



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Dear Friends,

The words Path of Renewal have appeared in countless Centre magazines and sermons over years now here at St John's as I have been involved with the setting up of this movement within our denomination since my trip to Canada in May of 2015.

This month I was invited to attend the October Mission and Discipleship Council meeting at 121 George Street to speak to the council about Path of Renewal and how it is I see the work of the Council playing a major role in its successful rolling out over the coming months and years. I may have been involved from the beginning but since January of this year Hamilton: St John's has been one of the congregations on Path of Renewal and I have been attending conferences in a different capacity – as a participant rather than an organiser. As well as the three residential conferences I have attended, there have been two regional conferences for parish ministers to attend with up to five others; members of their Path of Renewal groups (if they have got to the stage of setting one up) or other interested people in the congregation.

The second one of these was in September and I attended it at East Kilbride: Claremont Parish Church with Graeme Dodds, Anne Macleod, Lesley Auld, Marielle Dodds and Lorna Fyfe. These are currently the members of our Path of Renewal group and they bring a mixture of contexts and perspectives to all our discussions which lead to rich and insightful conversations and deliberations.

At the conference, we were looking at the kind of change the church is faced with, and has been faced with for some time. The kind of change we wrestle with is of a type that means relying on what we know or have known will not allow us to find the answers and solutions to our current questions and problems. That is what causes so many of our frustrations as church when we simply can't understand why a church that was once thriving, and still does such good work, should find itself in decline.

One of the books we have read in the Path of Renewal group is called *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. Tod spoke at the second residential conference I attended but his book uses a fascinating metaphor to help us understand our predicament. He speaks of the explorers Lewis and Clark and how they had to adapt on their journey to the Pacific Ocean. They had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean but instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains with only uncharted territory in front of them and what then became useless experiences and training tools behind them. Their ability to navigate their way through the mountains only came from

October 2018

realising they had to leave those canoes (their old ways and knowledge) behind them so that they might learn something new that would work in their new and different (and daunting) terrain. The metaphor leads us to consider how we too might feel that we are (as church) living and leading in a cultural context we were not expecting and that we don't fully understand. For church it is also uncharted territory that requires us to lay down what we know and once knew so that we might be willing and able to learn new ways to navigate through the terrain that lies before us. The difference between what we knew and what we now face is as different as being prepared for a river and finding a mountain.

The good news in all of this is that we have a group and a parish minister who are committed to working through all of these considerations and who will continue to bring ideas, thoughts, suggestions for reading and prayer to the Kirk Session and the congregation as we navigate our Path of Renewal here at St John's.

From my perspective now as a participant I will also be advising the Mission and Discipleship Council of why and how I feel they have to be involved with us, helping congregations to understand the challenges as well as those within the Path of Renewal group who are attending a conference programme.

I would ask that you continue to pray, not just for your church as it is, and all it does, but also for our Path of Renewal, and for all of us to work out how we might lay down those canoes and cross the mountains together.

With love and best wishes,
Joanne

Session News October 2018

Our Kirk Session meeting in September is always special, as it begins our new session with an act of Communion. While our usual September agenda is relatively light (due to the summer recess) this year was unusual with a few big items being covered.

With the running theme of 'data' that seems to be in Session News quite a lot at the moment, this month is no exception. As you know, we've been reviewing the things that we do in light of changes to data protection regulations, and as a result of this, we have recommended to Kirk Session that we discontinue issuing Communion Cards as these contain personal information, and their distribution is not a system that we can practically make secure. Rather than simply replacing these with general cards, the Kirk Session is going to take a pause and consider how we should take this forward; informed by our overall review of membership data, and the work that we have been taking forward to develop new models for Pastoral Care. More news on this as we develop it in the coming months. We also brought the current thinking from the Path of Renewal team to Kirk Session – news of that is in Joanne's column.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

Family Record

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

Mrs M Orr - Died 16th September 2018

Baptism

Sophie Elizabeth Taylor - Baptised 9th September 2018

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 1st October 2018
Tuesday 2nd October 2018
Wednesday 3rd October 2018
Thursday 4th October 2018
Saturday 6th October 2018
Sunday 7th October 2018
Sunday 7th October 2018
Sunday 7th, 14th & 21st October 2018
Tuesday 9th October 2018
Mon 15th October 2018 – Sat 20th October 2018 (incl)
Sunday 11th November 2018
Sunday 18th November 2018
Saturday 1st December 2018
Sunday 2nd December 2018
Saturday 8th December 2018
Sunday 9th December 2018
Sunday 23rd December 2018
Sat 22nd December 2018 – Sat 5th January 2019
Monday 7th January 2019

The Guild recommences
The Friendly Hour recommences
The Fellowship recommences
Thursday Bible Study recommences
Messy Church
Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Youth Group restarts
Crossreach Calendars for sale
SALT Bible Study recommences
Centre Closed (October Week)
Remembrance Sunday
Shoebboxes collected after Sunday service
Heart & Soul Swing Band Concert
First Sunday in Advent
Christmas on Canvas
Sunday Blast Pantomime Trip
Nativity Service
Centre Closed (Christmas & New Year)
Centre Re-opens

THE JOINT EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION



FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

This is a very special year in our calendar - **“The Hundredth Anniversary”** of the War to end all Wars, or so it was thought at the time, though now we know differently.

The number of engagements, some large, some not so, that the British Army have been engaged in since the end of that war is unbelievable and number of casualties, dead and wounded, quite staggering.

Every year we mouth the words **“We will remember them”** but so often we forget that though the guns may have stopped firing, the pain and suffering for many has not and will not stop.

The Festival of Remembrance will be held, as usual, in Hamilton Town House on the evening of 4th November, starting at 5pm. Tickets for the Festival, priced £2, can be obtained from The Town House, Cadzow Street, from any member of the British Legion, Scotland or from myself.

This is our opportunity to be together at this special time and give thanks to those who gave their all to ensure we have the freedom that we enjoy to this day, a freedom which many in this world have never know.

Ian Forsyth



Encounter *bringing faith to life*

Path of Renewal is helping us to work out how to engage with those who are on the fringes of, or outside, current church life in order to allow us to explore what it means for us to be a missional church here in Hamilton. Being a missional church means being concerned with those beyond our own church community rather than focussing our all our attention on those already within, which is what institutional church spends most of its time and efforts doing. It is only through being a missional church that we can create a viable future for our congregation, for the presence we have within our parish and for our denomination as a whole. That is why the church centrally is so keen to fund and champion Path of Renewal.

For our context, those on the fringes of church life but embedded within the life of our parish include (but are not limited to) shoppers, employees, employers in the town centre (including contacts through Hamilton BID), staff at two primary schools and one secondary school, SL Council workers, staff of a care home (Avonbridge) and the Early Learning Unit.

From lessons learnt through the successes of Messy Church and Coffee, Cake and Colouring it is apparent that tailoring an event to a specific group and using new formats (other than Sunday morning or traditional style Bible study) to explore the questions of faith, allows a larger number of people to become involved – some for the first time. These new ways of accessing knowledge and understanding regarding the substance of our faith mean that a greater number of people are engaging at deeper levels than before. Consequently, the church is succeeding, to some extent, in the goals of Path of Renewal, which are to develop people's sense of discipleship (knowing how to follow Jesus in their lives) whilst embracing the church's call to be focussed on mission (seeking to serve those who are beyond or on the fringes of church life by providing ways for them to know more about God and nurture their relationship with God).

Using the lessons of tailored events, and bearing in mind the context within which we work as a parish church, we are working towards the creation of a new strand of events called Encounter. Through these events we hope to help people make connections between issues that affect our town and the ways that faith speaks into these events **and** opportunities for individuals to respond to those needs and in the way they choose to develop their faith.

The whole church building would be required for these events and each room/area would be well signposted to say what it is for and what is happening within it. To make engagement with the event more accessible the layout would be reminiscent of an exhibition space with some parts being more interactive than others but all seeking to explore the theme of the day.

The Forum would provide a place of hospitality where participants could arrange to meet each other and read/learn about the theme of the event and how the spaces throughout the building are designed to work. The café would remain operational throughout the event.

The Chapel would be another available space if anyone needs some time-out to process thoughts

during the event and there would perhaps be a reflective prayer station in the sanctuary itself where people could respond to their experience.

The Millennium Room would offer the input to the theme and on central display boards of some kind there would be relevant passages for people to walk round and read so that scripture was literally at the centre of the event; speaking into the theme and providing information of how faith can influence our thoughts on and responses to the particular issue we're exploring.

The Clyde Room would offer an Audio/Visual presentation using music and/or images to further thoughts on the topic being considered but in a different way in order to appeal to the senses.

The Youth Room would have an activity set out for people – in the style of Messy Church craft tables – where people could sit shoulder to shoulder together and discuss what they have seen and heard and how it has affected them while they do something creative. (This lesson based on Coffee, Cake and Colouring as well as Messy Church where conversations can take place because there is a distraction present to remove the threat of them.)

The Centenary Hall would present a 'marketplace' area for any agencies, charities or business that might have a vested interest in the particular topic (i.e., homelessness, mental health and wellbeing etc.) and would be interested in having a presence (a stall) at the event. Through this part of the event we have an opportunity to connect people back to the communities in our town by raising the profile of particular work. There would also be an opportunity depending what the issue has been for participants to volunteer their help or to seek assistance themselves.

Throughout an event when people are free to move between the rooms and spaces as they wish our hope is that people would have different 'encounters'. Maybe with one another as they share their experiences, maybe with aspects of town life and community life they have never considered, but most vitally and helpfully – maybe with their God. Our hope is that we are facilitating the possibility of any or all of these.

Encounter would operate as a strand of the work of St John's Parish Church of Scotland, registered Scottish Charity and as such could invite donations through standing orders, bank transfers, legacies or other charity donation methods as we see fit to operate.

If Encounter proved valuable it may develop in different or more tailored ways but these are first thoughts on what it might accomplish.

Questions being explored just now include:

- What is the best way to pitch these events so they too are tailored to particular needs; so whether to invite certain parts of the parish communities to separate events created for their concerns or perhaps their skill sets.
- How to advertise.
- What time would be best to hold them and how do we find that out.
- How do we ensure they are as accessible to this demographic as Messy Church is to its.
- Does the event require good working relationships (chaplaincy relationship) to allow the invitations to be successfully issued or does the event and an invitation to it *create* the good working relationships. (an opportunity to start chaplaincy relationship in new places) (chicken or egg)

The key to Path of Renewal is to experiment and not to be afraid to experiment. It doesn't have to be perfect first time and may not be the right thing to do but trying out a new idea (even if it's the wrong one) will allow us to learn lessons. If we try nothing – we learn nothing.

What's On at St. John's



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.

Meetings 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 Presbyterian 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

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.

Wednesday October 3rd

Opening and Rededication with the Rev. Joanne Hood.
Buffet Included.

Wednesday October 24th

Passchendaele WW1. A presentation by David Stark

Advance Notice of Meeting for November 2018

Wednesday November 7th

Our Speaker is the REV Robert Kent on a topic of his choosing

Wednesday November 21st

Rev Martin Paterson of The Missionary Overseas Fellowship based in Singapore.

Please come along and join us for a New Session and Syllabus for an informal evening. Bring a friend, and enjoy refreshments and a chat to close with, we are open to all and usually away soon after 08:30 pm.

John Smy (Secretary)

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday 10.30am

Thursday Bible study restarts on Thursday 4th October at 10.30 am in the Youth Room. All are very welcome to join us. If you wish to know more please speak to Marion Baird.

Friendly Hour: Tuesdays 1.30pm

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

Meetings 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

SALT: second and last Tuesday 7.30pm

SALT Bible study restarts on Tuesday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Millennium Room. All are very welcome to join us. If you wish to know more please speak to Marion Baird.



Hamilton: St John's Parish Church

Youth Group

If you are in S1-S6, come and join us on Sunday nights!

The term is planned by the whole group which in the past has included movie nights, debates, pancake making & game nights. We have also organised quiz nights and Christmas evening services.

We meet Sunday nights from 7.30pm – 9.00pm usually on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. The dates for 2018 are:

- October 7th
- October 28th
- November 11th
- November 25th
- December 9th

Our meetings are held in the Youth Room. If you want any more information please contact the group leader Lesley Auld at lesleyauld3489@gmail.com

Operation Christmas Child

This year we are once again supporting the shoebox appeal. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. See the impact a simple shoebox gift packed and sent with love, has on a child and how it reaches into a community.



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Since 1990, more than 146 million children in over 150 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

The shoeboxes for this year's appeal will be available after the service on 14th October and each Sunday thereafter at a cost of 50p. The filled boxes will be collected after the service on 18th November.

What do I put into my shoebox?

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

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

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

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

Other items, hat, cap, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, wind up torch, jewellery set, sweets (must have best before date of at least March 2019).

DO NOT INCLUDE: used or damaged items, war related items i.e. toy guns, play soldiers, knives, chocolate or other food items, liquids or lotions including bubbles, medicines, handmade/knitted toys, anything of a political, racial or religious nature, sharp objects, glass containers, mirrors or fragile items, playing cards of the 4-suit variety, clothing other than as listed above.

Crossreach 2019 Calendar Appeal

Please support Crossreach again by ordering your calendar. Marion Baird will be taking names and orders on Sundays 7th, 14th and 21st October in the Forum Café after the close of Church Service. Thank you for your support.

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Christmas Card and Calendar Collection 2018

Buy: shop.crossreach.org.uk
Call: 0131 454 4374



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council
Operating as Scotland's Social Care Trusts (SCSCT) Ltd

Finding Fellowship in Bowling

I never knew that for many years' members of St John's who loved to play bowls were representing our church in an annual Interchurch Indoor Bowling Competition.

The competition traditionally was an all male representation from churches within our town of Hamilton.

However, 2018 was to be the year of change. St John's would lead by example and, as you may have already guessed, be the first church to introduce 'lady bowlers' to the competition.

Douglas Leslie and Alex Magowan had the task of seeking two ladies to join their team and represent St John's. Two days before the competition Nan Law and myself were duly persuaded to represent our church. The only problem was neither of us had played indoor bowling. However, with the words of encouragement "Och you'll be fine" ringing in our ears we agreed.

Now as you read this you may be wondering how we prepared for the competition. Well you need not worry; Nan and I got our priorities right! We agreed on what we would wear just like any other girls night out!!

It was a great night. We arrived early and got ready, firstly by asking "Alex, how do you play indoor bowls?"! Alex became the appointed 'coach' providing a two minute lesson on what and what not to do, such as the delivery of the bowl - not as you do on grass; don't aim for the 'jack' aim for the white marker bowl and with the lesson over we waited to play.

This is when we watched all the other church representatives/bowlers arrive all smartly dressed in their bowling attire and ALL MEN! Not only were we the first lady bowlers from St John's we were the ONLY lady bowlers representing a church. By now we were really nervous but took our positions and were ready to play indoor bowls.

We played two games and yes we got the feel for it, never looked at the 'jack' once; ditched the idea of the white marker and played to Alex 'Coach' Magowan's feet resulting in the bowl finishing in a reasonably good position. It was certainly game on. We lost our first game by one shot and our second game we won convincingly.

We didn't win the competition – Cadzow Parish Church did and were presented with a lovely trophy.

We had a great time meeting other people from neighbouring churches and sharing a love for sport, friendship and fellowship over a game of bowls, a pie and a mug of tea.

Next year Douglas and Alex would love to see more ladies from St John's compete. It would be great to be the first church to have more than one mixed team compete and maybe by 2021, when St John's host the competition, an all ladies team!

If interested, please speak to Douglas or Alex.

Elizabeth Gordon

Do you remember where? (Part 4)

2011 Berlin by train. Visited Berlin Wall, Dresden and Potsdam. Had a stopover in Paris which allowed a short time to visit some of the tourist landmarks.

2011 Strasbourg and Luxembourg. Toured European Parliament.

2012 Lubeck with visits to Schwerin, Waremunde and Travemunde. Lubeck is the home of marzipan and we had a tour of the factory shop.

2013 Haydock. On board guide gave us a tour of Liverpool and a second guide gave us a walking tour of Manchester City centre.

2013 Volendam

2014 Windsor. Partial coach tour of London which was cut short due to traffic congestion. Further tour of Marlow and Henley.

2014 York. Tour of chocolate factory and North Yorks Railway. Explored Whitby before joining steam train from Whitby to Pickering.

2015 Germany and Austria. Again, an 18 day holiday with stops at Rudesheim, Mayrhofen, Oberammergau and Cochem. Although this tour repeated several previous locations, everyone enjoyed these destinations, especially the 5 day stop at Mayrhofen where it was possible to relax, especially if the swimming pool complex was of interest to you.

2016 Wolverhampton. An unlikely destination, but an excellent location for visits to Birmingham, Stratford-on-Avon and Worcester. Visits to The Black Country Museum and the Severn Valley Railway for a steam train from Bridgenorth to Kidderminster.

When these trips started more than thirty years ago, none of us expected we would visit so many interesting places and over so many years. We have all had lots of fun and got to know each other away from our Hamilton environment.



November Magazine Deadline



All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering **NOVEMBER** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 21st October. NO LATER.**

From the Editor

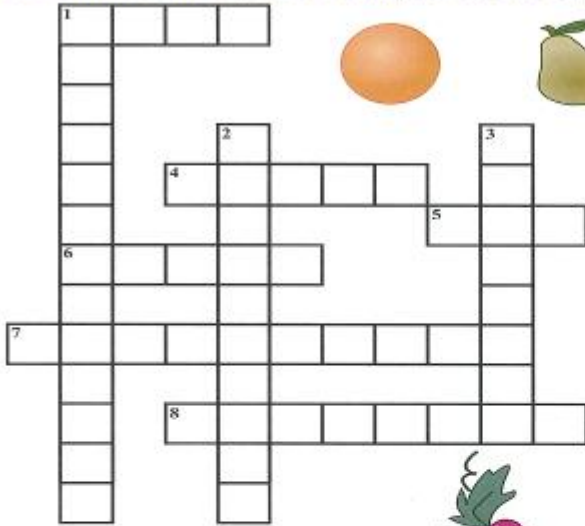
Items can be left in the top right basket marked **Magazine Editors** in the rack outside the office, or by email to: **office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk**

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

Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9



ACROSS

- 1 Defined in I Corinthians 13
- 4 Rest, quietness
- 5 Delight, cheerfulness
- 6 The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
~Heb 11:1
- 7 Self control
- 8 Humility

DOWN

- 1 Patient
- 2 Moral excellence of character; kindness
- 3 The quality of being beneficial; kindness

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**Children's
Activities**

Flower Rota

October

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

November

- 4th Mrs E Haddow
- 11th Remembrance Sunday
- 18th Mrs W Howson
- 25th Mrs J Fleming

December

- 2nd Mrs J Boyes
- 9th Mrs I Hamilton
- 16th Mrs H Hunter
- 23rd Mrs J Ferguson & Mr D Williamson
- 30th Flower Fund



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

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

December

ALEX MAGOWAN

JANET BOYES
GEORGE DUNCANSON
DELIA HART
DENNIS HART
COLIN MACLEOD
GEORGE SPENCE
KATRINA SPENCE
SHEENA WILSON

Evening Services

October

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

November

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

December

- 2nd Communion: Eliot Soutter & Mary Soutter
- 9th Hughina Naylor & Gordon Rankin
- 16th Elizabeth Gordon & Carolyn Woodburn
- 23rd No Evening Service
- 30th No Evening Service

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
	10th October
14th November	12th December



Now available throughout the Centre.

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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

Liz Magowan

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