



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's
Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



“Our church changed. Radically and in a moment. Our church is in need of that kind of change again.”

Dear Friends

These were the words with which I ended my letter in the last issue of the Centre Magazine that came out in June. I had been talking about the decision of the 1968 General Assembly to ordain women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. It was a pivotal moment of change and in 2018 another pivotal moment of change would be a very good thing for all of us to be bound up in.

Since I wrote these words many of us have seen little of one another as summer holidays have been taken by many, a welcome break has been had by our many volunteers in the Forum Café and the Church Centre has been closed to allow it the annual freshening up and maintenance work that keeps the building able to be open seven days a week for much of the year. There is a thought out there that over the summer there isn't much to do in the life of a church, it's congregation and parish but actually what the summer months present for us, should we choose to accept it, is a time to reflect, to take stock and to prepare for what comes next. While there is a bit of down time in the daily operations of the Church Centre we are presented with an opportunity to *create* something new in our church life rather than focussing on the work of *maintaining* what has been. That is the stuff we get caught up in as soon as the cogs start to turn again.

It is a difficult thing to do, to step out of the patterns of *maintenance* into the unknown realms of *creation* but that is what is needed if we are to generate the kind of change that will still be talked about in fifty years' time. Of course the God who reveals himself to us; in scripture, in Jesus of Nazareth, in spirit filled and spirit led times, people and places, has always been a God of *creation* rather than *maintenance*. We have a creation story in Genesis but that is only the beginning of what God has created (and continues to create) for us all. With the same spirit of innovation, generosity, trust and love we have embarked upon the Path of Renewal, seeking as a church to move from a church focussed on *maintenance* of

September 2018

current practise to a church enthused and inspired by the work of *creating* new ways to join in God's continuing mission beyond the life of our congregation and into the life of our parish. Over the summer a Path of Renewal group has formed and has met to reflect, take stock and prepare for what might come next in the life of St John's. We want to inspire a new generation of people, many who are on the fringes of church life, to seek to know more about God and about how God seeks to work in their lives. We want to engage with this work that is God's mission because that is what church is for. As ideas are generated and grow and develop in discussion we want to encourage all of you to pray for this work of *creating* new things for new people. It's not what we've learnt to do best over the years. What we did best for a long time was the *maintenance* of what has been but as we struggle with fewer resources of personnel we need new patterns of church life and we need to get better at *creating* them. They are coming, but they need your support and your prayers, your encouragement, and your willingness to take the occasional leap of faith. What we know is that as we embrace our changes here we will do it together, and most importantly we will do it with God as our guide.

With love and best wishes,
Joanne

Session News September 2018

Data has been in the news ever since the run up to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into being earlier in the year. It is something that is always in our minds going right back to the early days of the data protection act, and subsequent guidance and requirements; including those from the Church itself.

The core team of office bearers have specific password protected laptops that we use for church business. In the church, our office is kept locked when not in use, and data is further stored within locked cabinets, with the computer again being password protected.

Keeping data on individual computers is something that we've had to do in the past, but we are gradually moving to a more centralised (cloud) based system that will allow us to more securely hold data but also allow better access to those who need into specific parts. As my digital security colleagues at work tell me, securing data is easy, letting the right people see it is the difficult bit. While we do this, we're going to take the opportunity to do a 'data clean'. Because the information we have has been collected over a long time frame, it has inconsistencies and missing elements that makes it increasingly difficult to use effectively. So, with you help, we will work through it to make sure what we have is right and up-to-date. Watch this space....

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

Family Record

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

Mr I Gordon - Died 6th June 2018
Mrs J Neil - Died 15th June 2018
Mr J Bell - Died 21st June 2018
Mrs Brown - Died 19th August 2018

Baptism

Alfie David Robertson - Baptised 3 June 2018
Lewis Augustus Beale - Baptised 17 June 2018



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 2nd September
Sunday 2nd September
Thursday 6th September
Thursday 6th September
Sat 22nd Sept 2018 – Mon 24th Sept 2018 (incl)
Monday 1st October
Tuesday 2nd October
Wednesday 3rd October
Sunday 7th October 2018
Mon 15th October 2018 – Sat 20th October 2018 (incl)
Sunday 11th November 2018
Saturday 1st December 2018
Sunday 2nd December 2018
Sunday 9th December 2018
Sunday 23rd December 2018
Sat 22nd December 2018 – Sat 5th January 2019
Monday 7th January 2019

Sunday Blast restarts
St Johns Singers restarts 7.45pm
Choir restarts 7.45 - 9.15pm
Midweek Service restarts 12.15pm
Centre Closed (September Weekend)
Guild restarts 7.30pm
Friendly Hour restarts 1.30pm
St John's Fellowship restarts 7.30pm
Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Centre Closed (October Week)
Remembrance Sunday
Heart & Soul Swing Band Concert
First Sunday in Advent
Sunday Blast Pantomime Trip
Nativity Service
Centre Closed (Christmas & New Year)
Centre Re-opens

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.

October Magazine Deadline



From the Editor

All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering **OCTOBER** must be with the Editor by **Sunday, 16th September. NO LATER.**

Items can be left in the top right basket marked **Magazine Editor** 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.

Hi everyone,

My name is Jade, and I will be joining you all at St John's shortly as a student Minister. Joanne will kindly take me under her wing, and I am very much looking forward to working with Joanne and meeting you all!

St John's will be my final placement before probation, having previously attended North Motherwell Parish Church, and Bothwell Parish Church, where I am currently on placement. I have absolutely loved my journey thus far, feeling incredibly blessed by the experience.

A little about me..... I'm a local girl, coming from Bellshill, now living in Coltness. I was previously an Office Manager for a medical company in Edinburgh, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Before going into management, I worked as a Designer in fashion and interiors, and have also lived and worked in New Zealand. I pursue my passion for all things artistic in my spare time, alongside reading, cooking, running and ballroom dancing! Well, that's a little about me but I shall look forward to getting to know you all better very soon! Blessings to all at St John's,



Jade

PERFORMERS' PRAYER

While on a recent extended stay with our family in Virginia, I had the privilege of attending our eldest granddaughter's school production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". A surreal experience, trying to decipher Shakespeare's prose delivered at top speed with strong American accents!

The following prayer was read out before the play began and I could not help but think it might resonate with anyone who has ever "tread the boards".

I pray dear Lord, do not disgrace
nor trip me as I take my place.
Permit me not to drop a cue,
not miss my mark, nor scenery chew.
Keep all my props from going astray,
allow each entrance no delay
that I may not be left to groan
lest of myself I make a fool.
Please keep my nerves both keen and cool,
Bless all the critics, make them kind and to my imperfections, blind.
Through every scene please hide my gaffs,
Grant me the power o'er tears and laughs.
Prompt me to speak my lines as writ,
and make this play a smashing hit!

Margaret Magowan

Harvest Appeal 2018

This year we are once again being given the opportunity to contribute to the work of 'Place of Restoration' and 'Turn on the Tap'. Our Harvest Appeal will be launched on Sunday 2nd September and there is an envelope in this magazine which you can fill and return to the church via the offering plate or by post. Our children will be collecting their coins in Jam Jars to help raise funds for this year's Harvest projects. The Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on **Sunday 7th October** when your donations will be gratefully accepted.

Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.



Place of Restoration/Give a Child a Family



You will already be familiar with the wonderful work being done through The Place of Restoration Trust, operating as *Give a Child a Family* in Kwa Zulu Natal South Africa, which was established in 1992 and has helped to rescue and restore hundreds of children and in the process has developed and implemented a Sustainable Child Protection Model that is now being used elsewhere in Africa.

During 2001 a Swedish choir visited a Durban school. Monica MacDonald, who worked at the school, accompanied the choir to Margate. Little did she

know that this visit to Margate would lead to a 15-year involvement with The Place of Restoration. Monica and her minister husband, George, relocated to Scotland in 2003 and in their very first year in their new home they began a charity fundraising effort that was to continue to the present. Initially the MacDonalds hosted a garden party in the Scottish village of Quarter in Lanarkshire and the Scottish charity supporting the children of GCF was born. This was to become an annual, and much anticipated, event in the local community for the next six years. During the year of the visit Monica Woodhouse and Elize Coetzee, there were a number of South African ministers who made up the South African numbers at the annual garden party and there are fond memories of nostalgic songs and African dances.

Clearly there was a support base of Scottish people who had a heart for the work being done with the needy children on the other side of the world. Monica and George visited groups and churches and spread the word of the amazing work being done in South Africa, also raising funds along the way and latterly (last seven years) through hosting an annual SA day with South African cuisine and crafts. When the Scottish Charity, The Friends of Place of Restoration (Scotland), was formed in 2008 the initial Trustees were George and Monica MacDonald, Eddie and Jean Hawke, David and Isobel Austin and Rev Peter De Villiers and his wife Welda who have since returned to South Africa. With a heart for suffering children, especially those with special needs, the Trustees threw themselves wholeheartedly into the task of fundraising and raising awareness of the pandemic problems of abused and abandoned children in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The periodic visits to Scotland by Monica Woodhouse and Elize Coetzee led to strengthened relationships and gave more encouragement to the Trustees of the Scottish charity. A pledge scheme was started and Jean and Eddie Hawke set the example by becoming the first sponsors for individual children. Although the MacDonalds had visited GCF on previous occasions, it was only in 2014 that the Hawkes were able to visit with the MacDonalds to see for themselves at first hand some of the fruits of their work in Scotland. The Hawkes returned from South Africa moved and inspired by the happy, well cared for children, the product of the compassionate professionalism offered at GCF. They felt they were witnesses to God's blessing being poured out on these children, and were deeply impressed with the results being achieved.

David and Isobel Austin had received an invitation to one of the early garden parties in Quarter and wanted to help with the fundraising. Their involvement was to grow through becoming sponsors of children at GCF via the pledge scheme and they eventually became trustees of the Scottish charity. The Austins were hard workers in fundraising and great supporters of all events and functions held over the years. They too demonstrated a great heart of compassion for the children and for the work being done in restoring many a child to the point of receiving a new foster family. Sadly, Isobel Austin passed away very suddenly a few years ago and David has continued as a valued Trustee of the charity. In memory of Isobel and her work for the children, David donated funds that helped set up the Isobel Austin Sensory Room at GCF and this was another tangible sign of the heartfelt devotion to the children by those in Scotland supporting the work in Margate.

Over the years the charity garden parties, the SA days and other fund-raising events in Scotland have been supplemented by the generous spirit of Scottish donors. This generosity has also been seen in the way local churches have supported GCF. In addition to retiring offerings and donations from churches, we must mention St John's Church in Hamilton who has, in the last four years, gifted their Harvest Thanksgiving Offering to support the work being done at GCF.

The Scottish supporters have now celebrated 13 years of continued work for GCF, and feel that their small part in the 25 year anniversary celebration has been both a privilege and a blessing. It has inspired them to continue with their efforts in Scotland so that the restored children will continue to benefit from the loving support offered by those who love them, even though they have not met them.

From bonny Scotland we all send our love and congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of GCF and wish you all every blessing for the future as you continue to give every child in your care the family and the hope that they deserve.

Monica MacDonald

Year on year Friends of Place of Restoration (Scotland) has been amazed at how they have achieved their goals of ensuring that abused and abandoned children are lovingly cared for, restored from their trauma, catch up educationally and are returned to health and security. And, when appropriate, the children are placed with foster families that have themselves undergone training in foster care through the Place of Restoration training programmes.

Communities are still reeling from the impact of HIV, poverty and a basket of social ills resulting in the break-up of family units. However, with the increased uptake of ARV treatment, there is renewed hope that family units will remain intact. There are still huge societal challenges to address in South Africa, in the Ugu District and other African countries.

It is Give a Child a Family's desire to make a positive contribution towards solving some of the challenges over the coming years. Challenges that impact children and families are our primary concern. This has been so since our birth twenty-five years ago and for the journey ahead. This envisaged expansion into the community is aligned with the South African government's strategy of taking services to communities.

As we forge forward, our passion continues to burn high and our programmes will focus increasingly on building the parenting and socio-economic capacity of families, partnering with social work professionals and providing training and support – to achieve a strong child protection society and to fulfil our vision of children in secure families, because it's where they belong!

Samaritan's Purse - Turn on the Tap Appeal

Samaritan's Purse is an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We are part of the global Samaritans' Purse family that has been providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world since 1970.

Your gift will go towards providing safe clean water through BioSand water filters and protected spring wells and could also go towards the installation of much needed public toilet facilities. Together with the local Church we will train Christian leaders to educate local communities in good hygiene and sanitation practices. These leaders will also be sharing the hope of the gospel.

Property Update August 2018

This is my last Property update as I would expect in the September edition of the Centre Magazine it will be announced my long-awaited successor.

However, I have this year once again been active in arranging work required during the Centre close-down.

These are some of the items worked on:

We started by having our fire extinguishers checked and updated as it is mandatory that we carry this out in our Church buildings.

As stipulated by Church law, we require to keep our Ministers home in good decorative order and this year we decorated the Hall and Staircase. We also now have a contract with a garden landscaper to look after the Manse grounds which appears to be working well.

We look each year at which areas require decoration due to the high usage of our Hall facility over the year and the only time we get to do this is during our Summer closedown.

We decorated the Forum Café and entrance foyer along with the Vestry corridor as this also gets a lot of traffic.

The gents' toilet has had new floor covering fitted.

While the painters were in we also had the picnic benches and flower tubs painted, these are at the back of the halls and are used with the youth of the Church.

Our painters Orr and Sloan also, as a donation to the work of the Church, painted the handrails to both the Church entrance and Centre ramp and steps along with the flower tubs at the front of the Church and posts marking the entrance to the carpark. We thank them for this donation.

The closedown also allows our Caretaker / Cleaners to get extra work carried out. The toilets and kitchen were deep cleaned, all hard floors scrubbed, and the Clyde room and Centenary hall floors sealed.

All carpets have been shampooed in an endeavour to remove the spillages of tea and coffee from them. I wonder how they get into such a condition as it appears the users of our facility do not have a lot of respect for our premises. We thank Stuart and his team for the extra work involved at this time of the year is the only time they get the benefit of the facility not being used.

Finally it has been an honour to have been Property Convener of St John's Church over the years and I wish my successor all success and hope when asked we give the new committee the backing to get on with whatever work is asked from the congregation.

Bill Howson

While visiting a Church with a coffee shop a bit like our own St John's, I was struck by the words on the wall which said:

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless

I imagine these words could be used in many venues and in many situations where many people offer their time and energy to help out anytime it is needed but are not always appreciated.

Margaret Patterson

What's On at St. John's

St John's Fellowship: Wednesday 7.30pm Clyde Room

Meetings are open to all who wish to come along for an evening in the company of St John's Fellowship to hear Speakers on a variety of topics and experiences. We close the meetings with refreshments and aim to finish for 8:45 pm at the latest.

Meeting: October/November 2018

October 3rd Rededication and Buffet with Rev. Joanne Hood

October 24th WW1. Passchendaele. With David Stark.

November 7th The Reverend Robert Kent on a topic of his choice.

November 21st Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Rev Martin Paterson.

Note. The Overseas Missionary Fellowship serves East Asia including China and is based in Singapore.

Do come along, bring a friend we **urgently** need your support.

John Smy
Fellowship Secretary
01698 428263

The Guild: Monday 7.30 - 9pm

Meetings are open to all who wish to come along. The meetings take place on Mondays at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Meeting: for October/November 2018

October 1st Re-dedication Service **7.00pm.** Rev. Joanne Hood.
Information on New Projects
Buffet Supper

October 22nd Mr H. Doyle. Hamilton Ladies & Others

October 25th Lanarkshire South Presbyterial Council Communion & Re-dedication
in St John's Church. **Thursday 25th @ 7.30pm.**

November 5th Mr T Baldwin. Life & Work Magazine. (Journalist)

November 14th Kings Theatre afternoon outing to see 'Oklahoma'. **Wednesday 1pm**

November 19th Mrs L McIntyre Allan. 'Franklin's Legs'

New members will be made most welcome, so don't be shy make yourself known to any member of our committee.



Nan Law

Friendly Hours: Tuesday 1.30pm

Meetings are open to all who wish to come along. The meetings take place on Tuesdays at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Meeting: for October/November 2018

October 2nd Re-dedication Service: Rev. Joanne Hood.

October 9th Christine Calder: Seniors together

October 16th **Holiday**

October 23rd Ian Whitehead: Addiewell Prison

October 30th Rev. Norman McKee

November 6th David Stark: Passchendaele

November 13th John Walker: Victoria Cross

November 20th Outing: Livingstone

November 27th Norman Liddell: Malawi

Sandra Bett

Sunday Blast

Family fun afternoon

On the afternoon of Sunday 17th of June we had our annual family fun afternoon. Parents brought in food for lunch which was enjoyed by all and a lady, Fiona, who does storytelling with a difference came to act out the story of the Dragon and the Princess with the children with lots of props; a massive dragon, princess dolls and lots of cool sound effects.

While parents shared some time together, the children practised the story which culminated in a magnificent performance at the end.

Thank you to Karen Noble for organising this.



Thank you Tom Anderson!

Tom has stopped as leader of the Sunday Blast team to be better able to support Fiona with her studies towards becoming a Minister in the Church of Scotland. We all (children and leaders) would like to thank Tom for all his support in the past years. We will miss him very much but wish him and Fiona all the best.

Sunday Blast arrangements for the 2018/2019 term

The Sunday Blast team had a start-up meeting early in August. To best serve the children with leaders available to help, we are changing the group divisions slightly.



Sparklers – Anne Bibby, Tricia Bellamy and Stella McGregor will take all children up until and including P1.



Flames - Karen Noble will take the children in P2, P3 and P4.



Rockets - Mariëlle Dodds will take the children in P5, P6, P7 and S1.

Karen and Mariëlle will be supported by Colin MacLeod, Lianne McNally, Claire Thom and Mariya Sefanova.

Morag Ireland will remain the children's elder.

With children in S2 and above we will have a conversation about how they could and would like to help with supporting our usual Sunday services.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Sunday 2nd September.

Mini Cubs:

Hamilton Mini Cubs starts back on Friday 24th August from 6pm-7pm. Children between the ages of 4 and a half and 7 and a half are welcome to come along for fun, games and activities for £1 a week. Please contact Colin MacLeod, Leanne McNally or Julie Lamont for membership details.

Brownies:

The leaders and I'm sure all the Brownies are looking forward to starting back and it is going to be an interesting year ahead for all stages of Girlguiding as our programme has had an update. Brownies have new interest badges to earn such as Archaeology, Mindfulness or Aviation and everything is based around 6 new themes which are Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills for my Future.



For these themes you earn stage badges and the interest badges are split equally into these themes. There is now the ultimate challenge of earning the new Brownie Gold Award! This is achieved by completing an interest badge from each theme, a stage award from each theme, 4 hours of unit meeting activities related to each theme & the section gold award challenge. This term 5th A Hamilton Brownies are going to be focusing on Skills for my Future.

Of course this new programme will still fit in along with activities like games, crafts, parties, trips & or course pack holidays.

Brownies are back for their new term on Thursday 6th of September and will run until Thursday December 6th. Brownies are for girls aged 7 – 10 we meet on Thursday nights from 6.00 – 7.30pm and we still have spaces for this term so if you know someone who would like to join please contact Unit Leader Lesley Auld (lesleyauld3489@gmail.com)

Hamilton Civic Society:

Hamilton Civic Society, who aim to stimulate interest in the town of Hamilton and its surrounding area, meet in St John's Church on the **first Monday of the month** from October to April. The new session starts on **1st October 2018**.

We have an interesting programme of guest speakers this year with varied topics including the history of the Lanarkshire Police, the role of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry in the First World War, stamps and postcards from Hamilton, traditional shopfronts, stories and experiences relating to Voluntary Service Overseas and lots more.

Meetings are held in the Clyde Room of St. John's at 7.30 pm. Why not come along and learn some interesting facts about Hamilton and Lanarkshire? Please see the Society's website for more details - hamiltoncivicsociety.co.uk



At Messy Church: Hidden Treasures the story for the day was of two parables told by Jesus (Matthew 13:44-46), although they are brief they are insightful snapshots of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus speaks these words to convey the worth of God's kingdom. It is indescribable, but comparable to buried treasure or valuable pearls.

That morning we were joined by 14 families who got to take part in many messy crafts and activities in garden since such as digging up potatoes, finding some pearls amongst the seaweed (marbles in amongst tagliatelle) & looking for coins in sand. In the hall they could make jewelled crowns, oyster biscuits with a pearl inside, decorate treasure chests, a money box and create a treasure map. The families also took part in a treasure hunt all over the church building and garden.

After the activities everyone went through to the church for the celebration where along with hearing the stories two teams were formed to battle it out in a game of "The Price is Right" which thankfully ended in a draw. It got rather competitive! Now it was time for lunch which was picnic style in the big hall as can be seen in the photo.



Join us for...

Messy Remembrance

Saturday 6th October from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Messy Christmas

Saturday 24th November 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.

Do you remember where? (Part 3)

2002- Floriade . Typical Dutch flower exhibition. Tour of Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam followed by a circular canal cruise of the city.

2002- Strasbourg, Black Forest and Antwerp.

2003- Strasbourg

2004- Germany (Rhine Valley), Oberammergau and Austria. Not being a year for the Passion Play, this enabled us to see Oberammergau as it is so very busy in the Play years that exploring the village is almost impossible. While at Mayrhofen, some of the group went white water rafting! This was exciting, especially as one member went skywards due to the rapids and fell backwards on to the leg of one of our ladies! The rest of us were so busy paddling the raft that we were unable to help; luckily there were no injuries, just lots of laughter.

2005- Canadian Rockies. Helicopter flight at Three Valley Gap let us see glaciers and lots of snow on the mountain tops. We were using a self-drive minibus which came with a roof rack for luggage. This created a problem at the ferry terminal for the ferry to Vancouver Island. We were told that we were too high for the ferry. The alternative route, avoiding this ferry, entailed a 3000 mile diversion! However, we were eventually loaded, last vehicle on the ferry and on the outside deck. Sighs of relief all round.

2005- Lubeck. This trip reminds many of us of one problem. We had to cross a short wooden bridge to arrive at our hotel. This bridge had a weight limit of 2.5 tons and the laden coach weighed about 14 tons. After a short debate, it was decided that when the front wheels were on the bridge, the back wheels would still be on firm ground and likewise when it was the turn for the back wheels to be on the bridge. We therefore proceeded much to the annoyance of a local resident. On arrival at the hotel, we were advised of an alternative route. We also saw evidence of an RAF bombing mission to Lubeck as the church had been badly destroyed and although restored, the bells were still embedded in the floor of the church.

2006- Lubeck. Travemunde is a lovely seaside town which everyone enjoyed spending a morning exploring (and shopping at the seaside market). Other towns visited were Schwerine and Waramunde.

2007- Strasbourg. The highlight of this trip was an evening visit to Ypres and being present at the remembrance service at the Menin Gate. This service takes place every evening to commemorate the many deaths of World War 1.

2008- Norway. A small group used the ferry to Norway, stopping off for two nights at Stavanger, catching the same ferry as it made its return crossing to Newcastle.

2009- Simmerath which allowed visits to Cologne (tour of the cathedral which was one of the few buildings untouched by the war) and Cochem, a lovely village on the River Mosel.

2010- Berlin by train from Motherwell (Motherwell to London, change to Eurostar to Paris and overnight train to Berlin). Lots to see in Berlin including Checkpoint Charlie. On the return journey, we stopped off in Paris and again there was lots to see.

2010-Rudesheim with side visits to Rhine villages, Heidelberg and Cochem.



FROM THE ARCHIVES:

I learned recently that there was a metal cabinet in the large storeroom behind the pulpit which contained some archive material - curiosity got the better of me!

I was very surprised by my first 'find' - an old hardback notebook containing the handwritten sermons by Reverend William Buchan, first Minister of St. John's, preached in the period from 1833 to 1836 - his handwriting is small and not readily legible, but the fact that this book of sermons, which are some 180 years old, has survived to this day in our possession seems to me pretty remarkable!

I also found three red hardback books which were entitled 'Supplements' and covered the period from 1930 to 1962 - the contents are all typed and they seem to be a collection of what we now refer to as our Church magazine. There are loose-leaf folders covering later years. Given that we at the beginning of 2018 embarked on the Path of Renewal, there were some entries that appeared to still resonate notwithstanding the passage of time.

One such entry was dated October 1936 - the heading was 'A Call To Action' - the writer, Reverend Robert Ross, was remarking on the many changes at that time which were taking place in the leadership of the various St John's organisations. He comments - 'Leaders alone can't do much; it needs the united efforts of the whole body of Church members to make things go as they should. Take some trouble to keep religion alive in your soul. Take some trouble too to make your Church effective in this place. Pray for it, worship in it, support it, serve it, speak a good word for it, be a credit to it. Maintain the spiritual glow.' While the age profile of the congregation of St John's would be somewhat different in 1936 than it is today, the Call remains as relevant today as it was then.

Another extract from the Centre Newsheet of January 1968 was headed 'Opportunity Knocks' - as another year began it was pointed out that it would present an opportunity to do some things better than we had done them before - 'The successes of the past must not blind us to the needs of the present or make us unresponsive to the Divine call today, and in the future. Never mind what you did last year, or even yesterday. What can you do today and tomorrow and next year? Achievements there have been in St John's in the past, but let us remember that it is by grasping opportunity that we shall take the way of achievement in the future'.

In the course of his inaugural address John F Kennedy challenged the American nation by saying 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country'. Do we in St John's in the here and now face a similar type challenge? I think we do and that Joanne, our Minister, sets it out frequently for us in her own words on Sunday mornings - it is a daunting challenge, but an unambiguous one and might be expressed thus - Ask not what God can do for you, but what you can do for God. Our response will be key.

Eliot Soutter.

Saints

Sometimes ordinary people do
Absolutely extraordinary things;
It's quite possible the person in the pew
Nearby will suddenly soar on eagle's wings
Taking God's calling to pastures new,
Surpassing their wildest imaginings.

Credit: Harry Hunter (<https://harryhunteronline.wordpress.com/>)

Songs from the Shows - Hillhouse Parish Church are hosting an evening of 'Songs from the Shows', performed by Hamilton Operatic Concert Party. This will take place in Hillhouse Church, on Saturday 8th September 2018 at 7.30pm. Ticket price £5 and includes tea, coffee and homebaking. If anyone would like tickets please contact Mr Iain MacLean on 07871960193.

Hamilton 10K Run:



HAMILTEN
10K RUN • 22 SEPTEMBER 2018

ON YOUR MARKS!

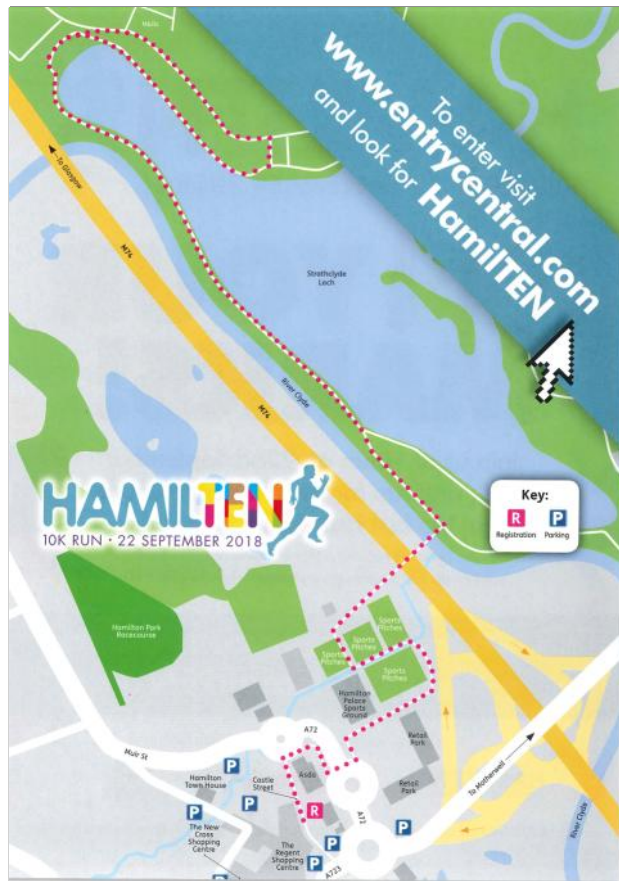
Join us at 10am on 22nd September 2018, and run for your favourite charity at the first HamilTEN 10K run!

All entrants will receive a free commemorative t-shirt, with prizes for the category winners. Entry is only £10.

To enter visit www.entrycentral.com and look for **HamilTEN**

Closing date for entries: 16th September 2018.

HAMILTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Advertiser
North Ayrshire Leisure & Culture
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Heart and Soul Swing Band Concerts



Friday 28th September 2018, 7.30pm

Concert, Wellington Church, Glasgow

Friday 5th October 2018, 7.30pm

Concert, St Serf's, Edinburgh

Saturday 3rd November 2018, 10am-4pm

Masterclass, Longniddry Parish Church

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sing-with-the-swing-band-tickets-47028674030>

Saturday 1st December 2018, 7.30pm

World AIDS Day concert, St John's, Hamilton

Thursday 4th April 2019, 7pm

Guild Presbyterian Council Concert, Balerno Parish Church, Edinburgh

Saturday 11th May 2019, 7.30pm

Concert, St Columba's, Blackhall, Edinburgh

Thursday 20th June 2019, 7.30pm

Praise Night DRAE world conference of deacons, QMU, Musselburgh

Thanks

Many thanks from Andrea and Derek Moore for the generous of £352 raised from the retiral collection following their mum's funeral (Agnes Moore). The money will be donated to Marie Curie.

Dear Church Family,

Having a Church family has never meant so much to us as during the early days of our bereavement and loss. This is our opportunity to say a special thank you to everyone who was so supportive and kind following Ian's sudden death.

For the many lovely cards, caring words, thoughts and prayers and beautiful flowers. Also for the practical help and support which helped us through a very difficult time.

Thank you to Joanne, our minister, for her support and for conducting the funeral service which was very comforting to us as a family and to his friends.

At the funeral £850 was donated for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. Thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic total which was gratefully received but the charity.

Love and best wishes

Elizabeth and Amy Gordon

May I take this opportunity to warmly thank the many generous people for contributing to our Charity Box. As a result of this generosity we were able to donate £400 each to the following organisations :- The Early Learning Centre, Musical Memories, The Samaritans, Cruse Bereavement and Crossreach. Each of these organisations were so grateful to receive our gifts and thanked the Church with warmest regards.

Thank you all once again.

Best Wishes.

Bill Anderson.

Centre Management.

Thanks to all who attended the St John's Singers concert. It was very well attended and we were delighted to be joined by Woodhead Primary. The proceeds raised allowed £450 to be donated to each of 3 charities:

Tom Allan Centre

Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children

British Heart Foundation

Many thanks to all who attended and donated so generously.

Flower Rota

September

- 2nd Mrs C McArthur
- 9th Mrs J Weir
- 16th Mrs M Graham
- 23rd Miss M Clelland & Mrs R Junor
- 30th Mrs B Murray

October

- 7th Harvest Sunday
- 14th Mrs M Paterson & Mrs T Bellamy
- 21st Mrs D Stark
- 28th Mrs F Landery & Mrs J Johnston



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

September

LESLEY AULD

JUNE BROWN
GRAEME DODDS
ROBIN DOUGLAS
ANNE GILLESPIE
ELIZABETH GORDON
CHRISTINE MCARTHUR
CAMPBELL MCGUGAN
BILL MURRAY

October

SHEILA THOMSON

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

November

ANN AULD

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

Evening Services

September

- COMMUNION**
2nd Delia Hart & Dennis Hart
9th Paul Flarry & Andrew McLean
16th Sandra Bordon & Sheena Wilson
23rd Morag Ireland & Andrea Grant
30th Jack MacIntyre & Sheila Thomson

October

- 7th Evening Service at Hamilton South
14th Anne Gillespie and Graeme Dodds
21st Christine McArthur & Ian McGregor
28th Alex Macgowan & Liz Macgowan

November

- 4th Evening Service at Hamilton South
11th Sandra Gray and Bill Anderson
18th Fiona Dodds & June Brown
25th Mary Stark & Elizabeth Muir

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
12th September (Rededication) 7pm	10th October
14th November	12th December

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

CARETAKER

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throughout the Centre.

