

# Holytown Parish Church

260 Edinburgh Road, Holytown, ML1 5RU : 01698 832622

## A Note from the Minister...

*Caryl Kyle*

Do you remember the childhood game called 'See who breaks the sugar bowl?'

I certainly do and I recall many a car trip to my Granma's in Morecambe being passed with my brothers and I playing that game. I also recall the determination we each had not to be the one who spoke first!

It is only in later life that you realise it was a game purely devised by adults or our parents to try and get a little peace and quiet on a long trip!

It did work though and I know I have used the same game with my own grandchildren at times on long car trips!

However, it struck me that this kind of game might indeed be a good way of trying to get some silence into our lives for it seems to me that in our world today times of complete silence are getting so difficult to find and yet we do need them for a whole host of reasons - not least for our own well-being.

It is rarely quiet at the manse with all the lorries going by the front door day and night but the other evening on arriving back to the manse from some visits it so happened that it was quite quiet for a change and how wonderful it was to be able to hear in that quiet the blackbird which lives in the front garden singing away and as I stood and listened the beauty of his song was absolutely amazing - it touched my soul!

Likewise I came out of the door of our flat in Largs last week early in the morning and in the quiet of the day I was totally mesmerised by the bleating of the lambs in the farmer's field next to us - it was a joyous sound to hear them and it lifted my heart for the rest of the day!

Had it not been quiet - almost silent - I am sure I would have missed these blessings to my ears and the joy it brought to my being.

Silence is so important, never empty - for when we stop and listen it is always full of answers and actually we should learn to listen more to the silence for it always has much to say - it is as if silence speaks when words can't!

I think this was brought home to me quite profoundly recently on Holy Saturday or Low Saturday.

On Good Friday we had very movingly placed flowers and fragrant herbs on the cross before then wrapping the cross, which was lying on the chancel steps, at the end of our Good Friday Service before leaving in silence.

On Holy Saturday I returned to the church late at night to remove the black cloths, re-dress the church for worship the next day and unwrap the cross for Easter morning.

When I went into the church it was silent, dark, and the cross stood out against the darkness lying as it was on the chancel steps wrapped in its grave clothes, to me it seemed just like Christ's body wrapped and lying there on the steps as it would have been in the tomb on Holy Saturday.

I sat for a long time in the half-light, in the silence, listening to my own heartbeat, my gaze never moving from the cross, my nostrils very aware of the scent of the flowers and fragrant herbs.

I think in that moment of silence as I gazed at that cross and smelt the herbs, and found myself becoming deeply emotional, I truly understood to the very depth of my soul the anguish of the crucifixion.

I knew I had to unwrap the cross for the next morning but it was as if my limbs would just not move forward to do so, I just couldn't bring myself to unwrap that cross.

Eventually I did rise from my seat and in silence I began to take down the black cloths my gaze ever returning to the cross. I re-dressed the church but still I could not will myself to unwrap the cross.

As I sat gazing at the cross once more the silence of the church was broken by a knock on the door of the church and thankfully Graham appeared. As if sensing that it would be emotional and difficult for me to unwrap that cross he came over and together with great emotion and in deep silence we finally unwrapped the cross and placed it in the garden for Easter morning.

The silence that night was profound, it was deeply emotional, but for me it was not empty, it was full of answers, it was full of understanding, it was soul touching, it was a meaningful silence which is always better than meaningless words.

That silence was a gift and silence always is a gift.

What we must learn to do is make time for silence - not to be afraid of silence - we must learn to value its very essence for then silence can truly touch our hearts and our minds and the very depth of our souls.

May you, in your life, find times of silence or make time for silence that you may come to learn to value it and learn from its very essence - it can be a very profound feeling.

Blessings

Caryl

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You are invited to share in Communion  
on Sunday 2nd June 2019  
Holytown Parish Church at 10am



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## Summer Worship

Our Joint Summer Worship Services begin on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

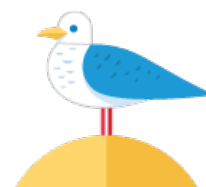
This year we are worshipping in Holytown during the month of July, so 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July are in Holytown.

We then move to Wrangholm during August, so 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August are in Wrangholm.

All services will commence at 10.30am as in previous years and the last Sunday of August – the 25<sup>th</sup> - will be our usual 'Songs of Praise' worship where you share your hymn choices and why they are special to you. Everyone always agrees it is always a wonderful service.

So do come each week and share in worship and fellowship together – for as some would say:

A Sunday without worship is a day wasted!!



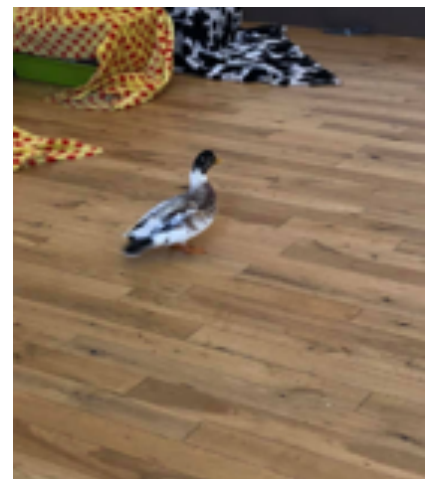
## 1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

*Linda Baillie*

The Girls' Brigade had their annual display night on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May and it was fantastic to see such a big turnout of families and friends to support the girls and celebrate their achievements. All girls have worked so hard this year to gain their badges.



As an end of year treat, the girls enjoyed a visit from Animal Man's Mini Zoo. Tom brought along a rat, a duck, a chicken, a snake, a bearded dragon and many other animals. The girls and officers had a fantastic evening and lots of us got to touch the animals. One of the officers even had the snake on her head!!





## 1st Holytown Boys' Brigade

*Glen Baillie*

Well done to all main prize winners and to all the boys for another great session!

The next session will start back on the first Monday in September - we look forward to seeing you all back at the start of the new session.



Here are some pictures from our end of session visit to Millport where the boys enjoyed sunshine, cycling and chips back in Largs.



## The Guild

*Christine Duns*

The Guild Committee met on Wednesday 8th May and we planned our syllabus for the forthcoming season. Watch this space, we will keep you posted!

We would also like to say a big thank you to Lucy for all her commitment and hard work put into the magazine and wish her and the family all the best when the new baby arrives.

## Spring Fayre

*Isa Hinshelwood*

Thanks to all involved in the Spring Fayre – The Minister, the Rev Caryl Kyle, Councillor Frank McNally, the Committee and in particular, Linda Baillie for all her help, Syd McCartney (Treasurer), Bill Jenkins for taking pictures and all the stall holders. To everyone who gave donations for the stalls and all who gave cash donations. All the ladies who worked in the tea room. The tea, coffee and home baking was very much appreciated. Last, but by no means least, to all who came along and supported the Spring Fayre 2019. **The sum raised to date is £2,440.**

Thank you all once again.

*Susan Reid*

I'd like to thank everyone that contributed their time, talents and donations to the Spring Fayre.

A special thanks to the ladies that manned the Cake and Candy stall, Freda, Karen and Mary, that I was supposed to be in charge of. A very special thanks goes to Mary's granddaughter Evie. She may have been the smallest person there (makes a change for me to say that!!) but she had great powers of persuasion - offering a free tasting sample (mainly to the customers although there may have some personal tasting for quality purposes involved) and the occasional threat of the sack (to me in particular for not selling enough). It worked wonders and it wasn't long before all the tempting treats were gone. Thanks again to all who helped and Evie I hope you're on Cake and Candy next time!

## Sunday Readers

June 2nd	Glen Baillie
June 9th	Betty Reid
June 16th	Graham Kyle
June 23rd	David Paterson
June 30th	Jim Smith
July 7th	Kirsty Shaw
July 14th	Ian Houston
July 21st	David Shaw
July 28th	Una Smith
August 4th	Paula Speirs
August 11th	Glen Baillie
August 18th	Betty Reid
August 25th	Graham Kyle

## Flower List

June 2nd	C Boyd
June 9th	A Smith
June 16th	N McPherson
June 23rd	A Ferguson
June 30th	J Hutchison
July 7th	D Paterson
July 14th	C Menzies
July 21st	I McNally
July 28th	I Gilchrist

## Friends of Holytown

*May McNeil*

We are continuing our efforts with the Smartie tubes. Please feel free to uplift your smartie tube(s) from the vestibule of the Church and return it when you can.

Balance @ 12 May 2019	£6,800.00
Paid in February 6th	70.00
Paid in March 13 <sup>th</sup>	70.00
Paid in May 1 <sup>st</sup>	140.00
Total	<u>£7,080.00</u>

## Thank You!

*This is your space in the magazine to send a special thank you!*

Betty Reid would like to thank Mrs Mary Wright and Mrs Elsie Baillie for the lovely flowers she received from the Church.

As you may know this will be the last edition of the Newsletter which Lucy will oversee as Editor.

I am sure we would all want to say a huge thank you to Lucy for all her hard work bringing the Newsletter together each time and for refreshing the format of the Newsletter so beautifully. Many have commented that it has been a joy to read and an easy read too due to the change of format and the larger print.

So on behalf of us all 'Thank You' Lucy for all you have done, we wish you well!

Blessings on you and the family - and the family to come soon!

*Caryl*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for having me as the Editor of the Church Magazine for the past two years - it has been a pleasure. Thank you for all the lovely comments I have received and to everyone who has contributed in one way or another. As I have said before, this really is *your* magazine and its success is down to those who take the time to contribute.

I am sure that you will show May McNeil the same support when she takes over the role and I have every confidence she will do a fantastic job!

*Lucy Reid*





## Leading Worship Course

*Stewart McNeil*

You will recall that not so long ago, I reported that I had successfully completed this training course that was offered by presbytery and I thank you once again for the support and encouragement that you all gave me. Well, I received notice that everyone that had completed the course was to receive their certificates at the May meeting of presbytery in Dalziel St Andrews Church in Motherwell, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm. We were told that our partners could also attend the meeting to see us getting our certificates and that the presentations would be at the beginning of the meeting and that we would all be able to leave after this item of business.

One of my friends on the course was Jim, the session clerk from Uddingston Old and his wife, Fiona, attended along with May. When we arrived, all those to receive certificates were seated at the front in alphabetical order and May and Fiona were seated right at the back of the church. We watched Linda Walker who took the course talking to various folks that were present then she came back to us saying 'I've got a wee bit of bad news'. We were wondering what form this 'bad news' could take when she went on to explain that our presentation was no longer going to be at the beginning of the meeting, it was now item 8 on an already lengthy agenda. May and Fiona having already taken their seats at the back of the church, there was no way of communicating this piece of news to them. I didn't know about Jim, but this change on plan worried me! In between the various agenda items, I couldn't help but think that in some way, from May and Fiona's point of view, this change of plan could be attributed to Jim and I and there might well be consequences.

To cut a long story short, our presentation eventually took place two hours and fifteen minutes later and it took, in total, including the photograph, about four minutes. I'll spare you the details of the verbal exchanges/accusations/observations that took place thereafter. Suffice to say our hearts go out to Caryl who attends all of these meetings, Jim Smith who has been our presbytery elder for a number of years and Graham who is our current presbytery elder.

Stewart (still in the dog house!)

p.s. Congratulations and well done to Jenny Rankin from Wrangholm who also received her certificate at the same time.

## National Youth Assembly

The National Youth Assembly is a platform for young adults aged between 17-25 to voice their opinions and actively participate in decision making within the Church of Scotland. It is also a place where young people can connect with other Christians, share experiences and learn about living in the way of Christ.

This year's discussion topics will be Hate Speech, Missional Buildings and Testimony and Confirmation. Alongside these topics there will be workshops on a variety of topics, worship, social events and a visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly - all very exciting!

Dates: 5pm on Friday 16th August to 5pm on Monday 19th August 2019

Venue: Gartmore House, Stirlingshire

Cost: £95 per person for food and accommodation, £55 if from a priority area church or an island requiring air travel, £75 if invited to be on our volunteer team. Travel: Free coach travel to/from Stirling will be provided.'

If you are interested in this or if you know of anyone that may be, please speak to the minister or the clerk.

## Aspirations for Ministry with Children and Young People

The next workshop to explore our Aspirations for Ministry with Children and Young People, will be held on Thursday 13th June at 7pm, in Mossneuk Parish Church.

During the first workshop we looked at “Faith Formation” and “Community of Faith”, and on the 13th June, we will delve into the sections that look at “Body of Christ” and “Service and Justice”

The first session was a great success and participants enjoyed the opportunity to discuss and learn from other congregations and commented that the session helped bring the book to life.

Please sign up via Eventbrite [aspirationsforministry.eventbrite.co.uk](https://aspirationsforministry.eventbrite.co.uk) or by e-mailing [hamiltoncyw@outlook.com](mailto:hamiltoncyw@outlook.com)

## Shop Online to Support the Church

As you may know we are raising funds to renovate the toilet in the Church and make it suitable for people with disabilities. We are hoping to receive donations through purchases made online by families and friends of the Congregation so spread the word!

Do you shop online with Amazon, Ebay, Argos, M&S, John Lewis Clarks, GAP, Next, Debenhams, Booking.com, Thomas Cook, Expedia, Aviva, AA, RAC, ASDA, TESCO, Morrisons, Sainsbury etc? These are just a few examples of companies that will donate to good causes. There are over 3,600 companies to choose from.

Just log on to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) then select your good cause which is Holytown Parish Church.

Then go to your preferred retailer, for example if you select Amazon this will take you to the Amazon website where you can shop and pay as normal.

Amazon will donate direct to our bank account through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) and all of this at no extra cost to you.

What could be easier? Happy shopping!!

## CrossReach @ 150

This year marks 150 years of the Church of Scotland providing social care in Scotland. Celebrations will be launched this month at Heart and Soul 2019 where the 150th anniversary exhibition will be debuted and on display at St Cuthbert’s Church of Scotland. Join CrossReach in thanks and celebration with more opportunities to get involved being promoted throughout 2019.

# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in



## Parish Register

### Funerals

2019  
March

Mary Richardson  
Grace Cameron

April

Margaret Wharrie

May

James Allen

### Baptisms

2019  
March

Nicholas William Mollon

April

Evie Jessica Lewis

### Weddings

2019  
March

Darren Hotchkiss and Amanda Steven



## Financial report as at 30/04/19

### General Income

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Freewill offering	4669.50	5156.50
Plate	2242.20	1750.77
Standing Orders	3360.00	3665.00
Hall lets	1572.00	1282.00
Funerals/Weddings	435.00	460.00
Donations	280.00	100.00
Magazines	120.00	130.00
Wrangholm Linkage	621.25	722.82
Day of Giving	100.00	0.00
Spring Fayre	2417.00	2613.19
Retiring Offering	185.80	0.00
<u>Total General income</u>	<u>£ 16002.75</u>	<u>£ 15880.28</u>

<u>Fabric Fund</u>	<u>£ 107.58</u>	<u>£ 213.30</u>
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<u>Total Income</u>	<u>£16110.33</u>	<u>£ 16093.58</u>
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### General Expenditure

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Ministries & Mission	9234.00	9339.60
Presbytery dues	863.00	794.00
Insurance	1400.48	1435.80
Minister's expenses	255.99	223.56
Pulpit supply	330.00	170.00
Electricity	483.53	285.00
Gas	1517.20	2193.02
Telephone	190.66	255.52
Broadband	478.56	456.96
Council Tax	352.75	345.32
Organ Maintenance/organist fees	162.00	410.00
Paper/Toner/Copier Maintenance	117.79	317.89
Life & Work Magazines	127.40	136.50
Baptism Certificates	17.97	5.99
Auditors fee	100.00	0.00
Garden Maintenance	0.00	600.00
Spill the Beans	0.00	20.00
Wrangholm transfer	0.00	60.00
<u>Total General expenditure</u>	<u>£ 15631.33</u>	<u>£17049.16</u>

[Cont'd...]

Fabric Fund

Fire Extinguisher service/ repairs	406.80	251.70
Fire Alarm/Smoke detector service	0.00	615.24
Asbestos survey	0.00	436.80
Gutters/drainpipes cleaned	80.00	0.00
<u>Total Fabric expenditure</u>	<u>£ 486.80</u>	<u>£1303.74</u>

Total Expenditure	<u>£16118.13</u>	<u>£18352.90</u>
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Investors Trust Funds

Balances as at December 2018 are as follows:

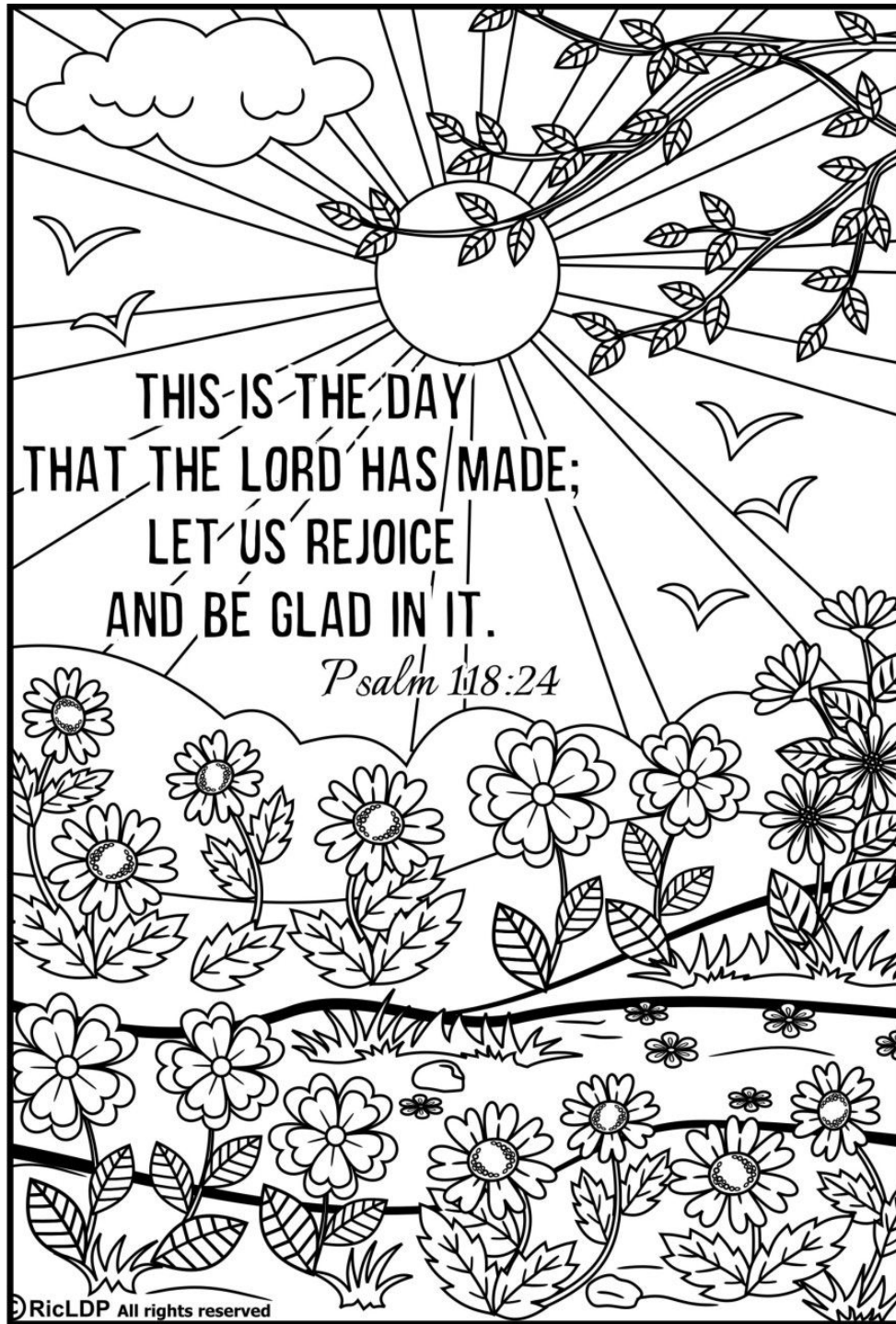
General Fund	£12968.99
Reserve Fund	£8238.90
Legacy Fund	£828.94
Sunday School	£436.24
Boys Brigade	£1080.41

Comments

An approved copy of the 2018 Accounts has been returned to us by Hamilton Presbytery. This will allow us to submit them to OSCR ( Scottish Charities Regulator). Deadline for completing this task is September 2019.

Gift Aid claim for tax period April 2018 to March 2019 will be completed and submitted during May 2019.

# Children's Corner



# Lord's Prayer Maze

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done...

