



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

By the time you read this letter I will have attended my second residential conference for parish ministers of congregations who have embarked upon the Church of Scotland's Path of Renewal. The first was in January and at that time the second of these conferences seemed an age away! As it turned out time would pass ridiculously quickly and with a day conference at St John's in February which five of us attended it is fair to say that the journey has well and truly begun. The beginnings of the path of renewal are, of course, more about discernment, getting a small group on board and doing a bit of planning than they are about visible and tangible differences to church life. In many ways the start of this could be considered a frustrating time for us all. We know we have embarked upon SOMETHING but we are not yet able to see how that is going to impact the work and witness of St John's. All I would say at this time is that those days will come but the steps towards them are vitally important as we try to discern the right things for St John's, for our parish and for the communities that are currently beyond the reach of our activities and worshipping life. As ever the message is, 'watch this space!'

That said, I want to move on to say a little about all the other things that the month of May is bringing our way. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland **begins on Saturday 19th** and so **Sunday 20th**, which is also Pentecost, is when this year's Heart and Soul event will take place in Princes Street Gardens. If you ever wonder what exactly the Church of Scotland does on the national and global stage then this is the event for you. It celebrates all that is good and vibrant about the church, which is something we should take the time to do more often. It also places our community life at St John's within it's wider context and allows us all to appreciate just what it means to be part of our denomination and to support the church's work in the world with our prayers and our time, talents and financial support. If you have some time to travel to Edinburgh **between 1 and 6pm on Sunday 20th May** I would highly recommend Heart and Soul as a great day out for people of all ages. This year I am a commissioner at the General Assembly and so I will be through in Edinburgh for the week of the assembly and will be able to comment and vote during debates on this year's business. If you want to see what's going on at any point, the business of the General Assembly is streamed live on the Church of Scotland website throughout the week.

May 2018

Now back to the local! It is with more than a little sadness that I must acknowledge that May also brings the end of Christine Smith's time with us as Church Secretary after seventeen years in post.

When I began my ministry at St John's six years ago Christine's knowledge and abilities were invaluable to me. She kept me right with so much of the business of the place that I was able to find my stride far more quickly than would otherwise have been possible. The amazing thing about my time working with Christine however, has been her willingness to be flexible in the way she works in order to accommodate me and all my slightly crazy ways. I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Christine for all she has brought to the job but far, far more than that for her friendship, her wise counsel and her listening ear!

I will miss Christine very much but I wish her and Peter a long and happy retirement together. Now someone else will have to cringe when I come back from annual leave and say those four words that put fear into her heart, "I've had an idea!"

"Thank you", hardly seems an adequate way to express my gratitude for all the help she gave me to turn my ideas into realities - at least the ones that were worth the bother but this month offers us all the opportunity to say our thank yous for all Christine has contributed to the life of St John's Parish Church.

So, the month of May is significant this year. There's plenty for us to do and plenty for us to celebrate. It was ever thus! So, onwards and upwards my friends, hopefully with sunshine on our faces!

With love and best wishes
Joanne

Session News; May 2018

We will meet for our last scheduled Kirk Session before the summer break this month, which always includes a first look at the calendar for 2018/19.

I'm always struck when preparing this of the constant 'drumbeat' of activities and the need to deal with business-as-usual activities. But, with half-an-eye on Path of Renewal, I'm wondering what a 'business-unusual' calendar would look like? What we do has such a degree of momentum and inertia that it's difficult at times to imagine how new initiatives or modifications to what we do could happen. However, our usual activities are all having to deal and cope with change in many guises, so coming up with new and imaginative ways of St John's continuing its mission and purpose is not a luxury, but an absolute reality, and something in which every single person involved with our church can get involved. More on this as we get cracking with Path of Renewal, but maybe in the meantime I'll sneak in an unusual piece in the calendar to see if anybody spots it 😊

May will see a big change at St John's as we say goodbye to our Church Secretary, Christine Smith at the end of the month. Christine has been a great source of continuity at St John's through changing times, and her level of organisation is something that Joanne and I can only marvel at.

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Christine on behalf of the Kirk Session, but also personally, for all the help and support that she has given us, and me, and we all send our best wishes to her and Peter for a long, relaxing, and well-earned retirement. We'll miss you.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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



Christian Aid lunch after worship on 13th May. A simple lunch of soup and rolls will be served and you are encouraged to stay and donate the cost of a lunch in the plate in return. If you are unable to attend and wish to make a contribution, plates will be available at the doors as you leave.

Due to the difficulty of finding new volunteers it was decided to stop doing door to door collections and can collections.

St John's Forum Café will still be used in the same manner during Christian Aid Week and, plans have been put into place to ensure the smooth running of each day. **PLEASE NOTE** that the cafe will be closed on **Saturday 19th May** and instead of giving the day's takings to Christian Aid, as we would normally do, a retiring offering will be taken on Sunday 20th May

Thank you all for your continued support of Christian Aid

Sunday 20th May is the celebration of Pentecost - Morning Worship 10.45am with informal celebration of communion for the whole church family. Rev Linda Walker will be conducting worship.

If you wish, you can mark the day by wearing something red to our service on that day (symbolising the Wind and Fire of Acts 2).

6.30pm NO EVENING SERVICE as Church of Scotland worship takes place in Princes Street Gardens at 5pm. Those not attending can still share in the worship as it streams live on the Church of Scotland website.



Sunday 20th May - Princes Street Gardens



For more details of the events taking place please see pages 6 & 7.

Family Record

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

Mr G McPhail, Hamilton - died 5th April 2018

Mr J Orr, Hamilton - died 17th April 2018

Baptism

Eilidh MacGregor Fleming - baptised 1st April 2018

Summer Magazine Deadline



All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering **JUNE, JULY & AUGUST** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 20th May. 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

GIFT DAY FINAL OUTCOME EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Taking account of all donations received in March/April the total donations figure grew to £4,170. The relevant gift aid recovered from HMRC on such of these donations that were gift aided will amount to £908.75, bringing the total funds raised up to the exceptional sum of £5,078.75. This outcome is a truly splendid one and all who donated are warmly thanked for their participation and generosity. As determined by the Kirk Session one half of these funds will go to St John's Fabric Fund and the other half will be put towards our three year involvement in the Path of Renewal.

I take this opportunity to remind members of the congregation that gift aid is a significant factor in St John's current finances. Anyone who is a taxpayer is entitled to claim gift aid on their offerings/donations to St John's. This results in St John's being able to claim back from HMRC 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to the donor. Last year the gift aid figure recovered in this way totalled in excess of £20,000! Accordingly, if there are members entitled to gift aid their offerings/donations to St John's, but who have yet have not signed the simple form to confirm that entitlement, I would ask them to consider doing so. Such forms can be obtained on request for one being made to myself or to a member of the Finance Team. Also, members should bear in mind that they can opt to set up a standing order or a direct debit for their regular offerings rather than use the free-will offering envelopes and again the appropriate form can be made available on request.

I am pleased to advise that Pamela Hardie has agreed to join the Finance Team and her input and interest will be welcome. The Team now comprises Pamela, Dennis Hart, Paul Flarry, Bill Anderson, Claire Thom and myself. I again thank Team members, and others involved in various aspects of St John's finances, for their continued help and support.

Eliot Soutter, Treasurer.



St Andrew's Hospice Sizzle

Sunday 27th of May
12pm - 5pm

Fun for all the family! Come along to Hamilton Racecourse for the new St Andrew's Hospice Sizzle.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £7.50 for kids which includes a meal with a drink. Free Entry for Children under 5 (Please note, no food or drink included for under 5's)

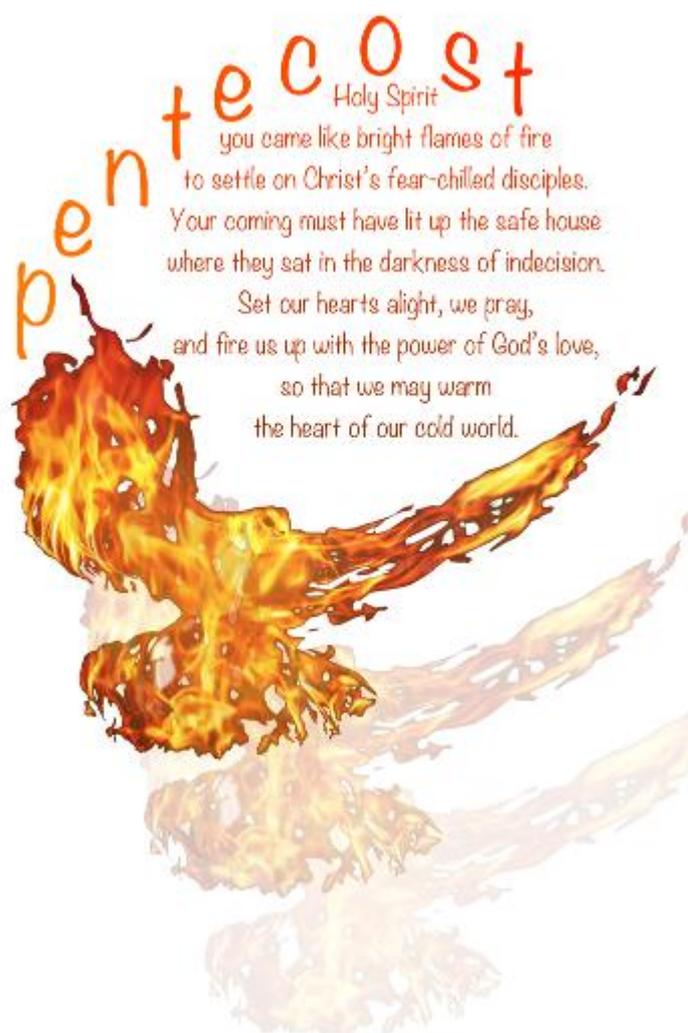
Fun Fair activities including a BBQ, Archery, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Games, Races, Bouncy Castles, Face Painting, Raffles, Shops, a Bar, music and much more!

Tickets available at www.st-andrews-hospice.com
Alternatively, contact our Fundraising Team on 01236 766951 to book.

HAMILTON PARK
RACECOURSE

St Andrew's Hospice

St Andrew's Hospice is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC010159





Saturday 24th of March was a very busy morning for all involved when lots of families came along to take a journey through Holy Week at Messy Easter. There were plenty of crafts and activities to take part in such as, glittery palm leaves, donkey masks, and Palm Sundaes (a concoction of green jelly and other things!) to mark Palm Sunday. There were Holy Week Calendars (a bit like an advent calendar) and Holy Week wooden shapes to decorate to help mark the days during the week up to Good Friday and then to represent Easter Sunday there were tissue paper crosses, an egg to cross craft that showed behind a decorated egg when “broken” revealed a cross behind it, they could also roll marbles in paint to represent the stone being rolled away from the empty tomb and take part in the group activity of creating a paper daffodil to then pin on our white cross that would sit beside the daffodil cross that would be decorated on the Easter Sunday morning services.

Following on from the crafts everyone headed through to the church where they formed part of the crowd and helped act out how it changed from Palm Sunday through the week until Easter Sunday.

After the celebration everyone joined together again in the Clyde Room to enjoy a meal together.

Join us for...

**Messy Church: Pentecost
Saturday 12th May from
10.30am – 12.30pm.**

**Messy Church: Hidden
Treasures
Saturday 11th August from
10.30am – 12.30pm.**



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

We are also in need of some more helpers at Messy Church especially for the running of the crafts and activities. If this is something you think you could help with please contact us on the above email address or speak to Joanne or any of the helpers currently involved.

Heart & Soul 2018

Celebrating the life of the Church

**Sunday 20 May from 12:30 - 6pm
Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh**

Visitors will notice significant changes to the event in 2018. As well as reflections and ideas from organisations and congregations of the Kirk on the theme of 'Peace be with you!', those who attend will experience a change to the layout of the park. Instead of tents lining the avenues, several meandering paths into new villages have been created to draw visitors into the tents, away from the avenues. Great care has been taken to ensure that all of the villages are accessible for those with mobility issues.

We would like to encourage you to invite Sunday Schools and families to join us at our new Family Stage where we will be hosting a giant picnic with Fischy music, games, stories and lots of fun from 12:30 – 3pm. As the theme of the event is 'Peace be with you!' we are encouraging everyone to ... 'Bring Your Piece' and join us at the picnic.

The youth event on Saturday evening will be something very special. We are working in collaboration with Powerpoint Scotland and have invited the Christian EDM group LZ7, to play for an event which aims to attract up to 1,000 young people for a mix of live music, enthusiastic & exciting worship and fellowship.

In another 'first' for this year's event we are hosting the "In Conversation" tent. It will feature a timetable of interesting talks with contributions from Sally Magnusson; Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE with Louise MacDonald (Young Scot); Ross Greer MSP with Very Rev Dr Derek Browning and Robin Downie; Anna Magnusson with Rev Dr Margaret Forrester; and Scots in Great War London Group. Church Elder and BBC's Hugh Pym will host "In Conversation".

Add in to all of that over 60 congregation and exhibitors sharing their work and ministry, a packed Main Stage programme of bands and drama, Peace @ St. Cuthbert's Church, a massed worship service at 5pm in the Ross Bandstand and thousands of people to meet and talk to we hope and pray that there is truly something for everyone at Heart and Soul.

Guild at the General Assembly + Heart & Soul

The Guild report will be on Tuesday of the General Assembly, 22 May. Why not come along and support Marge Paterson our National Convener as she makes her report on behalf of the Guild?

Why not make a day of it and join with over 750 people who have already received their tickets for the Big Sing at the General Assembly. If you and some friends would like to join us then get in touch with the office as soon as possible.



We will also have a tent at **Heart and Soul** where we will be celebrating our new projects and our year as we 'Go in Love'. If you are in Edinburgh please pop in and say hello!

The Church of Scotland

Heart and Soul – Youth!

Saturday May 19th 2018, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

MADE FOR MORE

POWERPOINT

For the first time ever, Heart and Soul will host an evening especially for young people. Led by our friends at **Powerpoint Scotland**, it will be a night to share with friends (and make new ones!) through energetic, powerful worship, in the open air of Princes Street Gardens.

The event is free and all are welcome!

We're pleased to welcome Christian EDM group, **LZ7** to perform some of their worldwide chart-topping tracks at Heart and Soul, in celebration of #YOYP

"THESE GUYS ARE THE REAL DEAL, THE BEST I'VE SEEN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND PRODUCING SOME OF THE BEST MUSIC." – **MATT REDMAN**

"FRESHEST SOUND BIRTHED FROM THE UK. A MUST SEE AND A MUST HEAR." – **NIME**

Heart & Soul 2018
Celebrating the life of the Church

Scottish Charity Number: SC0111351
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

www.heartandsoul.org.uk

The Church of Scotland

Heart and Soul – Families

Sunday May 20th 2018, 12.30pm – 3pm

"Bring your Piece!"

...and picnic with us at the Heart & Soul family stage
Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

Games
Stories
Fun
and **fischy music**

All are welcome

Heart & Soul 2018
Celebrating the life of the Church

Scottish Charity Number: SC0111351
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www.heartandsoul.org.uk

The Church of Scotland

Heart and Soul

Sunday May 20th 2018, 12.30pm – 6.00pm

Peace Be With You!

Come and celebrate the life and work of the church in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh from 12.30pm on Sunday 20th May. It's free to attend and you are most welcome to come along and join in the friendly atmosphere as you explore the event from east to west – and back again! At 5.00pm we gather in our thousands for a massed worship service. Come and experience it.

Main Stage · Family Stage · Peace @ St Cuthbert's
Picnic (Bring Your Piece!) · Over 60 congregations/exhibitors
"In Conversation" Tent featuring:

- Hugh Pym with Sally Magnusson
- Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE with Louise MacDonald (Young Scot)
- Ross Greer MSP with Very Rev Dr Derek Browning and Robin Downie
- Anna Magnusson with Rev Dr Margaret Forrester
- Hugh Pym with Scots in Great War London Group

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Do you remember where? (Part 1)

With no plans for a future St John's Coach Trip, perhaps this is a good time to reflect on the various trips made over many years. This list shows the towns/villages visited and incidents worthy of recall. Where there are blanks, perhaps someone will be able to provide answers. With repeat visits to certain destinations, incidents may not be shown in the correct year.

Prior to 1987, there were day trips to Blackpool and the Lake District. These were followed by weekend holidays to London, Kidderminster, Newcastle, Leeds and Aberdeen.



London involved an overnight drive using a coach with no onboard toilet, stopping at Carlisle for supper before continuing until we stopped for a tea/coffee break about 4.00am. London was reached in time for breakfast. On one of the days, there was a morning coach tour of London. I had the problem of driving slowly so that Janet could give a running commentary of the buildings etc as we passed by. In the afternoon, we visited Windsor via the M4 motorway which passed near Heathrow Airport.

Kidderminster was a good base for visiting West Midland attractions such as Ironbridge museums and Stratford-on-Avon.

Newcastle let us go to Seahouses to tour the RLNI museum.

Aberdeen was the base for visiting the Banff/ Moray district which included the distillery tour where samples were on offer at the end of the visit. The coach driver was not included in this offer! We also visited the Aberdeen lifeboat station with an onboard tour of the lifeboat.

1987-Volendam, a pleasant village on the outskirts of Amsterdam. There were visits to Amsterdam and to a small cheese maker who also demonstrated how he made traditional wooden clogs which several members of the group purchased and later commented on how comfortable the clogs were. There was one memorable incident - who remembers the 90 degree turn from one narrow street into another narrow street? This involved reversing which resulted in the rear of the coach projecting over a canal much to the enjoyment of the passengers at the rear of the coach! As the turn was still too difficult, four men from the group lifted a car which was causing the problem and walked the car further down the narrow street which allowed the coach to complete the turn. 1988-St.Malo a good base for visiting Normandy and Brittany and the many World War 2 sites. It also allowed Ron Cownie to see his brother's name on a war memorial having been given advice and telephone number by the tourist information office at Caen.

All trips so far had myself as coach driver. Subsequent trips had Dempster Macpherson until he decided that he would send a suitable replacement, Fred and then Ralph.

1990-London.

1990-Oberammergau Passion Play. an 18 day holiday to allow a leisurely drive as Hamilton to Oberammergau involved ferries and stops en route. Some of these stops were for at least two nights to allow time to explore the town/village.

Two incidents come to mind; 83 people cannot all visit the same restaurant for lunch when there is a limit to the time at this stop as we were en route to our next overnight. In Austria, there was a language problem when one group ordered one very large ice cream and six teaspoons. What came was six very large ice creams.

1990-Paris. Nearing our hotel, we encountered a diversion which resulted in going down streets unsuitable for coaches. These streets had washing strung between buildings which had to be removed before the coach could proceed.

1991-Volendam/Ghent. Visited Madurodam (miniature town) 1992-London 1992-Bad Godesburg/Bonn. After dinner in Bonn, we went to the local cinema where we had coffee and were entertained by a juke box. The proprietor, realising that we were not German, reloaded the juke box to play well-known records in English.

1992-Eastern Canada. Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Niagara Falls with helicopter flight over the falls which was not enjoyed by everyone.

(Part 2 to follow)

Pentecost Activities



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The Holy Spirit appeared as tongues
of fire on each of them.

Acts 2:3



St John's Singers

Summer Concert

**in St John's Church
Duke Street, Hamilton**

**Saturday 2nd June 2018
7.30pm**

**£5 Adults, children free
Refreshments included
Tickets available now from
Choir Members**

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.

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone at St John's Church for the many cards and flowers I received following the death of my husband Bill.

Also many thanks to the Rev Lindsay Turnbull for spiritual comfort and Liz Muir for the help and support given to me at this time.

The amount donated at the Church and Crematorium was £550.00 which has been given to Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust.

Helen McPhail.



I would like to express my thanks to all those who sent cards, flowers and kind thoughts both after my recent operation and way back in October when I damaged my foot.

It means so much to feel enveloped in the support and prayers of our church family. Thank you and God Bless.

Morag Ireland



Morag Redpath and family would like to convey our thanks to the St John's Family for all the support we have had.

Thanks to all who helped at my husband, Kim's funeral, for expressions of sympathy, many beautiful cards and flowers, and for coming to the service.

This was all very supportive and much appreciated.

Thank you all very much, Morag Redpath



Flower Rota

May

6th Mrs F Errett

13th Mrs E Hart

20th Mrs J Farrell

27th Mrs G King & Mrs P Hardie

June

3 Mrs F Dodds

10 Mr D Austin

17 Mrs A Noble

24 Mrs E White

July

1st Mrs M Steward

8th Mrs A McLuckie

15th Mrs Isobel Torrance

27th Mrs J Waddle

29th Miss M Russell



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

May

SHEILA THOMSON

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

June

ANN AULD

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

July

JACK McINTYRE

MARION BAIRD
KAREN LIMOND
IAN MacGREGOR
GORDON RANKIN
MARY STARK
ALAN THOM
CAROLYN WOODBURN

Evening Services

May

6th **EVENING SERVICE AT HAMILTON SOUTH**

13th Karen Limond & Janet Boyes

20th **NO EVENING SERVICE - HEART & SOUL**

27th Bill Howson & George Wade

June

3rd **EVENING SERVICE AT HAMILTON SOUTH**

10th Hazel Lees & Lesley Auld

17th Ann Auld & Doug Leslie

24th **COMMUNION**

Marilyn Graham & Anne Bibby

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meeting:
9th May	13th June

ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY

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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

CARETAKER

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