



# Centre

Hamilton: St. John's  
Parish Church

Church of Scotland  
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

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



stjohnschurchhamilton



## Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

What marks the summer for you? Is it the hope of sunny days and ice cream vans (although to be fair I think they started coming round the streets as soon as the snow had gone in March!)? Or perhaps it's school holidays that, for you, mean summer has come. Whether as pupil, parent, teacher, staff member, or grandparent, I think we all wait for the change in routine that comes with that final school bell on the last day of term. Hay fever can also be the sure sign that summer has arrived so maybe that's what marks the change in season, even if it is in a rather annoying way. For me summer is marked in a few ways. There is only one edition of the Centre magazine over June, July and August so summer means I have no letters to write for this front page until September and usually that means wracking my brain to work out what to write in this June issue, but I also feel the arrival of summer is marked in another way and that's by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Without fail assembly week seems to end up the sunniest and warmest week of every year and this year has been no exception. As a commissioner this year I was in the assembly hall on the mound hoping beyond hopes (like so many of my fellow commissioners I'm sure) that the air conditioning would not fail us as it has done so many times before and might keep the hall at a reasonable temperature – never easy when there's so much hot air flying around! This year all seemed to go well but the highlight of the event for many was the celebration that took place on Tuesday 22nd May. Exactly fifty years to the day after a decision of the General Assembly of 1968 to allow women to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, the General Assembly took time out of its business to mark a new season in its life. Women currently ordained as ministers of Word and Sacrament gathered between the galleries near the bottom of the mound and in the breezy sunshine walked up the mound together and into the assembly hall where we now share all the rights and responsibilities of ministry regardless of our gender. Prior to that historic vote in May 1968 only men had been permitted to live out their calling to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Women, of course, were also being called to ministry prior to 1968 because God does not and has never discriminated as we do, but their calling was not recognised by the church they loved and sought to serve. Mary Levison and Margaret Forrester and many others who petitioned the General Assembly were the women who changed that reality. They

Summer 2018

could have waited patiently, or perhaps impatiently to see if the church would eventually get there when it came to this issue of allowing women into ministry but instead they chose to affect change and they created something good for our denomination and for our parishes throughout Scotland and further afield. They changed the reality of our church for themselves but they also changed it for all of us who would follow them into ministry within the Church of Scotland. I will forever be indebted to these courageous women who simply would not take 'no' for an answer, and also to the men who also showed courage and wisdom in voting for women to be accepted on the same terms as the men. The Reverend Margaret Forrester spoke in the assembly Hall on 22nd May this year. She told her story and when she had finished the assembly stood and clapped, and clapped, and clapped. Before 22nd May 1968 women God was calling could not have their church uphold that call. It is because of that vote that I have been able to answer God's call. The call that has always been part of my life and in great part defines who I am and not just what I do.

This summer I mark the arrival of the season with the General Assembly as usual, but also with more. This year I mark the arrival of summer with the recognition of all I owe to these remarkable women. I mark it with thanksgiving for my ability to hear God's call and respond to it within my Church of Scotland. I mark it with gratitude for my call to two different parishes so far within that church, and for those within those parishes and congregations who, although calling a woman for the first time in both places, also knew God's call when they heard it.

Our church changed. Radically and in a moment. Our church is in need of that kind of change again. We need to step into the change that faces us with the same faith as that General Assembly of 1968 because these are the moments when we respond to God's call faithfully and courageously. May these qualities be seen in us as we mark every season that comes our way.

With love and best wishes,

Joanne

#### Session News June 2018

It was great to see so many people packed into the Centenary Hall last Sunday to join our retiring Church Secretary, Christine, and her husband Peter in a little celebration. Thanks to all those who contributed to Christine's retiring gift; I'm sure that it will be put to good use!

We have been through a thorough and detailed process to appoint a new church secretary, and I'm very pleased to be able to advise you that Claire Thom is taking up that post. Claire will be well known to many of you, and she has been able to spend a few weeks working with Christine to get a good handover and work out some of the nuances of the day-to-day workings of St John's. As part of this change, we're changing the office working hours, which will now generally be around three hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, then a four-hour block on Friday covering morning and into the early afternoon. So, if you don't know Claire, then pop in and say 'hello'. Also, while she gets to grips with all that's happening, please flag any needs early to her. We're also making some more radical changes to our data systems that will help us (a) have a single repository with up-to-date information, (b) meet our data protection obligations, and (c) allow those of us needing access to be able to do so remotely.

I'm also happy to advise that we confirmed Bill Howson's nomination for another year as our Presbytery Elder. Bill not only attends Presbytery on our behalf, but is heavily involved in the Local Church Review / Implementation committee. We wish him well for the coming year.

Our Kirk Session planning for next year is already well underway and we are likely to be scheduling in a couple of special meetings to discuss both Path of Renewal and the next stage of our Pastoral Care renewal programme.

Graeme Dodds  
Session Clerk

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



**Communion Service** - Sunday 24th June 10.45am, 3pm & 6.30pm

**Summer songs of praise and Communion Service** - Sunday 24th June 6.30pm

**Children's ministry service** - Sunday 17th June 2018

**Summer Worship** - services will take place at 10.30am on Sundays starting on Sunday 1st July until Sunday 26th August. A short sundown service will also take place on Sundays at 8.30 pm. There will be a provision made for children at the 10.30 Worship either in the form of 'Time to Worship' which is for all ages or children's activities which will take the place of Sunday Blast.

The Church Centre will be closed from Friday 29th June until Saturday 18th August (inclusive)

**Messy Church** - Saturday 11th August: Hidden Treasures 10.30 - 12.30 pm

**Sunday 12th August** - Visit from Monica Woodhouse from Place of Restoration at the 10.30 morning worship

**Monday 20th August** - Centre reopens

**Communion Service** - Sunday 2nd September at 10.45am, 3pm and 6.30pm

### **Family Record**

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

Mrs A Moore - Died 3rd May 2018

Mrs I Logan - Died 10th May 2018

Dr A Anderson - Died 17th May 2018

#### **Baptism**

Penelope Alice Davies - baptised 6th May 2018

### **September Magazine Deadline**



**From the Editor**

All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering **SEPTEMBER** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 19th August. 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](http://www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk/category/centre-magazine)

# Church News



A cheque for £400 was presented to Musical Memories by Margaret Paterson from the Forum Charity Box



The Friendly Hour Committee at their recent lunch to mark the end of another successful year. They were joined by special guests Joanne and Christine. During the lunch Christine was presented with a gift from the Friendly Hour to mark her retirement as St John's Church Secretary .



On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated Pentecost at Messy Church by learning about the global family we belong to, the global Christian family. We had crafts to represent how the story of Jesus spread all over the world and how we could continue that now. We created flags from different countries where Messy Church can be found along with a prayer for them, we created strings of doves made from maps of the world, we created "Fruity Folk" from fruits from all over the world, we spread the good news by blowing paint from an image of the cross to cover as much of the world as we possibly could and we had a "Peace be with you" Hunt where they were to guess which language it was written in. There were also crafts to represent the Holy Spirit and what happened on Pentecost such as wind chimes, wind gliders, flame painting (using a salad spinner), silhouette doves & pin the flame on the disciple.

After the craft and activity time everyone headed through to the church where they heard all about the disciples and what happened to them at Pentecost and how they continued and we should continue to spread the Good News.

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



**Join us for...**

**Messy Church: Hidden Treasures  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 at [stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page, Messy Church at St John's Hamilton.

# **News from the Church of Scotland:**

## **CrossReach staff praised for "dedicating their lives" to helping people**

28 May, 2018

The Lord High Commissioner at this year's General Assembly has praised staff at a church-funded project in Hamilton for "dedicating their lives" to helping people

## **Young orphan living in Glasgow could be at risk if deported**

27 May, 2018

A 10-year-old asylum seeker would be put in grave danger if he is deported back to the country of his birth, it has been claimed.

## **GA visitor thanks Church for supporting peacebuilding efforts in South Sudan**

26 May, 2018

A former child soldier who went on to become a leading peacemaker and evangelist has praised the Church of Scotland for supporting efforts to end conflict in South Sudan.

## **Christians and Muslims walking 'shoulder to shoulder' says Imam**

25 May, 2018

A leading Muslim cleric has said the Church of Scotland is a "home" for him.

## **First woman pastor of the Middle-East describes Scotland as "Presbyterian Heaven"**

25 May, 2018

The first woman pastor ordained in the Middle-East has described visiting the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as "Presbyterian Heaven" after being prevented from attending last year

## **MP describes General Assembly as 'powerful witness' to the world**

24 May, 2018

The Church of Scotland has much to contribute to society and people don't have to be Christians to "respect its advice", an MP has said.

## **Moderator attends annual peace vigil against the use of nuclear weapons at Faslane**

24 May, 2018

The Moderator is due to attend an annual peace vigil at Faslane (HM Naval Base Clyde) led by the Iona Community's Wild Goose Resource Group and Scottish Christians Against Nuclear Arms (SCANA). ...

## **Ecumenical approach is vital in an increasingly secular Europe**

23 May, 2018

Speaking together with one voice is more important than ever in the light of Brexit says the President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

## **General Assembly rejects oil and gas company divestment call**

23 May, 2018

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has decided that the best way to tackle the "very serious" issue of climate change is to continue engaging with fossil fuel companies, not divestment. ...

## **Guild celebrates "amazing" fundraising achievement**

23 May, 2018

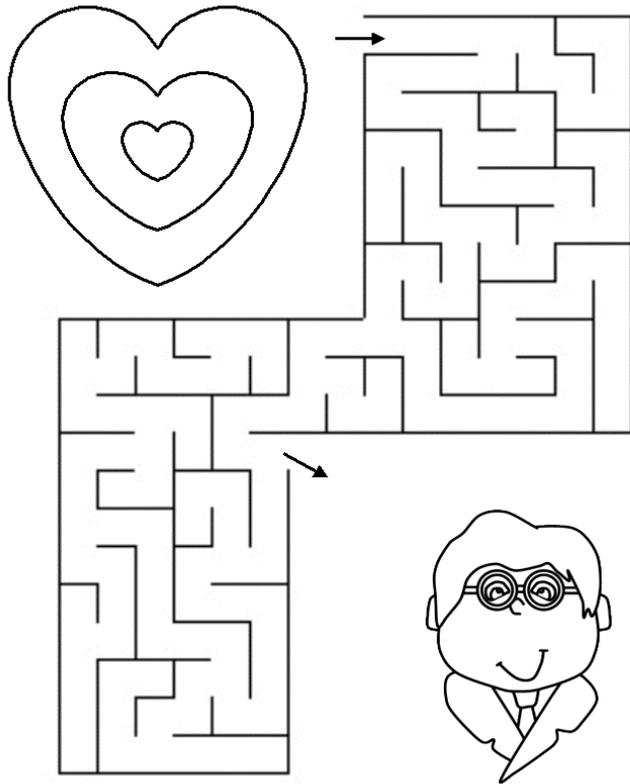
The Church of Scotland Guild has raised a total of more than £700,000 over three years for six life-changing projects in Scotland and beyond

**If you want to know more on any of these stories please visit the Church of Scotland website : [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news)**

# Father's Day Maze

Help your honor and love get to your dad.

**Children's Activities**



## Names for Jesus



Follow the same directions as in Puzzle #1.

### Puzzle #2

1. B ↑ ↑ ← = \_\_\_\_
2. F → → ↑ = \_\_\_\_
3. Q ↓ → → = \_\_\_\_
4. L → ↑ ↑ = \_\_\_\_
5. A → → → → = \_\_\_\_
6. N ↓ ← ↓ ← = \_\_\_\_
7. J ← ↑ ← ← = \_\_\_\_
8. Y ↓ ← ← = \_\_\_\_
9. W ← ← ↓ = \_\_\_\_
10. M ↓ ← ← = \_\_\_\_
11. T ↑ ↑ ← = \_\_\_\_
12. C ← ← ← = \_\_\_\_

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

Write the letters from each numbered answer on the left into the blank with the matching number here.

" I am the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you know one place where this verse is located?

## **Do you remember where? (Part 2)**

1993-Norway mini cruise. Smaller group than usual travelling via Newcastle for the ferry to Bergen. This ferry operated twice per week and as a result, there was a three day trip and a four day trip which we used, the extra day giving us one full day in Bergen.

1993-Paris

1994-London. Prom Praise at Royal Albert Hall.

1994-Strasbourg. While we visited Baden-Baden, the main attractions for this trip was a visit to the European Parliament. We had a tour of the building including a visit to the debating chamber. Afterwards, we had a meeting with our M.E.P. Ken Collins talked about the working of the Parliament and answered questions. Prior to this visit, everyone was advised that we were on a fact finding exercise and NOT on holiday as there was a fund which paid some of the expenses involved in this visit.

1995-London

1995-St. Malo

1996-Western Canada. We landed in Calgary having a change of 'plane at Toronto. Having explored Calgary and collected 2 mini buses and 3 cars, we drove to Banff where the highlight was Sunday brunch at Banff Springs Hotel. We all knew that a light breakfast was required as the hotel brunch would satisfy us for the rest of the day. From Banff, we drove to Jasper via Lake Louise and the Athabaska Glacier. A trip on the glacier involves going by tour coach until changing to buses which are specially adapted for driving on ice. On reboarding these coaches after walking on the glacier, some Japanese tourists told the driver that four boys had not yet returned. These boys were Graeme Dodds, Nicholas Weir, William Gold and Iain Boyes. At the start of this tour, they had been wearing " Hey Jimmy hats, with red hair and Tammies". Now they had removed these hats and confused the Japanese. From Jasper, we drove to Vancouver with an overnight stop en route. Capilano bridge (high bridge which swayed to and fro as people walked across it). A large cable car took us up Grouse Mountain where you were in grizzly bear territory, hence be aware of your surroundings. Next stop was Vancouver Island and a visit to Butchart Gardens which had been transformed from a quarry into the beautiful gardens. Back to Vancouver for a stopover before the return flight via Toronto to Glasgow.

1996-Harrogate. Castle Howard and York Minster.

1997-London

1997-Wyndmonham

1998-Western Canada. This Canadian trip gave us the opportunity to go to the Calgary Stampede and repeat some of the sites visited on the previous trip.

1998-Esbjerg with the ferry from Harwich. The timetable gave us 1 day in Denmark before returning to Harwich. However, this crossing was extremely rough and one member of the party said that he had never before fallen off the floor! To end this trip, we visited Windsor and London in our self-drive minibus.

1999-Paris. Visits to the carriage where Hitler made the French surrender in the Second World War. This carriage had been used in the First War when it was the Germans turn to surrender. An exciting coach trip from Paris to catch the overnight ferry. There was a strike at Charles de Gaulle airport and the strikers had blocked the motorway. When the police arrived, we assumed that they would clear the strikers but instead they joined the strikers and even had a picnic on the road. We at least had food and an onboard toilet; pity the poor car drivers! They eventually let us through and we managed to catch our ferry.

2000-Oberammergau and a second viewing of the Passion Play. This time, we chose all the hotels, having advised the travel agent who issued the Play tickets where we wished to stay. To purchase tickets, you need to speak to a travel agent who will only help you if you purchase a 5 day package. The travel agent can impose these conditions since there is such a demand for tickets. We were therefore able to stay at an excellent hotel in Mayrhofen which was the base for 5 nights. There were side trips but you could opt out and relax in the village or the indoor hotel swimming pool and spa complex.



2000-York.

2001-California. Flight to Chicago for overnight stop. Onward to San Francisco which allowed visits to Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Bridge and a ride on the cable car. With two minibuses, Yosemite National Park was memorable as we wakened to the news of the 9/11 attack in New York. Next stop was Las Vegas which was an experience - on checking in at the hotel, you were given a plan of the hotel so that you could find your way about! Grand Canyon was the next stop before going on to San Diego. Final stop was Chicago where some of the group stayed with the others changing 'planes and flying back to Glasgow.

## **Some thoughts on love from Paul...**

First is the address on love given by the Episcopal Bishop of America giving his address to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at their wedding, Second is the love shown to my son Daniel by way of support when he asked the congregation to support him in his sponsored walk for the East Kilbride Disability Sports Club. The former made almost everyone sit up and listen and the latter resulted in a total donation to Daniel of £226 which, along with all the other club members' efforts, will help the continuation of his club and towards their weekend away at Lochgoilhead Activity Centre. On behalf of Daniel, a big thank you for your support and love.

Thirdly I am reminded of the following article which I think is worth repeating;

### **92 YEAR OLD PREACHER**

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honouring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, the speaker was introduced, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...  
the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

"Jesus loves me this I know.  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
we are weak but He is strong.....  
Yes, Jesus loves me....  
The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

### **JESUS LOVES ME**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

(CHORUS)

Paul Flarry

### **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 last service before the Summer will be at 12 noon on 14th June. This will be a Praise Afternoon when we will be joined by Rev Joanne Hood and Anne MacLeod. Tea, coffee and cake will follow.**

# Thanks

To the congregation of St John's Church

I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all for such a lovely morning on Sunday 27th May. Your gift to mark my retirement after 17 years as Church Secretary was unexpected and very generous. I have enjoyed my time with you all, and I know I am going to miss being involved.

It was a challenge for me to reply to Joanne's very kind words without tears, but I made it!

As Peter reminded me, I did say when Mr Kent retired that if I did not like the new Minister I would retire. However, Joanne passed the test and I will miss her very much. There's never a dull moment, who knows what she will come up with next.

I also want to say thank you for the many cards, gifts and expressions of thanks I have received during the past few weeks. All unexpected, but very much appreciated.

May I wish Claire good luck as she takes over from me.

Thank you once again,

Best wishes to you all,

Christine Smith

Thank you from Morag Redpath for the generous amount of £500 raised from the retiral collection following Kim's funeral. The money was donated to Alzheimer's

## Flower Rota

### **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

### **August**

- 5th Mrs M Baxter
- 12th Mrs A Torrance
- 19th St. John's Guild
- 26th Mrs J Clark



## Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

### 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

### August

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

## Evening Services

### 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 Meetings
	13th June
12th September (rededication) 7pm	10th October

## ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY MIN-

### ISTER

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

Claire Thom  
Office hours:  
Tue & Wed 11.30-2.30  
Fri 09.30 - 1.30  
Office tel/fax : 286868  
e-mail: [office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk)

### CHURCH

St. John's Centre tel 283492  
Vestry tel 286868

### Magazine Editor

[office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk)

Now available  
throughout the Centre.

