



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's
Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SCO08779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Dear Friends

Last year in my November letter I spoke about a particular life remembered forever by a name on our world war one war memorial in the church. Robert Dawson is one of the twenty nine lives that were lost from within our congregation and whose names are now before us every week as we worship.

At worship on Sunday 11th November this year, marking the centenary of the armistice, we will remember all twenty nine lives in a unique way. This year we will be attempting to visualise these men back into the pews where they worshipped, the pews they left for war from, in the hope that we allow ourselves to really feel the sacrifice they made of their lives and the huge losses that occurred within our church, our town, our country and beyond. So many lives lost, so many families left bereft, so many villages and towns in mourning, so many livelihoods lost and realities changed forever. Even if you have never chosen to do so before on this emotive day, please consider joining us for worship at 10.45am on Sunday 11th November this year as we give thanks **for the freedoms we are able to enjoy because of other members of St John's who gave up their lives to claim them for us.** In doing so we are also supporting more Ex-Servicemen charities than ever before and seeking to allow the awareness of Armed Forces communities in our area to be raised, something we hope to all benefit from.

This month I also want to mention another event that is coming up on Saturday 1st December. Every year World Aids Day is marked on 1st December. For several years **now we have marked that day here at St John's in a couple of ways. Firstly, by having** our building floodlit in red as all public buildings across the country are invited and encouraged to do (although few acknowledge the day at all). The second way we have acknowledged the day is to hold an evening service on whatever day of the week the 1st December happens to fall. Last year George and Monica MacDonald came to speak to us about the work of Place of Restoration and their experiences of HIV and AIDS in South Africa. George spoke in a very moving way about his own congregation there and the number of lives lost to AIDS within the communities he served. This year **we are delighted to be welcoming the Heart and Soul Swing band back to St John's to perform a World Aids Day Concert for a church that acknowledges World Aids Day**

November 2018

and works to support charities (Place of Restoration and the Church of Scotland HIV Programme) combatting the pandemic, providing support for those affected and infected, and encouraging better education about HIV to hopefully reduce the stigma that continues to surround an HIV positive diagnosis.

I have been working hard to create a great event for 1st December and so as well as the Heart and Soul Swing Band performing we will also be welcoming the Woodside Primary School Big Singing Group who will even perform with the Swing Band on the night. In addition to this, the group responsible for the hugely successful Lanarkshire Passion Play from earlier this year will be giving us a sneak preview of the Nativity Play they will be performing in the town centre on Saturday 8th December. It promises to be a fun filled evening and with so many guest appearances alongside the Swing Band I hope it will also be a busy church full of people who will learn more about HIV/AIDS and have a lot of fun in the process.

As is always the case, the Swing Band concerts are not ticketed events and there is no charge although a collection will be uplifted on the night for the work of the Church of Scotland HIV programme. We will however make small numbered tickets available in the Centre and the church office for people to pick up if they intend to come on the night, or to give to others who wish to come on the night but this is purely to assist us with catering for teas and coffees after the concert. If you want to know any more about the concert or think there is a way you can help out on the night either on the doors or with collecting and counting the donations to the HIV Programme please just speak to me and let me know.

However, you are spending the next few weeks and whether you come to either of the events I've mentioned in my letter or not I hope you will take whatever opportunities are afforded you to support both Armed Forces Community charities and HIV/AIDS charities as we hold both of these close within the life of our church.

with love and best wishes
Joanne

Session News
November 2018

We're soon going to need your help as we progress the update to our membership database. I've mentioned in previous months our programme to update and clean our database to make sure that **we have the right information, and that we take account of things like email addresses (which didn't really exist the last time a major overhaul was done).** We've trialled the first draft of data capture forms with the Kirk Session and are looking at those coming back in to see if we need to make any changes. Once we do that, we will arrange for forms to go out to the full congregation. We will make these available on Sunday mornings and also through the various other contacts that we have (e.g. the DVD delivery, magazine delivery, and so on). What is really important is that we get that information back from you, so a plea from me that when you get your hands on the form, do it as soon as you can and return it to us. This is a big exercise and will take us some time, but the outcomes are critical to helping us shape future communications, pastoral care, membership models, and so on.

We are also looking forward this month to celebrating the long service of a number of our Elders. More on that (and maybe even a picture!) next month.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 11 th November 2018	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 18 th November 2018	Shoeboxes collected after Sunday service
Saturday 1 st December 2018	Heart & Soul Swing Band Concert
Sunday 2 nd December 2018	First Sunday in Advent - Communion
Saturday 8 th December 2018	Christmas on Canvas
Sunday 9 th December 2018	Sunday Blast Pantomime Trip
Sat 22 nd December 2018 – Sat 5 th January 2019	Centre Closed (Christmas & New Year)
Sunday 23 rd December 2018	Nativity Service/No Evening Service
Monday 24 th December 2018	6.30 pm Greatest Show on Earth: Christingle Service
Monday 24 th December 2018	11.30 pm Watchnight Service
Tuesday 25 th December 2018	10.30 am Christmas Day Worship
Monday 7 th January 2019	Centre Re-opens

Family Record

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

Mrs May Stewart - Died 3rd October 2018

Mrs Lily Thom - Died 19th October 2018

December/January Magazine Deadline



From the Editor

All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering DECEMBER AND JANUARY must be with the Editor by Sunday, 18th November. 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

HARVEST APPEAL OUTCOME:

Once again those at St John's have responded most generously this year to the above Appeal - the total amount raised, inclusive of gift aid, was £3,100. Of this total, £300 came from the 'children's donations' placed in the receptacle under the tap in the Church.

This means that the two agreed charities, namely FRIENDS of PLACE of RESTORATION (SCOTLAND) and SAMARITAN'S PURSE UK, will each benefit to the extent of £1,550. The foremost objective of the former charity is to support and encourage the work of The Place Of Restoration Trust in Margate, South Africa to bring relief to children in need and in caring for those who have been abandoned, abused or orphaned because of HIV/AIDS or poverty. The latter is a non-profit Christian organisation with the foremost objective of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people suffering from war, poverty, disaster, disease and famine with the purpose of global missionary work attendant on humanitarian aid. It specialises in emergency relief, shelter, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, medical care and public health. HIV/AIDS and community-based livestock and livelihood projects.

The sum raised is all the more remarkable because St John's also raised over £5,000 (inclusive of gift aid) earlier this year in terms of its Gift Day Appeal. There is also the November Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal coming up and, although no monetary value as such is ever put on this Appeal, no doubt St John's will respond very generously again.

I am sure the charities would wish me on their behalf to express their very grateful thanks to all who donated.

Eliot Soutter,
Treasurer.



Remembrance

Some years ago, while staying in a small village in central France, Kew and I participated in the annual Remembrance commemoration, which made a great impression on us.

November 11th is celebrated as a national holiday in France and meaningful ceremonies take place throughout the country.

Situated close to the village school, the War Memorial was familiar to the children, who had an important role to play in the proceedings, convened there by the Mayor. The ceremonies began with an explanation, by the Mayor to the children, of the reason for gathering on that day.

Following the salute to the flag, a small group of **“Anciens Combattants”**, wearing their military medals, in turn read out the names of each of the fallen villagers in the two world wars. As each name was uttered, it was echoed but the phrase **“Mort pour la France”**. This part of the ceremony was followed by a rendition of the Marseillaise by the school recorder group, the onlookers accompanying in voice – quite moving.

To end this part of the commemoration, martial music issued forth from the back of a rather dilapidated white van. As the record kept breaking down every few seconds an element of unintentional French farce crept in to lighten the solemnity of the occasion. By some miracle, I managed to concentrate on the reason for our presence there!

To the fading notes of the music, the company followed, in procession, the mayor, the **“Anciens Combattants”** and the school children to the village cemetery. Our destination - the very well-tended graves of the downed crew of an Allied 2nd World War aircraft – the average age of the crash victims was 20!

Once again, the mayor explained to the children the significance of Remembrance and due homage was paid to the bravery and sacrifice of these men.

Next we entered the 12th century church for a short service in which the children participated.

Finally, we retraced our steps to the village hall where traditional French refreshments were being **served and I don't mean tea or coffee!**

Food and wine for thought on this particularly memorable Remembrance day!

Christine Martyn



Respect
Echoes of the past
Moments of sadness
Each soldier gave it all
Monumental glory
Bravery
Reflection
Actions to protect
Never forget them
Courageous hearts
Ever remembered

What's On at St. John's



The Guild: Mondays 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 in November 2018

- 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'**

Meetings in December 2018

- December 1st. Coffee Morning. Saturday 10am
- December 3rd. Shona Scott. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- December 5th. Presbyterial Guild Carol Service. **St. John's Church** Wednesday 1.30pm
- December 17th. Christmas Story. A evening shared with members from the Fellowship.

New members will be made most welcome with tea/coffee and biscuits before going home, so don't be shy make yourself known to any member of our committee.

Nan Law

St John's Fellowship: Wednesdays 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 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.

December Meeting

We will join with the Guild on Monday 17th December: The Christmas Story

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: Thursdays 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.

SALT: second and last Tuesday 7.30pm

SALT Bible study runs on the second and last Tuesday of the month 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.

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 November 2018

November 6th	David Stark: Passchendaele
November 13th	John Walker: Victoria Cross
November 20th	Outing: Livingstone
November 27th	Norman Liddell: Malawi

Sandra Bett

Youth Group: 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month: 7.30-9pm in the Youth Room

For those in S1-S6, the programme is planned by the whole group and in the past has included movie nights, debates, pancake making and games nights. We have also organised quiz nights and Christmas evening services. The dates for November and December are November 11th, November 25th and December 9th. For more information, contact 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 services 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.



A Grandfather tells his Grandchildren about David and Goliath just after WW1

David and Goliath

By

Wullie McCulloch

Weel ye see

Wee Davie wiz jist a wee bit boy

Jist a wee laddie

And at the time the war broke oot wi the Philipstines

At the commencement of hostilities, his twa brothers wiz caud up fur tae join the militia

And of course wee Davie wanted fur tae gang tae

Bit his faither said Na Na Dav..id, yea canna gang, fur yea see they widnae tak yea

In the first place yer no auld enough and besides yer ower wee,

Yea see there wiz nae Bantam Brigade in thae days

Bye and Bye when yea hiv supped a when mair porridge yea micht be able fur tae jine wi the lads

Besides yeel need tae stie at hame and gang wi the milk and feed the kai and generally help yer

auld faither , fur he's no sae fit as he used tae be wi they rheumatisms...aye

Weel if there wiz wan thing that wee Davie had learnt fur tae dae an that wiz tae dae as he wiz telt (told)

So he jist stayed at hame and played at the bools and spinned his peirrie and held the wool fur his mither when she wiz knitting the socks fur the sojirs (soldiers)

Weel efter about a month a telegram cam frae the front tae say there wiz a grave shortage of meat among the sojirs (soldiers) in the trenches

And his faither made up his mind fur tae send wee Davie wi some loafes and some ham and mibie

(maybe) a dizin (dozen) or twa guid fresh laid hens..eh fresh laid eggs

And you may guess that wee Davie wiz weel pleased fur tae gang

And he set oot on his journey

And when he arrived at the seat of hostilities, he noticed that his brithers and and some of the other sojirs wiz lookin awfy white like..... about the gills

Jings he says yer a feart

Aye says his brithers wait till yea hiv seen the big giant Goliath of the Philipstines

and youle be frichted a bit tae

He stands ten feet high..... in his stocking soles

Aye he wiz a big man-----

Aw the giants wiz big men in thae days

Me frichted says wee Davie

Ah hivna seen ocht that could frichten (frighten) me

An if your aw feart, i'll gang and feight the big giant masell

And when the King heard that he had someone that wiz willin tae stand up tae the big giant....who stood 15 feet high in his stockin soles

He wiz exceeding glad

But when he saw the size o wee Davie

He wiz jist a wee bit boy yea ken

His face fell and he telt wee Davie he was feart the job wiz ower muckle for him

For the giant wiz a man that stood 20 feet high in his stockin soles and besides that, he had a waist-coat o pur brass as thick as a steam biler and a spear as lang as a telegraph powel (pole)

Never mind says wee Davie

Jist let me git a swipe at him afore he grows ony bigger

And he went doon tae the burn

No a big burn or a river nor an ocean

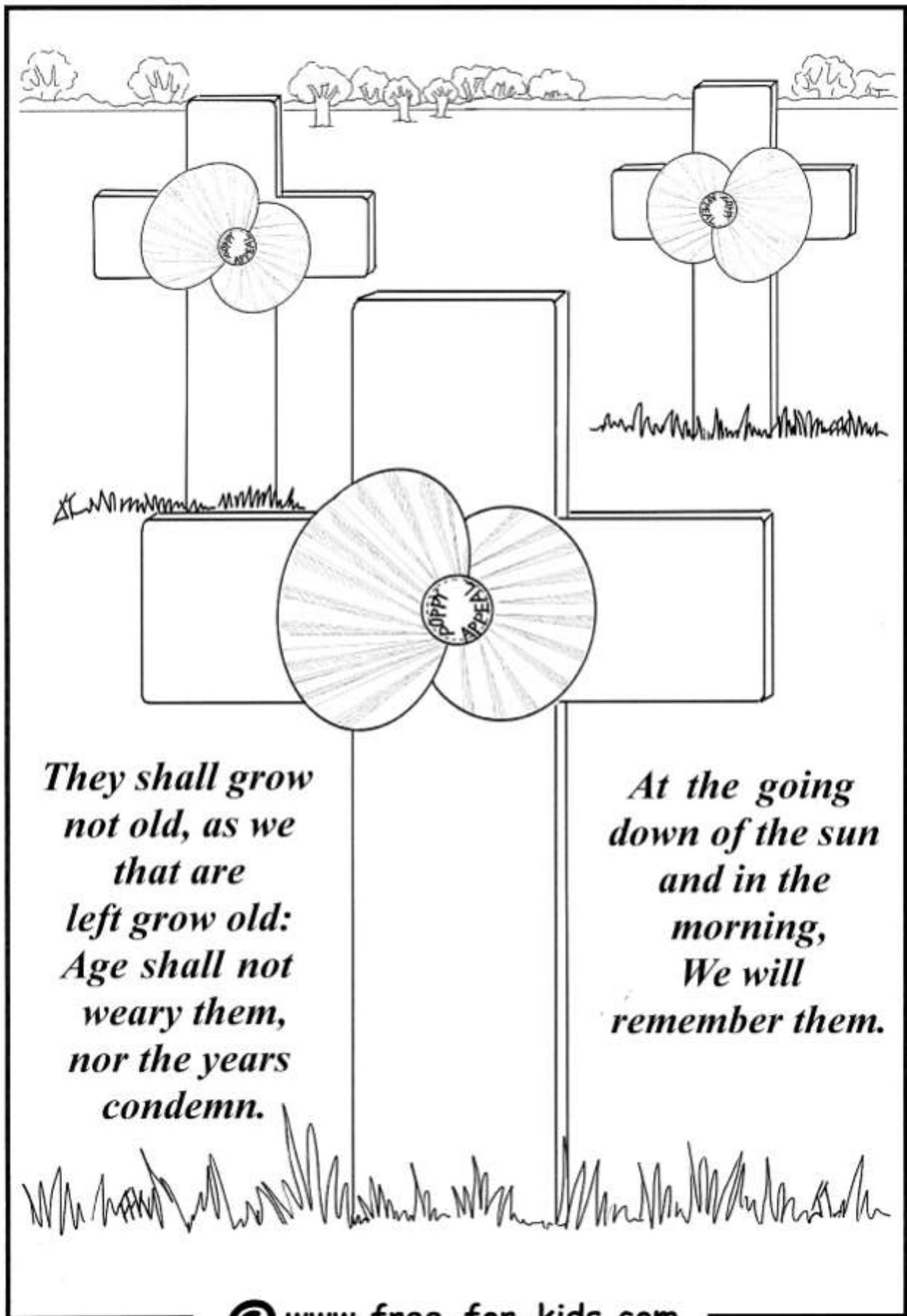
Jist a wee burn

An he goat (got) some roun (round) chukkie stanes for his pea sling

And he went forth fur tae meet the Giant Goliath....of the Philipstines

A man who was the size of a common Hi-stack in his stoking soles.
 And when Goliath saw the size o wee Davie
 He started fur tae laugh
 HO HO HO
 HO HO HO yersell says wee Davie
Goliath says "Whit are ye wantin?"
I'll sin let yea see says wee Davie
 Will yea Cheeky Breeks says Goliath
I'm thinkin youle be gaun hame in the Red Cross Wagon
 Bit wee Davie never let on he heard him
 He jst goat a roon chuckkie and pit it in his pea sling
An he lit bang at the Giant's big floosy heid
 An he fun him richt atween the een
And Goliath says "Here whit are yea dayin ?
Dae yea no ken thats sair"
 He wiz fair dumfounnert
 He didna even hiv time tae cry Bawley
 Yea see sic a thing as a chukkie stane had never entered his heid afore
 An he fell doon oan the braid o his back
 An a Philipstine sais tae him
 Aw yea big stookie daw
 Whit wie kin yea no feicht the wee laddie
 Who kin ah feicht the laddie says Goliath
Kin yea no see I'm busy here dein (dying)
Weel wee Davie goat the giant's big sword
 And he cutted aff the giants heid
 An he took it hame an pit it oan the sideboard
 An the Philipstine, they ran awa...awa
 Aye ... an he wiz jst a wee bit boy
 Aye...They ran awa....Aye
 Aye...Aye





Thanks

Alan and all the family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all for the sympathy **cards, letters and words of kindness following Lily's death. The collection at Lily's funeral service raised £520 for British Heart Foundation - thank you for your generosity.**

Remembrance

Recall, O Israel, your deliverance
Escaping Pharaoh's army, brought safe to shore;
Moses' song of triumph, Miriam's victory dance.
Each day a fiery pillar going before
Multitudes wandering in Sinai's harsh expanse,
Becoming a special people united by perfect law.
'Remember' cries the psalmist, 'and cast a sidelong glance
At how God has saved us in times of peace and war'.
Nations delivered from direst circumstance,
Captive souls plucked from Sheol's jaw,
El Shaddai, God of victory, God of the second chance.

Flower Rota

- 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:

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

January

JACK MCINTYRE
MARION BAIRD
KAREN LIMOND
IAN MACGREGOR
GORDON RANKIN
MARY STARK
ALAN THOM
CAROLYN WOODBURN

Evening Services

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

January

- 6th Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 13th Nan Law & Fiona Anderson
- 20th George Spence & Katrina Spence
- 27th Marilyn Graham & George Wade

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
14th November	12th December



Now available
throughout the Centre.

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