

## Hamilton: St. John's Parish Church

Church of Scotland  
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC008779

[www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshamilton.org.uk)



stjohnschurchhamilton



# Centre

Dear Friends,

November 2018 was a significant time for so many. The centenary year of the armistice, we held our Remembrance Sunday service and remembered the lives lost from this congregation in the first and second world wars as they are named on our war memorials. Within that service we also asserted our hope for, and commitment to, a world that works towards peace, justice and understanding for and between all nations and people – a world that better reflects the kingdom we strive for in our worship and in our living.

In addition to some traditional ways of offering our remembrance we also had twenty nine transparent silhouettes sitting in the pews representing each of the twenty nine men named on our world war one memorial, who were once part of this congregation and who left for war but never returned. For those of you who were in that worshipping congregation on Remembrance Sunday last year, I'm sure you would agree that it was a sobering reality to see just how much space in the pews those twenty nine men had taken up. We had several brothers amongst the twenty nine who were seated together in the church, just as they would have been when they worshipped. Those brothers included the MacDonald brothers, Harry, William and Thomas who were placed side by side in the same pew. The Cameronians, Highland Light Infantry, Royal Irish Rifles, Lincolnshire Regiment, Seaforth Highlanders, Army Service Corps, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Gordon Highlanders, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Northumberland Fusiliers, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Royal Field Artillery, Manchester Regiment and Canadian Expeditionary Force all appear in the list of service of these twenty nine men. They had served in various ways and in many places. Those interred are mainly in Belgium and France with one interment in Iraq, one in Hamilton at the Bent Cemetery. Amongst the twenty nine lives there remain fourteen with no known grave.

The silhouettes we now possess to represent each of these men and each of their lives and sacrificial deaths were provided due to a project called 'There but not there'. This project, organised and run by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust, allowed those of us who signed up, to present the Trust with an idea of how they would be used in the communities where they would be placed. As a church community we worked towards the Remembrance Day service itself and invited relatives of those named on the war memorials to join us for the occasion but we also worked with schools and youth groups. St John's Primary and Woodside Primary Schools sent their primary 7 classes along to

# November 2019

the church and with the help of some members of the Hamilton Branch of the British Legion they were allowed a long look at the realities of war, of lives lost and the futility of such conflicts which have decimated communities throughout our history. The Branch chaplain, Rev John Thomson also came to speak to some of the children and I am hugely grateful to all those connected to the British Legion who contributed to making our installation of silhouettes far more than that for all who came to see it. They created an experience for these young people that affected them deeply. The boys' and girls' uniformed organisations that meet in the church also came along on their meeting nights and I talked about the young men who had once been so much part of the community within St John's, and also beyond its walls in the town of Hamilton. Many of the men named on our war memorials are also named on other war memorials in the town due to the schools they attended, the employment they were in or the regiments they served, so this year I would like to take the project a step further.

The men who were once part of our worshipping community have also been part of other communities and so are named on war memorials and have connections to other places, including; the Post Office, Hamilton Grammar School, the Masonic Lodge, Kilwinning No 7, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Strathaven War Memorial, the Cameronian Museum and the University of Glasgow. This year I hope to be able to have at least some of our silhouettes displayed in some of these locations. Hamilton Grammar School and the University of Glasgow are already keen to be involved in telling the stories of these men whose lives were so tragically cut short by the horrors of war.

As we continue to take seriously our commitment to the creation of a world with peace and justice as its goals we must never falter in our efforts to remember the lives that bought the freedoms we already enjoy. I hope you can find your ways to make your remembrance this year – lest we forget.

with love and best wishes  
Joanne

## **Session News November 2019**

Since last month we've had the results from the heating consultant and the Kirk Session has agreed on the implementation plan for works, so we hope to be getting the works undertaken soon. In the meantime, the temporary mobile heaters are hopefully giving a bit of respite.

I've just finished completing a survey on behalf of the Kirk Session for the General Trustees that is about "Well equipped spaces in the right places". This is looking in detail at how the Church of Scotland (overall) thinks about, plans, maintains and builds its estate. There is a big recognition around the challenges that both congregations and presbyteries face in getting volunteers with sufficient background knowledge and experience to be able to effectively manage and maintain the property of the church. Our modern manse and our upgrading work to both the Sanctuary and Centre mean we are in a pretty good place relative to many congregations, but it's an ongoing task as our heating issues show only too well.

Our Local Church Review documentation is now with Presbytery, and we will now work with the team there to test and finalise our plans.

Graeme Dodds  
Session Clerk



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 1st November	Drama Kirk: "Whose Word is it Anyway?" - An evening of bible-inspired improvisational comedy. Hamilton Old Parish Church 7pm
Sunday 3rd November	Avonbridge Monthly Service; 2pm Festival of Remembrance: Hamilton Town House, 5pm, Tickets £2
Monday 4th November	Guild: Mr Kevin Smith: Nostalgia 7.30pm
Tuesday 5th November	Friendly Hour: St John's P.S. Concert, 1.30pm
Saturday 9th November	Sing with Swing Choir: 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 12th November	Friendly Hour: Guide Dogs, 1.30pm Kirk Session Safeguard Training; Uddingston Burnhead 7-9pm (see Ann Auld for details) S.A.L.T. 7.30pm
Wednesday 13th November	Kirk Session Meeting 7.30pm
Sunday 17th November	Centre Magazine Deadline Operation Christmas Child - shoeboxes collected
Monday 18th November	Guild: Hamilton Perfumery, 7.30pm
Tuesday 19th November	Friendly Hour: Outing - Livingston Outlet
Saturday 23rd November	Sing with Swing Choir: 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 26th November	Friendly Hour: Prayer Shawl, 1.30pm S.A.L.T. 7.30pm
Wednesday 27th November	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting 9.30am
Sunday 1st December	Advent Sunday Communion Service Elders to collect Senior Members parcels Avonbridge Monthly Service; 2pm World Aids Day Concert 7.30pm at St John's Church Includes performances from Woodside Big Singing
Monday 2nd December	Guild: Hamilton Grammar School Concert, 7.30pm
Tuesday 3rd December	Friendly Hour: Festive Treat Concert, 1.30pm
Wednesday 4th December	Hamilton South Guilds Together Carol Concert, 1.30pm
Saturday 7th December	Guild Coffee Morning, 10am Drama Kirk: Nativity Play as part of Hamilton's Reindeer Parade, 12.30pm Sing with Swing Choir: 1.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 10th December	Friendly Hour; Christmas Carols, 1.30pm (last friendly hour until New Year)
Monday 16th December	Guild: Christmas Story - Carols, Quiz & Mince Pie, 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th December	Probus Club: 9.30am, Clyde Room
Friday 20th December	Centre Closes at 4pm for Christmas/New Year
Monday 6th January 2020	Centre Reopens

## Centre Magazine

Currently the Centre Magazine is distributed mainly via a network of volunteers, with some people opting to collect their own copy from the Church or Forum Café. The distribution of the magazines is a huge job and we are very grateful to all the individuals involved in this task. However, an increasing number of magazines are now having to be posted due to a lack of people able to take on this task.

In an effort to reduce the number of magazines we are posting and to encourage a more Eco-friendly approach to the magazine, an electronic pdf copy of the Centre Magazine is now available and can be emailed out to individuals in place of a paper copy of the magazine. If you wish to embrace this 'eco' option and receive future copies of the Centre magazine by email please contact Claire (office@stohnshamilton.org.uk) and provide her with your email address.



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 our next Messy Churches:

**Messy Christmas - Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am – 12.30pm.**

It would help with our planning if you can let us know if you are coming. Contact us at [stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmessychurch@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page: Messy Church St John's Hamilton

## Pastoral Care Committee

Would the Pastoral Care Committee please meet in the Millennium Room at **9.30am on Wednesday, 27th November**, to prepare the parcels for the Elders to distribute to the Senior Members?

The Elders have to pick the parcels up from the office, on **Sunday, 1st December**, after the morning Communion Service.

Last year, it proved to be a very successful way of distributing the parcels and resulted in additional people being added to the list.

Mary Stark

## CrossReach

CrossReach calendars are now ready for collection. Ordered calendars will be available from Marion Baird in the Forum after the Church service on Sunday 3rd, 10th and 17th November.

# 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 22nd September and each Sunday thereafter at a cost of 50p. The filled boxes will be collected after the service on 17th 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, bar of wrapped soap, comb, hairbrush, flannel.

**Other items,** hat, cap, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, wind up torch, jewellery set.

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Toothpaste, used or damaged items, war related items i.e. toy guns, play soldiers, knives, chocolate, sweets 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: due to import regulations, toothpaste and sweets can no longer be included in shoeboxes**



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: 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 November/December 2019

<b>November 4th</b>	Mr Kevin Smith: Nostalgia
<b>November 11th</b>	<b>Monday 1pm:</b> Guild Committee meeting
<b>November 18th</b>	Visit from Hamilton Perfumery: Mrs L Hamilton
<b>December 2nd</b>	Invitation to Fellowship: Hamilton Grammar School Pupils
<b>December 4th</b>	<b>Wednesday 1.30pm</b> Hamilton South Guilds Together Carol Service
<b>December 7th</b>	<b>Saturday 10am:</b> Annual Coffee Morning
<b>December 16th</b>	Christmas Story: Carols, Quiz and Mince Pies

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

Nan Law

## Friendly Hour: Tuesday 1.30pm; Centenary Hall

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/December 2019

<b>November 5th</b>	St John's Primary School
<b>November 12th</b>	Guide Dogs
<b>November 19th</b>	Outing: Livingston
<b>November 26th</b>	Prayer Shawl
<b>December 3rd</b>	Festive Treat: Concert
<b>December 10th</b>	Christmas Carols: Rev Joanne Hood

Sandra Bett

## Hamilton & District Probus Club: 3rd Wednesday 9.30am; Clyde Rm

The Probus is a local, National and International association of retired or semi-retired people from all walks of life. The club 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September to April except October when we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 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, Alex Magowan, Bill Murray or any of the committee who are members from St John's or just come along, you will be made most welcome.

Bill Murray

## Bible Study Group: Thursday 10.30am; Youth Room

This group meets weekly. Please come along and join us.



## **Midweek Service: Thursday 12.15pm; Church Sanctuary**

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.

## **S.A.L.T.: second and last Tuesday; 7.30pm; Millennium Room**

For this 2019/2020 session of the SALT group we will be exploring another new way of sharing our insights on bible passages with one another. This is a missional practice called Dwelling in the Word. More information is available in the leaflets available at the Church doors and in the Forum Café.

I would commend this practice and these meetings of the SALT group in 2019/20 to you all. Whether you usually attend the SALT group, the Thursday morning group, the Coffee, Cake and Colouring group, the Kirk Session as an ordained Elder, or none of the above I think this is something that is worth us exploring together. No-one begins with more experience than another. No responses are incorrect and together we just might learn more about each other, more about God and more about being a missional church seeking to listen for God's word to us today.

Joanne

## **30th Lanarkshire Scouting: Tuesday**

For this vibrant scout group to run efficiently we need to have enthusiastic committed leaders. Anyone who thinks that they could give some time to the Group would be made most welcome.

We are also looking for people, not necessarily with any current connection to the group to sit on the Group Executive Committee to help with the overall running of the group including fundraising when required. This is not an arduous task, the Executive meet approximately 3 to 4 times a year. Tea and coffee are provided.

## **Brownies: Thursday**

If you know of any girl aged 7-9 who wishes to be a Brownie or who will be 7 soon and wants to join our waiting list please contact Unit Leader Lesley Auld



## **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.

They have an interesting programme of guest speakers this year with varied topics including the enduring appeal of the tenement building, the railway network, the diversity of Dalmatian history and culture, postcards of old Uddingston, places and buildings in Glasgow from a photographer's perspective and how St Mary's Catholic Church in Hamilton was established.

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](http://hamiltoncivicsociety.co.uk)

# St John's Bowlers

Bowling season 2019 saw success for two of St. Johns lady bowlers.

The first photo is of June Brown being presented with the County Cup. Alongside June is Irene Gray and Margaret Taylor quite an achievement for the team.



The second photo is of Jeanette Wilson being presented with the Non Prize Winners Trophy all the lady members from St John's attended the final to support Jeanette, it was fantastic to see her win.

I am sure we are all looking forward to next season.

Elizabeth Gordon

## Teen Corner:

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do

Steve Jobs

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Handwritten text on a pink background: "It doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful."

For the older members of Sunday Blast:

If there's anything you would like to see in print; inspirational or humorous memes or interesting articles you'd like to share, email them to the office - [office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshamilton.org.uk)

# Harvest Appeal 2019

The total sum raised, inclusive of estimated gift aid, was £3,572 - a marvellous figure once again! Very many thanks to all who contributed. Donations totalled £2,968.25 (£2,415 being gift aided; £315 being non-gift aided and £238.25 coming from the 'children's buckets'), with the gift aid claim amounting to £603.75.

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 £1,786.

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.



Eliot Soutter



## ACTION CALENDAR: NEW THINGS NOVEMBER 2019



MONDAY



4 Today meet someone new and learn something about them

11 Be curious. Find out about three new topics or ideas

18 Join a new online community on a topic that interests you

25 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

TUESDAY

"You never know what you can do until you try" ~ C. S. Lewis

5 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

12 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

19 Say hello to someone you see regularly but don't normally talk to

26 Today wear something unusual and enjoy looking different

WEDNESDAY

6 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

13 Be creative today - cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

20 Sign up to join a new course, activity or evening class

27 Tune in to a different radio station or TV channel to normal

THURSDAY



7 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

14 Tell a friend about something helpful you learned recently

21 Learn to say a word or phrase in three different languages

28 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it

FRIDAY

1 Make a list of new things you want to try out this month

8 Today connect with someone from a different generation

15 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

22 Choose to do something out of your normal comfort zone

29 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

SATURDAY

2 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

9 Teach yourself a new skill. Origami? First aid? Meditation?

16 Learn a new skill from a friend and teach them one of yours

23 Go outside and do something playful - walk, run, explore, relax

30 Set aside a regular time to pursue a new hobby

SUNDAY

3 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

10 Get out into nature and observe the changing season

17 Visit a local place of interest that you've not been to before

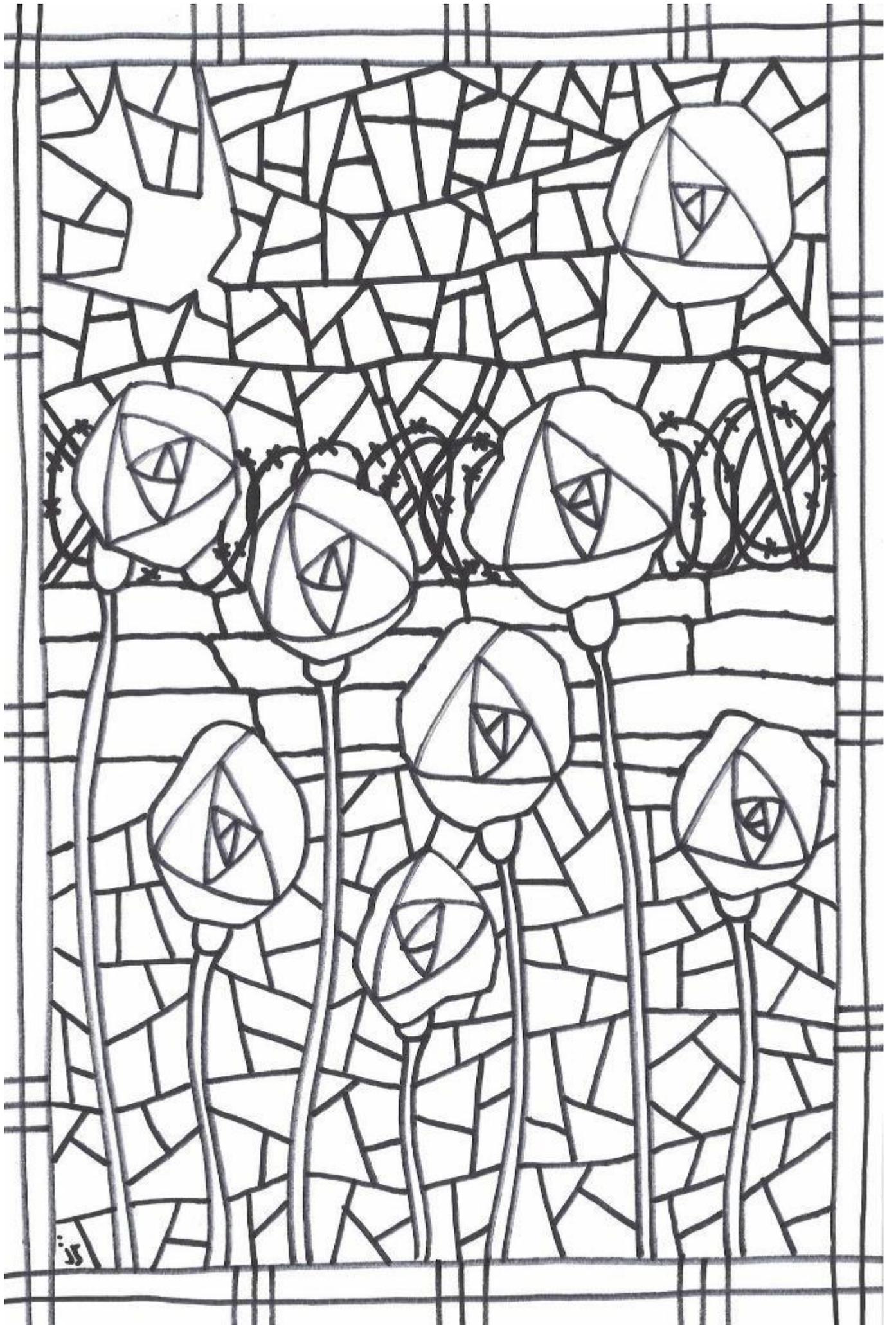
24 Discover your artistic side. Design your own Christmas cards!

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Find out more about the Ten Keys to Happier Living, including books, guides, posters and more here: [www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys)



# Thank You

## Joe Rankin

Just a note to thank everybody at St. John's for their kind words and support following the death of Dad.

It was good to know that he had so many friends.

Thanks especially to The Pastoral Care Team and the members of the numerous bodies in which he was involved as they visited and constantly enquired into his wellbeing.

A special thanks to Rev. Joanne Hood, who was a constant source of comfort and who made Dads funeral service a true celebration of his life.

It is good to know that St. John's is blessed with so many kind and caring people in their congregation.

Gordon and Margaret Rankin

My many thanks to everyone for the lovely cards, letters, hospital visits, home visits and the beautiful Church flowers and of course the many flower arrangements that were delivered to my home.

I think the Hamilton florists know my address off by heart!

My treatment is ongoing and with all the prayers that are being said for me and my family we will be fine.

Thank you all so very much for your kind wishes.

Emily Ferguson

## December/January Magazine Deadline



All material for the next issue of the Centre magazine covering the **DECEMBER/ JANUARY** must to be with the Editor by **Sunday, 17th 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 a pdf copy can be emailed to you -- contact Claire at the office if you wish to receive an electronic copy.

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

## Family Record

### **Baptism**

Jack Burns Cannell - Baptised 27th October 2019

## Office Bearers Sunday Duties

Welcoming you at the Church door at morning services:

### November

**ALEX MAGOWAN**  
 JANET BOYES  
 GEORGE DUNCANSON  
 DELIA HART  
 DENNIS HART  
 COLIN MACLEOD  
 GEORGE SPENCE  
 KATRINA SPENCE

### December

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

## Evening Services

### November

- 3rd Evening Service at Hamilton: South
- 10th Paul Flarry & Lesley Auld
- 17th Jack MacIntyre & Ann Auld
- 24th Hughina Naylor & Gordon Rankin

### December

- 1st Communion: Anne Gillespie & Graeme Dodds
- 8th Sandra Grey & Bill Anderson
- 15th Alex Magowan & Liz Magowan
- 22nd Fiona Dodds & June Brown
- 29th No Evening Service

If you are unable to attend for your Welcome Team duty please arrange a replacement.

## Meetings

Kirk Session	Team Meetings
13th November	11th December

## Flower Rota

### November

- 3rd Morag Ireland & Andrea Grant
- 10th Remembrance: Miss M Clelland
- 17th Mrs W Howson
- 24th Mrs J Fleming

### December

- 1st Mrs T Boyes
- 8th Mrs H Hunter
- 15th Mrs L Hamilton
- 22nd Mrs J Ferguson & Mr D Williamson
- 29th Friendly Hour



## ST. JOHN'S DIRECTORY

### MINISTER

Rev Joanne Hood  
 9 Shearer Avenue, Ferniegair  
 Tel 425002 -e-mail:  
[minister@stjohnshamilton.org.uk](mailto:minister@stjohnshamilton.org.uk)

### SESSION CLERK

Graeme Dodds

### HALLS BOOKINGS

Robin Douglas

### ORGANIST

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### FWO CONVENER

Ian MacGregor

### TREASURER

Eliot Soutter

### CENTRE FINANCE

Bill Anderson

### GIFT AID CONVENER

Claire Thom

### FLOWER ROTA

Contact St John's Office  
 Tel: 01698 286868

### PROPERTY CONVENER

Bill Howson

### CARETAKER

Stuart Gibson Cleaning Services  
 Tel 07971155935

### WEBMASTER

Walter Gray

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Now available throughout the Centre.