

# Holytown Parish Church



June 2016

Dear Friends,

It seems that almost every letter, pamphlet, charity newsletter or charity appeal that has come through the door of the manse in recent weeks have highlighted the theme of Transformation.

Transformation of buildings - such as the proposed redevelopment of our local Hospice to bring it up to modern day standards and in so doing allow more people to be cared for within the St Andrew's Hospice.

Transformation of whole communities - enabled by people working for charities such as Christian Aid or Water Aid who by working in local contexts seek to transform communities in simple ways.

Transformation of lives - by those such as the Bethany Trust who enable lives to be transformed through their volunteers, their recovery programs and even through play therapy; or indeed by groups such as the Scottish Bible Society who transform lives by bringing the good news to people who desperately seek to hear it.

Realistically, all transformation requires change of some sort and so often it seems that the block to any sort of transformation can be a real reluctance to embrace even a small amount of change.

We all know change is never easy!

We may have to leave behind some of what we find comfortable - some of what we know so well - some of our own particular ways of doing things and that can make us selfishly

cling on to all that is familiar to us.

Sometimes though in doing that we can be blocking the work of the Spirit and actually hindering God's work of transformation in our lives, our communities and our world and that is a great pity.

As I write this Pentecost approaches - the day we celebrate the birthday of the church - the day we remember the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It certainly brought about great transformation that day! Not just an emboldening of the disciples to actually leave their hiding place and go out and spread the good news but also in the emboldening of all of us even today that we too might be transformed and get out and about doing God's work and transforming his world too!

You know we should not fear change - for the Spirit is always within us and always around us in others - swirling all through God's world and God's people and the Spirit will always be there to help us through any times of change required or times of transformation.

So when the need to embrace change arises in order to bring about transformations why not do as the chorus says and 'Be Bold, Be Strong for the Lord your God is with you' - always!

Blessings  
Caryl

*The dictionary is the only place where you can find success before work.*

*Anonymous*

Hopefully you will embrace this change and hopefully with your help our Magazine will develop into a real fellowship publication!

Caryl

## **LAWRIE HANCOCK - AN APPRECIATION**

Due to health problems it is quite some time since Lawrie Hancock has been able to attend church services.

Lawrie was ordained as an elder in 1969 - approximately 47 years ago. For quite a long time he was our most senior elder.

Whenever a need for help arose Lawrie was always willing to offer his services. This help was given without any fuss.

From 1980 to 1991 Lawrie was Treasurer. In that position all that he did was carried out meticulously and with great attention to detail. For years he never missed a single service, morning and evening. For years too he never even went on holiday. This was a mark of his devotion to duty.

Lawrie was a "Yorkshire lad". He had a keen sense of humour which we all enjoyed. We are glad to have known him. Lawrie will be remembered with much affection and pleasure. To his family we offer our prayers and remember them as they mourn his passing.

*Man can no more organise revival than he can dictate to the wind.*



You may have noticed from our front cover that we have begun to make changes to our Magazine.

Even the Magazine is being transformed!

Having discussed the Magazine and its format and content for some time now the Kirk Session decided that it may be better to issue the Magazine quarterly with the hope that there might be, from all of you - for we would indeed like more contributors - more content regarding church news, perhaps church family news, your views and any community news you would wish to share and so on being included for people to read.

So our Magazine is a work in progress and will develop over the months that lie ahead.

As there is no longer a requirement for us as a church to note those who do or do not come to share in the Lord's Supper there is now no longer any real need for the use of Communion Cards.

I know some of you may miss your Communion Card but in effect because your elder will be visiting with you each quarter - two weeks before Communion - and bringing your Magazine to you at that time it will in effect become your 'Invitation to Communion' and there will always be an 'Invitation Picture' on the cover to remind you.

Communion will as always continue to be celebrated on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December - so there are no changes there!

## FLOWER LIST

June 5	Cathie Docherty
12	Alice Smith
19	Betty Meechan
26	Agnes Ferguson
July	Worship in Wrangholm Kirk, New Stevenston
Aug 7	B Jenkins
14	D Paterson
21	M McPherson
28	J Shaw
Sept 4	Betty Meechan

## A HUGE 'THANK YOU' - MAGAZINE LADIES

Welcome to our new Quarterly Magazine which is your invitation to Communion. It will be delivered to you by your elder. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who delivered the magazines faithfully every month in all weathers; namely: Ann Baillie, Elsie Baillie, Christine Bell, Morag Bell, Cathie Davidson, Meta Frazer, Liz Forbes, Jean Henderson, Lizzie Hodge, Nan McGlone, Jessie Millar, Marlene Milton, Christine Menzies, Susan Reid and Alice Smith. Some of these ladies have delivered the magazines for over thirty years, some over forty years.

We have been made redundant, ladies, (no redundancy money). In all sincerity a big 'thank you; to you all. Sit back and enjoy your new magazine being delivered to you.

Isa

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Spring Fayre: our minister, Caryl, Councillor Coyle, the Committee, the treasurer, Syd, Linda for all her help, the stallholders, Tea Room staff, Bill for taking photos, Stuart McCartney for Bouncy Castle and Games, all who donated cash, all who gave goods for the stalls, to everyone who came along and supported the Fayre. All was greatly appreciated. Thank you to everybody. The sum raised was £3,300.

Isa H

## **THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

At the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May the awards gained during the Session were presented. The following are the principal awards.

### **BEST GIRL**

Rosebud	Ailsa Murdoch
Explorer	Aimee Woodlock
Junior 1	Summer McMillan
Junior 2	Aimee Clelland
Brigader	Georgia Ferguson

### **HUGH ANDERSON ENDEAVOUR AWARDS**

Explorer	Sophie Clelland
Junior 1	Rachel Murdoch
Junior 2	Sophie Menzies
Brigader	Olivia Wardrope

### **JOE MEECHAN BEST NEW RECRUIT**

Junior 1 Abby Campbell  
Junior 2 Carla France

### **BIBLE KNOWLEDGE TROPHIES**

David Shaw Memorial Trophy (Rosebuds)  
Cara Scott

Milton Trophy (Explorers)  
Runner Up Rebekah Dyer  
Winner Erin Summers

May Murning Jubilee Trophy (Junior 1)  
Runner Up Stephanie Jenkins  
Winner Leah Flannigan

Deveron Trophy (Junior 2)  
Runner Up Carla France  
Winner Abby Paterson

Alexander Burt Trophy (Brigaders)  
Runner Up Georgia Ferguson  
Winner Olivia Wardrope

During the Session the girls participated in the competitions organised by Motherwell Division. We congratulate them on winning three trophies - Explorer Singing, Junior Sports and Junior 1 Craft.

To mark ten years' service as an officer, Alexandra Milton was presented with a certificate and badge. We thank her for her faithful service to the company.

We give a warm welcome to the three new officers who were commissioned in the Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. They are Pamela Boyd, Amy McGhee and Julia McKendrick. We are sure they will find serving as officers both enjoyable and rewarding.

Linda Baillie (Captain)

## **CHANGE IS ALL AROUND US**

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session, it was decided that our custom of distributing communion cards will cease. From now on, the magazine will only be produced quarterly and be delivered by elders two weeks prior to communion. In this way, the magazine would double as an invitation to communion therefore communion cards will no longer be required.

We would appeal for more folks to submit articles for our magazine or alternatively approach the minister or any of our office bearers with ideas to enhance the format or content. This same appeal has been made before with little response so it would be terrific if more would come forward with their content or ideas.

Current church membership is only 49% of what it was in 1990. Congregations are reducing at the rate of 14.5% p.a. With the reduction in church attendances, the minister agreed to arrange a joint session meeting with Wrangholm to share ideas as to how this trend may be reversed. Once again, this is your church and any suggestions you have should be passed to the minister or session clerk and they will put them





Boys collecting main awards and promotion certificates at the display night in April. Well done boys keep up the good work.



Lewis Woodlock collecting the Junior section battalion general knowledge trophy at the review in May.





Ross Baillie collecting his President's Badge, the second highest award, at the Boys Brigade at the review in May.



Weekend camp at Kirkham near Blackpool all packed up and ready for the long road home.

forward on your behalf at the joint meeting.

Many thanks must go to all the folks who organised and assisted at our spring fayre. A serious amount of work went into this event which was well rewarded when the final amount raised was revealed. My own personal highlight was getting an opportunity to hold a real live snake. Up close this snake was absolutely beautiful when you could see the over-all effect being due to the colouration of each individual scale. Who could ever have had the imagination to create a creature such as this, did it just accidentally evolve (I really don't think so)? I may add that not everyone shared my enthusiasm for handling this snake!!!!!!

Both days when breakfast rolls have been served in the hall after morning worship have exceeded our expectations. This has provided a welcome opportunity for fellowship while at the same time being financially self-supporting and indeed, has realised a small profit. Thanks must go to Robert for doing the cooking plus all who give of their time and energy to ensure the crockery and cutlery is clean and that the hall is set up before hand and cleared up afterwards. We have been asked to organised a 'Big Brekkie' event for Christian Aid so you might not have to wait much longer before getting another opportunity to enjoy a hot roll after morning worship.

A big thank you is due to Robert Ferguson and Davina Paterson for getting our kitchen and toilets up to a standard that has led to us being awarded a certificate of hygiene compliance following an assessment by an officer from North Lanarkshire Council's Department of Environmental Services. Once again this has been due to a whole lot of work that I would imagine few of you will be aware of.



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Christian Aid Week runs from 15-21 May. Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. This Christian Aid Week find out more about Morsheda, a mother who lives on low-lying islands in Bangladesh, which regularly floods, seriously impacting her life and the lives of her children.

World Mission at Heart and Soul - Join the World Mission Council and our international delegates in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on 22 May from 2-6 pm for Heart & Soul. The theme this year is People of the Way and we will be focusing on people who forged the way, people we encounter by the way and people who are on the way throughout the World Church. There will be singing and dancing, short talks from our partners, a prayer space and plenty of activities for children. Don't forget to treat yourself to some soup to support the Church of Scotland HIV Programme!

## **HALL LETS**

The Hall is available for hire for special events. The rental has been set at £15 per hour. If you wish more information get in touch with Mrs Alice Smith on (01698) 833190.

## **PRAISE GATHERING**

PRAISE GATHERING has its origins in a choir which came together in 1985 to sing the 'Psalms Alive' songs, inviting singers - skilled and unskilled, but with a heart for God - to come and take part in this corporate act of praise. The history of the PG is therefore really a history of God at work in the lives of ordinary people who have experienced His love and

forgiveness in their own lives and for whom praising and worshipping with their voices is an expression of gratitude which can facilitate the joy of His presence. Over the years, many people have responded to that invitation and the last concert series in 2011 involved a choir of 400 singers from 125 different churches.

#### 2016 revival of concert

In less than 7 weeks, the praise gathering choir and band will be ready for their concert weekend! Come and hear a variety of wonderful songs of praise and worship by this 350 strong choir from over 140 churches.

Rehearsals are in full swing for this year's concert! Have you got tickets yet? Head over to

<http://glasgowlife.org.uk/event/2/praise-gathering>

to order yours now. Our concert will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

For me personally we have now had 3 weeks of learning new songs and I say it is one of the best things I have ever attempted to do. The friendliness and welcome of all people in the choir is a joy to behold and is a most enjoyable 2-½ hours on a Monday evening.

The registration for the choir is now closed for this year but I would strongly recommend for anybody to try it next year if the concerts take place. Whether you are a great singer or not, a welcome is given to take part which is a great opportunity not just for enjoyment, but to praise our wonderful God.

Ian Houston

## **MEMORANDUM**

This memorandum was found within the pages of a book which had lain out of sight for quite some time. It is quite an intriguing comment on the various disciples.

**To: Jesus, Son of Joseph, Woodcrafter, Carpenter Shop, Nazareth.**

**From: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem.**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organisation. All of them have now taken our battery of tests. We have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas

demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus, definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale. .

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,  
Jordan Management Consultants.

## **FOUND IN A BEGIJNHOF**

Those who enter my house  
Should never mention the faults of others  
Those who gossip  
and do not speak the truth about others  
should stay out of my house  
Everybody has his faults  
and he should not, therefore, talk  
about those of his fellowmen,  
but consider his own  
and let others be as they are.  
If we are full of love,  
we shall not pay any attention to the faults



and trespasses of our neighbour.  
If you want to please God and men,  
help to carry your fellowman's burden.  
If you want to avoid sin,  
mind what you say.  
If you want real peace,  
look for silence and unity  
and first try to find out  
about yourself in solitude.  
If ever you get to know bad news,  
ask God to spare you.  
Accept your life  
without questioning the ultimate purpose of God.

(A begijnhof is a place where women live together but they do not make any vows in the way that nuns would. They are free to leave at any time.)

## **A SMILE**

A smile costs nothing but it gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile; give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

## **A FAR-FLUNG ISLAND**

In recent weeks "An Island Parish" has been visiting the most northerly island in Scotland - Unst. Mind you, it must be said that it has only been part of Scotland for around five hundred years. It lies nearer to Norway than it does to London. Even the journey to Aberdeen is quite a long one.

Away back in 1906 someone who had been a minister on the island of Unst made his way back down and became the minister of Holytown Parish Church - the Rev John D Dykes. Mr Dykes was still remembered by some of the senior members of the island community more than fifty years later. Let it be said, Mr Dykes would have found a much altered church. Due to the drop in the population the church was made smaller and the then minister, a carpenter by trade, made the pulpit and communion table for the up-dated church.

For me, the programme was quite intriguing. It was crystal clear that much has changed especially since Saxavord is no longer being used by the RAF.

## **I COME TO MEET YOU**

I come to meet You, God, and as I linger here  
I seem to feel You very near.  
A rustling leaf, a rolling slope  
Speak to my heart of endless hope.  
The sun just rising in the sky,  
The waking birdlings as they fly,  
The grass all wet with morning dew

Are telling me I just met You . . .  
And, gently, thus the day is born  
As night gives way to breaking morn,  
And once again I've met You, God,  
And worshipped on Your holy sod . . .  
For who could see the dawn break through  
Without a glimpse of heaven and You?  
For who but God could make the day  
And softly put the night away?

Helen Steiner Rice



**Minister:** Rev Caryl A.E. Kyle B.D.(Min) Dip Ed  
260 Edinburgh Road  
Newhouse  
Motherwell ML1 5RU  
Tel: 01698-832622

**Website:** [www.holytownparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.holytownparishchurch.org.uk)

**Services:** 10am each Sunday