



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's
Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Dear Friends

Instead of a short letter this month I want to share with you something I wrote for worship on Sunday 27th January. It was written to share with the worshipping community some thoughts that have come from my presence at Path of Renewal conferences so far. There is specific work I want to share with our Path of Renewal Group (Marielle Dodds, Graeme Dodds, Lesley Auld, Anne MacLeod, Lorna Fyfe) and then also with our Kirk Session, and whole congregation in the months to come but this seemed like a good place to start.

I look forward to sharing more with you next month and at the events we organise for the first half of this year.

With love and best wishes

Joanne



NEWS FROM PATH OF RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Last month I attended my third residential conference as a minister of a church that is part of Path of Renewal, the Church of Scotland movement that encourages churches in the ways that lead to renewal. There is a recognition every time we meet that this path of renewal is one which will only come from embracing new ideas, from being willing to invest in a small number of people so they in turn can invest in others. From the deepening of discipleship, the growing of local leaders who share the tasks of ministry within a particular congregational and parish setting and from trying out new events and initiatives for particular groups within our local demographic, within an atmosphere of experimentation which is fostered by the whole congregation being willing to try and fail in order to find the right direction and the right ways to work for our time and place and people. The fascinating thing about this is that it means there is no one way to do it. There is no seven-step plan to follow to solve all our problems. There is no one programme to success that everyone can simply lift, apply and renewal of Christ's church will result from it. That's how the national church and the church globally has often attempted to operate, selling us the latest minister led programme or initiative because it worked somewhere once and will make everyone's hope for their church come true and any patterns of decline be magically reversed. That simply cannot be done and the church has been doing things the same way, trying faithfully to ignore the signs of decline for so long, that the situation we are in means there cannot be a magic cure for all that ails it.

February 2019

What we do have however, and have always had, are the gifts and talents of God's people. We've always had people who bring different things to the mix in new ways. We've always had people who have different strengths and weaknesses, different interests and different passions as part of the church and just lovers of life, but we've not always known what to do with them. Somewhere along the way we came to believe that certain things were of more use than others, that certain jobs needed done and that's what makes us church, when actually the church and what church does should continually be shaped by those that are part of it or might want to be part of it, and what interests them.

We also convinced ourselves that the only way to offer leadership within congregations is by them having a full time minister of Word and Sacrament and so now that we're in the place where there aren't enough to go round people have got out of the habit of being creative and collaborative when it comes to sharing those ministry responsibilities they mistakenly think belong only to the parish minister. The only roles within the congregation that need filled (from a church law and charity law perspective) are that of Session Clerk, Treasurer and Property Convenor. You have to have names for those three but there are no other jobs in the life of a congregation that have to be done a certain way or need certain people acting in particular roles. You don't have to have a full time minister of word and sacrament to have an operational or even a thriving congregation, you don't have to do anything...other than one thing.

I believe there is one thing every congregation must do if it fancies its chances well into a 21st century post modern and post, post Christendom world, and that is - think outside the box. By that I mean being flexible in its ways of working, imaginative in its activities, challenged and challenging in fulfilling the call to discipleship, refreshing and relevant in its attempts at mission. It must think outside the box. There's absolutely no reason why all our congregations, and perhaps particularly those participating in path of renewal (who are being constantly asked to think deeply about this and act accordingly whilst being supported in that) can't cope with that kind of commitment. A commitment to thinking outside the box. It has to begin with a shifting concept of what church is - something that even began back when Paul was addressing those in Corinth in part of a letter that we heard read during worship on the last Sunday in January. For us, most immediately that means me doing some work now with our own Path of Renewal Group which I hope will then feed directly, through them, into a Special Kirk Session meeting I would like to invite our Elders to in a few months' time and beyond that to an event for the whole congregation to share in the thoughts and challenges Path of Renewal presents us with, and progress our own thoughts on it even further so I can then feed them back into the conferences I attend.

This is not something that's being done to us, as initiatives with national backing so often are, but equally it is not something that will be done for us. This is something **we** shape and drive if only we can do our thinking outside the box and I have the utmost faith that we can and we will.

Session News February 2019

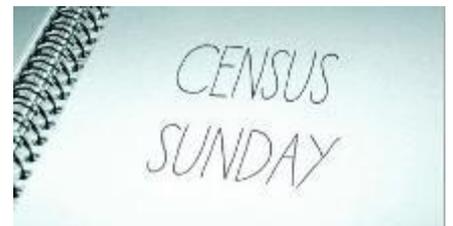
Thanks to everybody who took part in our annual 'Census Sunday' at the start of December. I thought you might like to know some of the high level statistics, including those that form our statistics return to Presbytery. Over the course of 2018, our membership roll net change was from 506 to 488. On an average Sunday, we continue to have just under 200 people of all ages in the church.

The age split is:

Pre-school	1% (1% last year)	25 to 44	11% (9%)
Primary	12% (2%)	45 to 64	15 (12%)
High School	2% (2%)	65 to 84	50% (61%)
16 to 24	2% (1%)	85+	7% (6%)

The small group who are coordinating our approach to Path of Renewal are continuing to meet, and will be attending the next regional conference in March. Following on from this, we intend to hold a special Kirk Session meeting to talk through some of the analysis, thoughts and ideas from the group with a view to then having a meeting for the whole congregation. More news about that anon.

Graeme Dodds
Session Clerk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 3rd February 2019	Avonbridge Care Home Monthly Service
Wednesday 6th February 2019	HeartEdge
Friday 1st March 2019	World Day of Prayer: Guild Service 7pm St John's
Saturday 2nd March 2019	Messy Church: Lent
Sunday 3rd March	Avonbridge Care Home Monthly Service
Sunday 10th March 2019	Communion Service at 10.45am and 6.30pm
Sunday 10th March 2019	Start of Lent discussion group: Food for Thought
Wednesday 13th March 2019	Kirk Session Meeting
Saturday 16th March 2019	Sing with the Swing Band Event at St John's

'Food for Thought 2019'



This year a lent discussion group 'Food for Thought' will meet for five Sundays beginning on Sunday 10th March at 5.15pm in the Youth Room. We will be using material called *Eat, Pray, Share* that allows us to reflect on the way we share round the Lord's table under the five themes of

- Community
- Commemoration
- Covenant
- Celebration
- Commitment

This is particularly helpful for us in Lent as we begin and end the season by celebrating the Lord's Supper, first of all on the first Sunday in Lent and then again on Easter Sunday at both our 9.30am and 10.45am services.

Food for Thought will last for an hour and people can choose whether they want to stay on for the evening service on those Sunday which will further explore the theme of that week.

Sunday morning worship for all ages

On the Sundays in February, April and May this year when Sunday Blast is on holiday, morning worship will use our Time to Worship format. Using this format means all ages are catered for.



After some time together at the start of the service worshippers of every age are asked to choose whether they would like to listen to a sermon or participate in an activity in another room. We come back together to conclude our worship.

Families are encouraged to continue to be part of our worshipping congregation even when Sunday

Time to



Congregational News

Liz Muir and Jack McIntyre visited Ian Brown along with his wife Vivienne to present him with his long service award.



Janet McMillan a long serving member of St John's church, celebrated her 90th birthday on 17 December.

A few friends from St John's visited her to wish her many happy returns.

Congratulations to Janet on reaching this milestone birthday.

Christmas Card Colouring

Our Christmas card this year invited recipients to colour it in, below are a few of the beautifully coloured in Christmas cards we received back. Thank you and well done to all those who took part.



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 in February 2019

February 4th Mr I White: General Secretary of the Guild

February 18th Mr D Pirrett: Legal Matters

Meetings in March 2019

March 1st World Day of Prayer: Service at St John's Church **Friday 7pm**

March 4th Isobel Graham: Hamilton Food Bank

March 18th Joyce's Voices. **Floral Tea with light supper £3.50**

New members will be made most welcome with a cup of 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: 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.

Meetings in February 2019

February 6th AGM and Dinner: Hamilton Golf Club 7pm for 7.30pm

February 20th Fiona Anderson

Meetings in March 2019

March 6th Jade

March 20th 'Life and Work': Thomas Baldwin

The Fellowship meetings are open to everyone. Please come along and join us for an informal evening. Bring a friend, and enjoy refreshments and a chat to close with. Meetings are held in the Clyde Room from 7:30 to approximately 8:30pm.

John Smy (Secretary)

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday 10.30am

Thursday Bible study runs on Thursdays 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 in February 2019

February 5th	Eileen Logan
February 12th	Jim Percival - St Kilda
February 19th	Richard Beattie - Hamilton Churches Drop In
February 26th	Hamilton Grammar School Concert £3

Meetings in March 2019

March 5th	Robin Taylor
March 12th	Outing: Victoria and Albert Museum, Dundee
March 19th	Woodside Primary School Concert £3
March 2019	AGM followed by Musical Memories Concert

Sandra Bett

Youth Group

The Youth Group has hosted quiz nights, planned & led Christmas evening services, had many trips to Equi's and played lots of games. However, the numbers of young people attending has been dropping over the years and, for now, the decision has been made to end it and look for other ways to get our youth involved in the church.

Hamilton & District Probus Club: third Wednesday 9.30am

Hamilton and District Probus Club now hold their monthly meetings in the Clyde Room in the St John's Church Centre.

The Probus is a local, national and international association of retired or semi retired people from all walks of life and which provides regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends and expand their interests.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9.30am for 10.00am in the Clyde Room

If you wish to join with others who have similar interests you are most welcome to come and join us for a cup of tea and a blether and to enjoy our speakers.

If you are interested, have a word with **Bill Howson, Bill Murray** or **Alex Magowan** or any member.

Bill Murray (Secretary)

Musical Memories Choir

for people with dementia and their carer

It's 10.30 am on Wednesday morning and members of Musical Memories Choir start to arrive at St John's Church Halls with their red folders, for tea, coffee, biscuits and a blether before their weekly singing session. There are warm greetings and smiling faces as people catch up on the week that has passed. Although meeting in Hamilton, the choir has members from all over South and North Lanarkshire.

It is a choir with a difference! An amazing choir! The lives of those attending have all, in some way, been affected by Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. Some are coming to terms with a recent diagnosis; others have lived well with their condition for some time. Family, friends and carers come along too. All are united by the power of music.

The choir was set up initially as a pilot project in 2011 by Alzheimer Scotland. However, since 2014 Musical Memories has been an independent, fully constituted voluntary group relying on donations, grants and income from occasional performances. The members are very grateful for financial donations from various local organisations, individuals and groups, including groups within St John's, which help secure its future.

It aims to provide companionship, stimulation and enjoyment to choir members; to raise awareness of dementia and promote a positive perspective within the community; and, lastly, to provide entertainment, hope and inspiration to others through performing locally to the public. The work of the choir comes at a vital time as rates of dementia climb.

The musical background of its members varies. Some are seasoned singers, some haven't sung in public since school days, some have never sung in public! There are no auditions, and the male and female members are expertly led by Musical Director Anna Neill, with musical accompaniment currently being provided by volunteer pianist Karen Hemmings, with Val Ferro on Violin. Anna has also been known to bring out her ukulele and is enthusiastic, friendly and makes rehearsal fun.

Anna says, "Our songbook is quite varied and fun. I try to bring in different genres ranging from traditional and modern Scottish, 50's rock and roll, American country and pop. Expect the unexpected! It's not simply a singalong, the musical arrangements and harmonies provide some additional small challenges."

New songs are introduced on a regular basis. Today, the sound of Dana's Eurovision hit 'All Kinds of Everything', 'The Happy Wanderer' and The Carpenters 'Top of the World' can be heard in the corridors as the choir rehearses for their next performance at a conference for NHS Dementia Champions at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh in March. Singing...not playing rugby!

Musical Memories chairman Sam Thompson explains why singing is important with regard to dementia. "Singing is known to be great for people with dementia, but surprisingly, that also applies to the carers too. The choir is a great support to our members," he says. "For some, this is the only chance they get to meet and chat with others in the same situation."

Larkhall couple Nan and Pat are among our newer members. Nan says, "Joining the choir has been a lifeline for me, and it's been a complete change of activity for Pat who now can't participate in hill walking and climbing any more. It makes a break from our usual routine of hospitals and doctors, and it's nice for both of us to meet up with others with the same problems." She adds, "We like the variety of song choices - they're always appropriate and uplifting. I always come out of the choir with a smile on my face, and it's not often you can say that! Wednesdays are good days."

The choir meet every Wednesday morning at St John's Church Hall from 10.30 for tea/coffee, then sing from 11.00 until 12.00. There are no auditions and anyone with a dementia diagnosis is welcome to come at any time, with a friend, family member or carer. Volunteering enquiries are welcome to assist with teas and to offer additional support to members while singing.

• If you would like more information about Musical Memories Choir, please contact Anna Neill. We also have a website: musical-memories-choir.com and a Facebook page: "Musical Memories Dementia Choir – Hamilton".



Friendly Hour

This session has been very well attended and everyone has enjoyed the wide variety of speakers and events. Our last 2 meetings took the form of a Festive Treat and a Christmas Sing a long. The Festive Treat took place on Tuesday 4th December was a time for us all to enjoy lunch together and as you can see from the photograph the tables looked stunning as ever - thanks Katrina. We were all delighted with the fabulous entertainment at the Festive Treat which was provided by Anne MacLeod, the choir from Hamilton Grammar School and 2 soloists. Everyone thoroughly themselves.



The Christmas Sing-a-long on Tuesday 11th December was once more led by Joanne and we all enjoyed joining her singing some well known Christmas Carols, we even had a visit from Santa!

We look forward to seeing you all again this session. If you have not been to one of our meetings before, please come along. We have speakers, outings, musical afternoons and other special events. You will be made very welcome. For more details of the upcoming meetings please see page 7.



Heart & Soul 'Sing with the Swing Band'



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sing-with-the-swing-band-tickets-54921201793>

On Saturday 16th March from 11am-4pm the Heart and Soul Swing Band will be hosting their second 'Sing with the Swing Band' day after the successful launch of their *Go For it Fund* supported Community Gospel Choir Project in November last year. More information can be found at the Eventbrite link above and those interested should register for the event on that page sooner rather than later as **places are limited and are already filling up.**

The event is for people of all ages and any amount of (or no) musical experience. Come along with a packed lunch, by yourself or with friends or family, for a day of singing and swinging as we celebrate the joy of music!

If you are interested in attending but are unable to register please contact Claire in the Church Office and she can register for you.

Life & Work Magazine

As many of you will already be aware, the role of St John's Agent for the Magazine has transferred from Bill Murray to Jack McIntyre from January onwards. Bill has both promoted and arranged distribution of the Magazine for many years and we thank him for his hard work and efforts during this time. It is a great monthly magazine and only costs £31.60 per annum so if interested please contact Jack.

Book Corner

We have had another very successful year at the Book Corner with everything selling very well, especially the St John's pens. From an order of 400 pens we have about 20 left. Because we do so well over the year the GLO in Motherwell is able to give us a good discount on everything we buy. This enables us to donate money to various church organisations and last year this was around £450. At the moment we have a vacancy for the last Tuesday morning in each month from 10.00 to 12.00. If you would like to help and have a couple of hours to spare in the month please speak to Delia Hart.

March Magazine Deadline



All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering **MARCH** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 17th February. 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

Last year marked a milestone in my personal life – the start of an important journey. Having had the broken spirit of a sinful person, I felt hopeless and helpless, unable to go through those troublesome times. God's will to help me to get along came through the inspiration for the Church of Scotland that I got from Rev. McClery.

Today I'm so grateful that God guided me to St. John's Parish Church in Hamilton, the gathering place where I can listen to His word. At this worshiping place I was very warmly welcomed and accepted by Jesus's followers and found the comfort and peace I was longing for.

I want to thank the congregation of St. John's for actively involving me and my children in church life and activities. Attending Sunday Blast, Messy Church, and Coffee, Cake and Colouring make us feel a part of the community and helps me with my integration into Scottish society.

I want to express my gratitude personally to Joanne, The Minister at St. John's, for her support and pastoral care, for her patience and time taken. The great sermons that she delivers every Sunday and the Bible stories I hear from her, always give me a lot of food for thought and reflection.

Going to St. John's in Hamilton a year ago seems just the beginning of a journey in creating my relationship with God. The road is bumpy, but the fact that I started challenging my choices through His word gives me hope that one day I'll be a better follower of Jesus. I consider myself lucky to have started my journey at St. John's.

Mariya Stefanova

Thank you

The residents of Wellhall Care Home would like to thank the congregation of St. John's for their kind donations of DVDs. As they are used almost every night, the supplies you sent are greatly in demand!

Christine McArthur

Flower Rota

February

- 3rd Mrs L McCafferty
- 10th Brownies & Guides
- 17th Mrs P Flarry
- 24th Mrs E Muir

March

- 3rd Mrs C McGugan
- 10th Mrs E Shepherd
- 17th Mrs D Hart
- 24th Mrs M Baird
- 31st Mr R Craig



Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

February

MARILYN GRAHAM

BILL ANDERSON
FIONA DODDS
SANDRA GRAY
MORAG IRELAND
CHRISTINE MARTYN
ELIZABETH MUIR
MAUREEN OFILI

March

LESLEY AULD

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

April

SHEILA THOMSON

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

Evening Services

February

- 3rd Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 10th Karen Limond & Janet Boyes
- 17th Hazel Lees & Lesley Auld
- 24th Ann Auld & Doug Leslie

March

- 3rd Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 10th Communion: Delia & Dennis Hart
- 17th Paul Flarry & Andrew McLean
- 24th Sandra Borden & Ann Auld

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
	13th February 2019
13th March 2019 (Finance/Accounts) 7pm	10th April 2019

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
Tel 282223
email: anne.macleod@icloud.com

FWO CONVENER

Ian MacGregor

TREASURER

Eliot Soutter

CENTRE FINANCE

Bill Anderson

GIFT AID CONVENER

Jack Black

FLOWER ROTA

Contact St John's Office

PROPERTY CONVENER

Liz Magowan

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
email: office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk

CHURCH

St. John's Centre tel 283492
Vestry tel 286868

Magazine Editor

office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk



Now available
throughout the Centre.