



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's
Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends

This month the printing and distribution of the Centre Magazine was delayed due to... you guessed it – the snow! For a few days at the end of February/beginning of March the Church Centre was closed because of the extreme weather we were experiencing and for several days all I could see were a few tracks of footprints in and out of the Church Centre car park which was deep with snow.

I don't know about you but, as long as I don't need to go anywhere, I rather like the snow. I like sitting watching it out the window of my living room whilst I'm nice and cosy with the central heating on and a coffee in my hand. But when it lingers, and simply refuses to melt, it becomes inevitable that a journey out into it will be required. That's never quite so much fun! I do hope that throughout this weather you have managed to keep warm and safe and that we all avoided the roads throughout the periods of red weather warnings that reduced Hamilton (as well as many other places) to ghost towns. It has been in amongst this winter wonderland backdrop that we have been journeying throughout Lent which began in February. We are now well into the season and nearing that most special and holy of weeks when we journey in real time with Jesus, day by day, towards the cross. This year our evening Holy Week services are being hosted by Cadzow Parish Church and St John's involvement is spread throughout the week with our choir singing on Tuesday evening, me preaching on Thursday evening and then also conducting the service on Good Friday.

During the days there will be shorter lunchtime services here at St John's that I hope to conduct in their entirety. This year the title of our 12noon services is 'Now you know the M.O' and I hope to explore each day, Monday-Thursday, what it is we learn about the M.O of Jesus from the events that occur each day throughout Holy Week. The challenge for us is then to work out what that means for us now. How does it affect our daily living almost two thousand years later when we look at what Jesus was dealing with then, and how he went about dealing with it, to discover lessons for those of us who seek to be his disciples in today's world? I was interested by the concept of looking at the M.O, the Modus Operandi of Jesus and by that I mean the particular way in which Jesus worked and the way he went about things. I suspect it would have depended who you spoke to back then whether or not his M.O. was seen as a positive thing or a negative but that's part of what I would like to look at. The people Jesus chose to mix with and

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to value, tell us something about his M.O. The words he used at particular times when addressing particular people, tell us something about his M.O. The choices he made when it came to handling his own fate, tell us something about his M.O. By looking at all of these and then considering what his M.O. then means for us I hope we can answer the question of what we should be doing 'Now we know his M.O.' The Good Friday Vigil at St John's, which will last from 12noon-3pm, will round off that consideration, as well as allowing us to reflect on the hour and half hour, and share bread and wine together, before we leave in silence.

This year, as well as our lunchtime and evening services, Hamilton Town Centre (with or without snow) will provide the backdrop for The Passion Play: Resurrection! This is taking place on Saturday 31st March (Holy Saturday) at 2pm at the bottom cross on Castle Street, down near Asda. Last year we were treated to various vignettes from the story of the final week of Jesus' life during our evening worship at Hamilton: Old Parish Church but this year a ninety minute play will tell the whole story of that week. This is an exciting community event not just for our churches but also for our town centre which will bring many people into Hamilton and will allow us all to share in quite a unique experience as part of our Holy Week activities.

I do hope that you will find something amongst all these events that interests you enough to make you want to walk this week with me. As disciples of Christ we are invited to follow Jesus; even into the darkness and troubles of Holy Week, even to the cross of his sacrifice, even to the tomb of Easter morning - for it is there (at 6.30am outside Chatelherault Lodge, or at 9.30am sharing communion in the garden at St John's, or at 10.45am as we celebrate a baptism and communion at morning worship) that together we will find the joy that is intended for us all.

With love, Joanne

Session News

Looking back at the year, St John's has (as usual) done particularly well in raising money for good causes. It's one of the things that we rightly focus on as part of our mission and calling, and we will continue to do so.

While our extensive refurbishment programme was underway, we suspended the Gift Day as we felt we were already asking people to contribute extra; and that programme was the focus. We were also conscious that the timing of the Gift Day meant that it was clashing with other times that we were asking for support from the Congregation.

We now think it's time to reinstate the Gift Day. This gives all of us the opportunity to make a single contribution each year to specific plans/programmes right here at St Johns, and it complements our weekly offering system. The Kirk Session has decided that the money raised this year will be split between St Johns' Fabric Fund and Path of Renewal. Our Fabric Fund provides for investment in our buildings, fittings and equipment. We also want to establish some base level funding for initiatives that we will be undertaking through Path of Renewal.

Gift Day will be Saturday 17th March and envelopes are provided in the magazine, or you can pick one up in the Centre. You will be able to hand in the envelope to the team on Saturday 17th, send it to the church by post (mark it for the Treasurer), place it in the Treasurers post box outside the office, by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday 18th.

Please support this initiative – and remember to Gift Aid your contribution if you are able.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

Family Record

Nothing to report this month.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Gift Day Saturday 17th March

Holy Week at St John's 2018

Monday 26th – Thursday 29th March: 12noon – Holy Week Worship: “Once you know the M.O...”
Short daily worship exploring the impact of each day's events as Jesus approaches Golgotha

Friday 30th March: 12-3pm – Good Friday Vigil

A three hour vigil with reflections on the hour and half hour, ending with the sharing of bread and wine

1st April - Easter Sunday 2018

6.30am – Hamilton Old Parish Church

Outside Chatelherault Lodge (with Joanne conducting worship)

Both these services are followed by breakfast rolls at Hamilton Old Parish Church Halls

9.30am - “Early in the garden...”

Worship for all ages together in the garden (weather permitting) with family celebration of the Lord's Supper

10.45am - Easter Sunday Worship

More traditional worship with choir and sermon and celebration of Lord's Supper

For the services being held every evening at Cadzow Parish Church, and the plans for this year's Passion Play please see the extended two-page advert in the magazine.

Sunday 8th April at 3pm: “Give thanks for life!”

A service of thanksgiving for those who may be gone from our midst, but are never forgotten.

Following on from the Bereavement Service of previous years, “Give thanks for life!” is an opportunity in the season of Easter to remember those you (or others) have loved and lost but whose memory and legacy most definitely lives on. If you want to give thanks for the influence someone has had on your life come and join us for this short worship event.

Hamilton St John's Parish Church: Church Secretary Vacancy

This part-time (10-hours per week) job requires candidates able to work unsupervised across a wide-range of administrative, secretarial and desktop publishing tasks to support the day-to-day operations of the church.

Principally supporting the Minister, confidentiality is a key requirement. Salary is negotiable and terms include four-weeks holiday per year. Candidates can request a full job description from the following email address and/or register their interest by sending a CV including contact details for referees to sessionclerk@stjohnshamilton.org.uk by the closing date of 23rd March 2018.

April Magazine Deadline



All material for the **April** issue of the Centre magazine is to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 18th March. 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

From the Editor

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

All Through the Town

(Mark 11)

As Jesus rode the donkey through Jerusalem, people shouted, "Hosanna."

Help Jesus finish His ride through the city.





HAPPY
EASTER



A Passion Play is a community event which tells the story of the last week of Jesus' life through drama, taking us on a journey to the cross and ultimately finding renewal, through resurrection. Experience the Easter story as never before, as the action unfolds before you.

Join us; be part of His story!

As well as watching the play, you can also join us for the following services, some of which will include monologues from key actors:-

HOLY WEEK IN HAMILTON

25th March Palm Sunday	6.30pm	Morning services in all churches as usual Songs of Praise, Cadzow Parish Church
Mon 26th	12 Noon 7.30pm	Lunchtime Series "Once You Know the M.O." at St Johns Parish Church Cadzow Parish Church
Tues 27th	12 Noon 7.30pm	St Johns Parish Church Cadzow Parish Church
Wed 28th	12 Noon 7.30pm	St Johns Parish Church Cadzow Parish Church
Thurs 29th	12 Noon 7.30pm 9.15pm	St Johns Parish Church Cadzow Parish Church Gethsemane Vigil, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Fri 30th	Noon til 3pm 7.30pm	Vigil of the Cross, St John's Parish Church Cadzow Parish Church
Sat 31st	2pm 7.30pm	Performance of "Resurrection" at the Bottom Cross, Castle Street (Near Asda) Renewing Our Baptism Vows, St Mary's Episcopal Church
Sun 1st April	6.30am	Dawn service at Hamilton Old Parish Church and Chatelerault; followed by breakfast rolls at Hamilton Old Parish Church Morning services in all churches as usual

Friendly Hour - Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm



We recently enjoyed a Scottish Afternoon with Burns poems, songs and of course haggis, neeps and tatties. The haggis was piped into the hall by David Stark, George Gray gave the toast to the lasses, and Joanne the reply. Joe Rankin the Immortal Memory. This great afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended.



- March 6th OUTING to St Bryce Church, Kirkcaldy
 13th Crossreach - Talk
 20th Woodside School - Concert
 27th AGM followed by Catherine & Vincent Morgan - Music

If you have not been to one of our meetings before, please come along you will be made most welcome. The March meetings will be our last of this session, but we look forward to seeing you all again in October.

Midweek Service

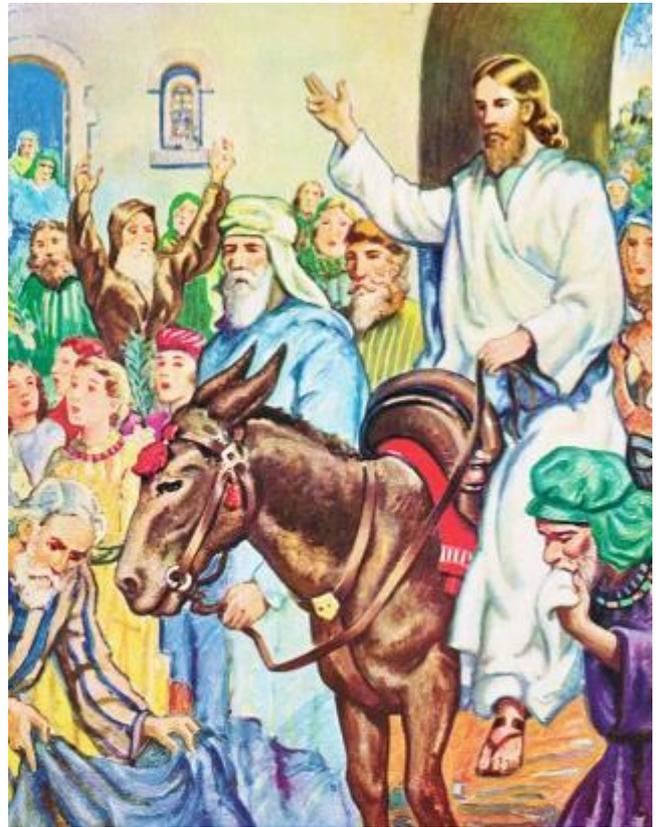
If you find it difficult to attend a full Sunday morning service, why not come along to our Midweek Service?

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 Enigmatic Ride

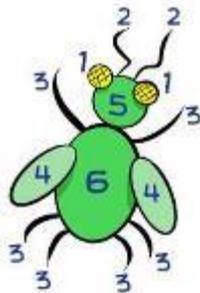
by Douglas Knighton © 2012

Their expectations surged as hope arose again.
The Kingdom seemed so close while Jesus talked
Of saving errant, lost and needy men
Who'd follow on the path that he had walked.
So as they walked, he wove another tale
About a noble son who travelled long
And far to gain a crown and thus prevail
Against the foes who sought to do him wrong.
Perceiving that they failed to understand,
He sent his men to fetch a donkey's foal
So he could demonstrate with clarity
The intricacy of what the Father planned:
How victory, which was the final goal,
Must be preceded by the Son's humility.



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Beetle

Monday 23rd April 2018
7.00pm-9.00pm

Tea/Coffee/Juice & Cake
Tickets: £1 adults, 50p children

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2018
(SUNDAY 13 MAY – SATURDAY 19 MAY)



The Hamilton Christian Aid Committee held their 2018 AGM last month. Due to the difficulty of finding new volunteers it was decided to stop doing door to door collections and can collections.

Instead this year the Christian Aid representatives from each Church will supply envelopes to their congregations at the beginning of Christian Aid week, and these can then be returned to the Church via the offering plate and the representative will count and bank any monies raised in the usual way.

The committee also continues to encourage congregations to hold any other fundraising events to support Christian Aid. These events do not necessarily have to take place during Christian Aid Week.

St John's Forum Café will still be used in the same manner during Christian Aid Week and, plans are afoot to ensure the smooth running of each day.

Thank you all for your continued support of Christian Aid.

St John's Fellowship

Meetings March



7th March Seniors Together - a talk by Christine Calder

21st March Hannah Rankine

We are coming to the end of this session's syllabus so take the opportunity to experience an evening with the Fellowship. Refreshments provided.

John Smy
01698 428263

Guild

Our meetings for March/April

March 2nd **Friday 7.00pm** - World Day of Prayer Service at St John's Church

5th Mr T Baldwin - "Life & Work"

19th Rebecca Tennant - Crossreach

April 16th **AGM & Dinner - Riccarton Golf Club 7.00pm**



New members are always welcome to join our group and we would love to see you.

Marion Baird (Secretary)

Thank you

I would like to convey most sincere thanks for the continued support of the St John's Family over the lengthy period of recuperation and ill health following my surgery. Letters and card, lovely friendships, visits and flowers have all provided wonderful encouragement throughout this time.

The DVD is also a much appreciated link with the worship week by week and great thanks go to all involved in producing this valued service.

May God bless you all.
Valerie Weir



Thanks to the members of the Congregation for cards, flowers and expressions of support for both my husband and myself, and for the concern expressed due to my recent health scare.

My husband wishes also, to thank the congregation for the unexpected gift at Christmas, of a jar of shortbread.

God bless you all!

Anne & Charles Noble

Flower Rota

March

- 4th Mrs M McGugan
- 11th Mrs E Shepherd
- 18th Mrs D Hart
- 25th Mrs M Baird

April

- 1st Mr R Craig
- 8th Mrs F Anderson
- 15th Mrs R Douglas
- 22nd Mrs S Wilson
- 29th Mrs I MacGregor

May

- 6th Mrs F Errett
- 13th Mrs E Hart
- 20th Mrs J Farrell
- 27th Mrs G King & Mrs P Hardie



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

March

MARILYN GRAHAM

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

April

GRAEME DODDS

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

May

SHEILA THOMSON

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

Evening Services

March

- 4th **Evening Service here at St John's**
11th Eliot Soutter & Mary Soutter
18th Alex Magowan & Bill Anderson
25th **NO EVENING SERVICE - HAMILTON
CHURCHES HOLY WEEK SERVICE**

April

- 1st **EVENING SERVICE AT HAMILTON SOUTH**
8th Mary Stark & Hughina Naylor
15th Nan Law & Fiona Anderson
22nd Elizabeth Muir & Gordon Rankin
29th George Spence & Katrina Spence

May

- 6th **EVENING SERVICE AT HAMILTON SOUTH**
13th Karen Limond & Janet Boyes
20th **NO EVENING SERVICE - HEART & SOUL**
27th Bill Howson & George Wade

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
14th March (Finance/Accounts) @ 7.00pm	14th February
9th May	11th April

ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY

MINISTER

Rev Joanne Hood
9 Shearer Avenue, Ferniegair
Tel 425002 -e-mail:
minister@stjohnshamilton.org.uk

SESSION CLERK

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

CARETAKER

Stuart Gibson Cleaning Services
Tel 07971155935

WEBMASTER

Bill Murray

CHURCH SECRETARY

Christine Smith

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Tue & Wed 10.00 – 12.00

Thur & Fri 09.30 – 12.30

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CHURCH

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throughout the Centre.

