role as they are big shoes to fill. Not only in the actual role of Jesus itself but also following on from such a successful production from last March. I spend a good deal of time in Hamilton and was actually married in Chatelherault so I have had great times and great memories here in Hamilton and look forward to bringing our Passion Play to the community.”

No matter what your talent or gift, you can help. Please email me liz1b@ymail.com, leave a message with the office or speak to anyone who was involved last year for more details. Or feel free to pop along and join rehearsals. Our first rehearsal is Tuesday 14th November, meeting at 7.00pm in the Sanctuary of Cadzow Parish Church. It would be ideal to have as many folks as possible along that night so we can cast roles and plan a rehearsal schedule. Nobody will be needed every week. Thereafter we rehearse on Monday 20th November and Tuesday 28th.

Mark gives us a promise; that the Lord **will** work with us. So come on – join us as we go out!

Liz Blackman

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal - Christmas 2017



Shoe-box Sunday this year will be **19th November**, when all boxes will be collected directly after morning worship. **We cannot accept boxes after this date.**

What do I put into my shoebox?

Please fill your box with a selection from the following or similar items. (All items should be new).

Include a toy that a child can love like a doll or cuddly toy (with CE label), toy truck, skipping rope, yo-yo, ball, small puzzle, musical instruments etc.

School supplies, pens, colouring pencils, sharpener & eraser, crayons, felt pens, writing pads, notebooks, paper, colouring & picture books, solar calculators etc.

Hygiene items, Toothbrush & toothpaste, bar of wrapped soap, comb, hairbrush, flannel.

Other items, hat, cap, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, wind up torch, jewellery set, sweets (must have best before date of at least March 2018).

Shoeboxes and leaflets are available from the Bookcorner

Senior Members Christmas Gifts

Could the Committee members please meet in the Millennium Room on

Wednesday 6th December at 10.00am.

By 10.15am the gifts should be ready for distribution

As in the past, we are looking for volunteers to help with this rewarding task.

We have more than 75 gifts to distribute and some help would be appreciated, as the districts can be very varied and spread throughout Hamilton.

PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY.

If you can help, please contact: Mary Stark

Christine Martyn

THANKING YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR HELP.

Mary Stark



Annual Christmas Gift Service Sunday 10th December 2017



This year we are again supporting the Hamilton Advertiser Christmas Toy Appeal, and for the second year they are teaming up with the Hamilton branch of the Salvation Army.

All you need to do is donate a new toy or gift, no matter the size or value. Every little helps and donations such as craft kits, outdoor toys, colouring books and crayons, dolls, toy cars, fragrance, nightwear, winter goods will all be gratefully received. Cash donations or gift vouchers are also warmly welcomed as these are distributed to, or spent purchasing items for the older children.

Please do **not wrap** your gifts, as they need to be sorted into suitable age ranges. Donations of wrapping paper, batteries and sticky tape are also needed.

Working with South Lanarkshire Council's social work services, the toys and gifts will be distributed to the county's neediest families in time for Christmas Day.

A Night of Celebration for 30th Lanarkshire (St Johns Church) Scout Group

30th Lanarkshire (St Johns Church) recently held a night of celebration and fun involving all sections in the group as they held their first AGM as a registered charity.

The AGM was very well attended and the Executive group were pleased to accept new members offers to help with the running of the group. Official business was swiftly concluded so that the focus of the night could turn to fun and celebration, with the Beetle Drive acting as a focus for the evening and providing an opportunity to raise over £130 for the group.

In between rounds five new beavers were invested, followed by seventeen new cubs - which must be a record. Group Scout Leader Judy Trayner was delighted to perform another first for the group – the award of the Chief Scout Platinum Awards to two members of the Explorer Unit.

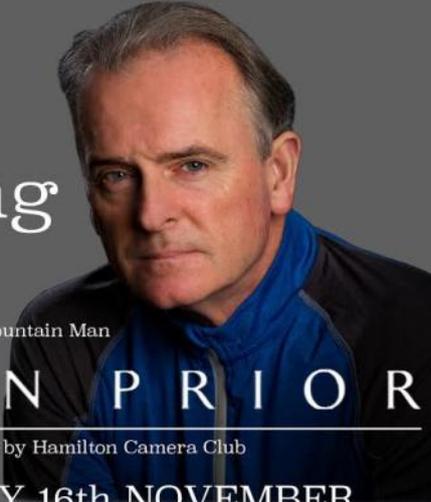
Judy said “30th Lanarkshire Scout Group is going from strength to strength, our new beaver colony already has over 20 beavers as well as a waiting list and we invested SEVENTEEN Cubs tonight. I was very proud to award two Chief Scout Platinum awards to two young people who are a fantastic asset to our group and who are good role models for our younger members”



New Beavers and Cubs being invested during the recent AGM.



Also on the night two members of the Explorer unit received their Chief Scout Platinum Awards the first time anyone from the group has gained this award.



An
Evening
With

Author & Star of BBC's Mountain Man

COLIN PRIOR

Presented by Hamilton Camera Club

THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER

Colin Prior is of one of the world's most respected landscape photographers. Born in Glasgow, his proximity to the Scottish Highlands shaped his passion for the outdoors and fostered an interest in photography.

St John's Church
Hamilton
10-14 Duke Street
Hamilton
ML3 7TD

Tickets £5.00 at the door
including refreshments.

Doors Open 7pm

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, and phone calls.

I was uplifted by the number of people who were praying and thinking of me.

A special thanks to all the people who transported Margaret to all the hospital's I was in.

I am now walking with 2 sticks and hope to be out and about by Christmas.

So thanks to all again.

Willie Wilson



Can you help someone like Annie?

Annie is 78, and until recently she was feeling quite lonely. She lives alone and often didn't speak to anyone for days at a time. She had no one to chat to or to help with the small jobs DIY jobs around the house like changing a light bulb and washing inside windows.

Annie contacted the LEAP Hands On Project to ask for help. Since then life has been very different for her. She has been matched with a volunteer Befriender Liz, who visits her for an hour each week to have a blether and a cup of tea. This gives Annie something to look forward to. She has also benefited from our free Handyperson service assisted by local volunteers.

There are lots of older people living in your community who feel lonely and isolated just like Annie. If you think you could spare a 1-2 hours per week to volunteer as a Befriender or a Handyperson we would love to hear from you.

Tel: 01698 907 004



www.leap-project.co.uk



www.facebook.com/leaphop



At Messy Church, on Saturday the 30th of September, 19 families came along to learn all about Moses.

As usual we had lots of crafts on offer all based on different parts of Moses life. To help keep track of a very long story, as the families arrived, they were given a bag with a Moses timeline and piece of elastic. This involved them collecting beads as they went to each craft. By the end of the morning they would be able to complete a Moses Timeline Bracelet.

To start off the story there was a Moses in the Basket cupcake to make, followed by an Egyptian crown to represent Moses time spent growing up in Egypt and we had some burning bush painting using a dish brush. We also had paper plate snakes, frog masks and popcorn lambs to all represent the part of the time Moses and his brother spent trying to free the Hebrews from the control of the Pharaoh. We also made pillars of clouds and fire and we had an activity to represent the parting of the red sea that involved pepper sprinkled over water and a blob of washing up liquid on a finger. To finish the story we had scratch art "stone tablets" to "carve" the ten commandments on. After the crafts and activities it was time to go into the church for the celebration where Joanne told the story of Moses and the Exodus. After the story all the families headed back to the hall for a tasty lunch of soup and bread.



Join us for Messy Christmas on Saturday the 2nd of December from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

It would help with our planning if you could let us know if you are coming along. Contact us at stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com or via our Facebook page. Messy Church at St John's Hamilton.

Sunday Blast - Pantomime Sunday 10th December.

The availability of pantomime tickets for December is limited to 50. As such priority will be given to children, and the parents of young children, who attend St Johns Sunday Blast.

This is to ensure that the children do not miss out and they get the chance to see Santa after the pantomime!

Other parents and family members can then be allocated any additional tickets. Names will be put on the waiting list and tickets will be allocated after the 12th of November. The names of children who will be going, along with payment and permission slip, should be given to Elizabeth Gordon by the **12th of November**.

Guild



Guild Rededication

Our rededication service took place on 2nd October, and was followed by a splendid Buffet Supper organised by the committee members.

Our meetings for November

- November 6th Mrs Liz McIntyre Allan - 'With my one good eye'
- 15th **Wednesday 1.00pm** - Outing to Kings Theatre "A Christmas Carol"
- 18th **Saturday** - Annual Coffee Morning
- 20th Lesley & Ian Hamilton visit us once again with new ranges from their Perfumery.
(An ideal time to purchase some Christmas gifts)
- December 4th Joint meeting with the Fellowship when we will be entertained by Anne MacLeod and pupils from Hamilton Grammar.

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)

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.

If you would like to join us you will be made most welcome.

Friendly Hour - Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm

November 7th Talk - Rev Jim Murphy
14th Outing to Livingston Outlet
21st Bob Cleary - Train Journeys in India
28th Talk - Cancer Care Transport
December 5th Festive Treat



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 for November 2017 at 7:30 pm in
The Clyde Room**



Wednesday November 1st

Tommy Quinn will describe his experience as a volunteer at the Commonwealth games, with illustrations.

Wednesday November 15th

The Old Parish Passion Play presented by the Rev. Ross and Liz Blackman.

Please come along and support The Fellowship, enjoy yourself, bring a friend or colleague. Refreshments provided.

Monday December 4th

Joint meeting with the Guild when we will be entertained by Anne MacLeod and pupils from Hamilton Grammar.

John Smy (Secretary)
01698 428263

Flower Rota

November

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

December

3rd Mr T Boyes
10th Mrs I Hamilton
17th Mrs J Ferguson & Mr D Williamson
24th Mrs H Hunter
31st FLOWER FUND



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

November

SHEILA THOMSON

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

December

ANN AULD

ELIOT SOUTTER
HELEN HUNTER
HAZEL LEES
ANDREW McLEAN
HUGHINA NAYLOR
MAY RUSSELL
MARY SOUTTER
GEORGE WADE

Evening Services

November

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

December

- 3rd Anne Gillespie & Graeme Dodds
COMMUNION
10th Paul Flarry & Andrew McLean
17th Sandra Bordon & Sheena Wilson
24th Morag Ireland & Andrea Grant
31st **NO EVENING SERVICE**

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
8th November 2017	13th December 2017
10th January 2018 (Membership stats)	14th February 2018

ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY

MINISTER

Rev Joanne Hood
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Tel 425002 -e-mail:
minister@stjohnshamilton.org.uk

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Graeme Dodds

HALLS BOOKINGS

Robin Douglas

ORGANIST

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.

