



Centre

Hamilton: St. John's Parish Church

Church of Scotland
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk



stjohnschurchhamilton



Dear Friends

I want to use my letter this month to share a story with you. It's a story that was written by an unknown author but has been recreated in many forms and in many places for a long time. Most recently I saw it used, in the form of a musical, by Woodside Primary School at their Easter Event in the church during Holy Week. It's a story I've told many times myself and although it often gets used at Easter or at Christmas, it is a beautiful way of presenting the idea of God using us all in the purposes that we often don't understand and yet, we are all called to be a part of.

I hope you enjoy it and I hope the joy of the Easter story is living on in your lives in the days and weeks beyond the Sunday when we rejoice in the empty tomb.

With love and best wishes
Joanne

The Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight

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and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. As she was lifted up on the mountain top she felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. Now every time people saw her she could point them to God, and that was what she wanted all along.



Summer Magazine Deadline



All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering the **SUMMER** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 19th May. NO LATER.**

From the Editor

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.

Or you can view/download a PDF copy here: www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk/category/centre-magazine

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 5th May 2019	Avonbridge Care Home Monthly Service
Monday 6th May 2019	Centre Closed - May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8th May 2019	Kirk Session
Saturday 11th May 2019	Sing with Swing Choir
Sunday 12th May 2019	St John's Christian Aid Lunch
Sunday 12th May 2019	Give thanks for life service 3pm
Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th May 2019	Christian Aid Week
Tuesday 14th May 2019	Friendly Hour Outing
Thursday 16th May 2019	Hyzone AGM
Saturday 18th - Friday 24th May 2019	Church of Scotland General Assembly
Sunday 19th May 2019	Heart & Soul: Princes Street, Edinburgh 1pm
	Heart & Soul Swing Band: Ross Bandstand 3pm
Monday 20th May 2019	Beetle Drive 7-9pm
Monday 27th May 2019	Centre Closed - May Bank Holiday
Saturday 1st June 2019	Messy Church: Pentecost

General Assembly 2019

The General Assembly is a significant annual event in the Church of Scotland calendar. Throughout the week, commissioners to the General Assembly examine its work and laws and make decisions that affect the future of the Church.

People enjoy watching the proceedings for the passionate debates, special guests, festivities and large-scale worship.

The Assembly does not shy away from discussing the big political topics of the day. In recent years the Assembly has received national and international attention for debating Brexit, same-sex relationships, the war in Syria, and fossil fuel divestment.

The 2019 General Assembly will be held in the General Assembly Hall on the Mound in Edinburgh. It opens on Saturday 18 May and closes on Friday 24 May. The public gallery will be open for members of the public who wish to watch the Assembly.

All the sessions will be broadcast, live, from this webpage:

https://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/general_assembly/

Family Record

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

Mr D Wislon - Died 9th April 2019

Thank you

I would like to thank the congregation of St John's for the lovely flowers I received after being in hospital.

I would also like to thank Sunday Blast for my 'Thinking of you' card. It was beautifully done. It is so nice to belong to a church who cares about their congregation.

Thank you all again
Elizabeth Neilly

Sunday morning worship for all ages

On the Sundays in 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 Blast is on holiday as there is something for everyone in this format of worship.

Time to



Hyzone

The 13th Hyzone AGM will take place on Thursday 16th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Millennium Room St John's Church Centre. All are welcome to attend.

The accounts for the year ending on January 31st 2019 will be available at the meeting.

AGENDA

Sederunt

Welcome

Apologies

Approval of the Minute of the 12th AGM 3rd May 2018

Chairperson's report on the activities of Hyzone

Treasurer's Report: Approval of the Annual Accounts

Appointment of Auditors

Kenneth Johnstone, Hyzone Project Coordinator, Report

Membership of the Board

AOCB



Heart and Soul will return on Sunday 19th May in Princes Street Gardens from 1pm to closing worship at 5pm. It is a great day celebrating all that is good within the life and worship of the Church of Scotland. The Heart and Soul Swing band will be performing at the Ross Bandstand in the gardens at 3pm.

What's On at St. John's

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)

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week is running from **Sunday 12 May - Saturday 18 May 2019.**

There will be no door to door collection or street collections. Instead envelopes will be handed out at church on Sunday 12 May and can be returned via the offering plates, to the Church Office or handed to myself. Envelopes will also be left in the Forum.

We are looking for volunteers for the Saturday in the forum cafe and also for homebaking for the baking stall on the Saturday and volunteers to help with the baking stall.

There will also be the **Christian Aid lunch** on **Sunday 12 May** so we are looking for volunteers to make soup and help serve.

Thank you so much again for all your help. Christian Aid week would not happen without you.

Sheila Thomson

Give thanks for life Service

A service of thanksgiving for those who may be gone from our midst, but are never forgotten.

Following on from the Bereavement Service of previous years, "Give thanks for life!" is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost and whose memory and legacy most definitely lives on. If you want to give thanks for the influence someone has had on your life come and join us for this short worship event on **Sunday 12th May at 3pm.**

Hamilton Lifeboat Guild

We are holding an afternoon with tea/coffee and scones, cream and jam at St John's on Friday 10th May from 2-4pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from Janet Boyes, Janet Howson and Delia Hart. There will also be planters on sale. Join us and help raise money for the RNLI

Sing with Swing Choir



Heart & Soul
swing band

Following the success of Hamilton St John's 'Sing with the Swing Band' day in March we are delighted to be launching our 'Sing with Swing' choir. Our first meeting will take place on **Saturday 11th May 1.30-3.30pm.** Anyone who is interested is most welcome to come along.

Along with regional groups across the country our Hamilton group will be part of a Sing with Swing Choir learning some of the numbers performed by the Heart and Soul Swing Band (along with other songs) and joining them for some future performances. The Heart & Soul Swing Band, established in 2013, have currently raised over £24,000 for the Church of Scotland HIV programme.

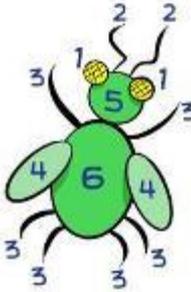


Messy Church is church with a difference! It is a place for children and their families to be creative, hear bible stories, celebrate and share a meal together. The activities are focussed for children in prams to P7 (but can be enjoyed by all). All children must come with an adult.

Join us for Messy Pentecost on Saturday 1st June from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

It would help with our planning if you can let us know if you are coming. Contact us at stjohnsmessy-church@gmail.com or via our Facebook page: Messy Church St John's Hamilton

Hamilton: St John's Parish Church



Beetle Drive

Monday 20th May 2019
7.00pm-9.00pm

Fun for all the family

Tea/

Hamilton: St John's Parish Church of Scotland, Registered Scottish Charity No SC008779

Tickets available from Janet Howson, David Austin or Christine McArthur

Age – Just a Number?

(Kenny Morrison)

- A recent article seemed to suggest old age starts at 74. But what are the signs?
Consider the following:
- When you bend down to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you can do while you're down there!
 - When you go upstairs to get something and wonder what it was you went upstairs for!
 - When it takes you twice as long to look half as good!
 - When new technology is way over your head!
 - When you still talk in imperial measurements rather than metric!
 - When you keep asking people what age you look!
 - When you talk mainly in the past tense rather than the present or future!
 - When even high court judges look young!
 - Finally, when you recall you used to visit hip joints and now you need them to get about!





Celebrate the sunshine this Summer with

Symphonic Wind Band

Stewarton Winds and Special Guests

Wednesday 5th June 2019

7.30pm

Sherbrooke Mosspark Parish Church

240 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow

G41 5AD

Tickets: £6 (£4 conc.) or 2 for £10. Free under 5yrs.

Purchase at door or online at

www.stewartonwinds.eventbrite.co.uk



Easter

Even though the cross had staunch'd His breath,
And the tomb had set its seal on brutal death,
Sins of men yet stung in wounds still fresh,
The word no longer dwelt with us as flesh –
Even these could not prolong that darkest night.
Resurrected life kindled the world alight.

Harry Hunter

Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

May

ANN AULD

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

June

ALEX MAGOWAN

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

Evening Services

May

- 5th Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 12th Anne Gillespie & Graeme Dodds
- 19th Heart & Soul - No Evening Service
- 26th Sandra Grey & Bill Anderson

June

- 2nd Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 9th Hughina Naylor & Gordon Rankin
- 16th Fiona Dodds & June Brown
- 23rd Mary Stark & Elizabeth Muir
- 30th Communion: Eliot & Mary Soutter

Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
8th May 2019	12th June 2019

Flower Rota

May

- 5th Mrs J Erret
- 12th Mrs E Hart
- 19th Mrs J Farrell
- 26th Mrs G King & Mrs P Hardie

June

- 2nd Mrs F Dodds
- 9th Mrs D Austin
- 16th Mrs A Noble
- 23rd Mrs E White
- 30th Mrs A McLuckie



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GIFT AID CONVENER

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FLOWER ROTA

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throughout the Centre.