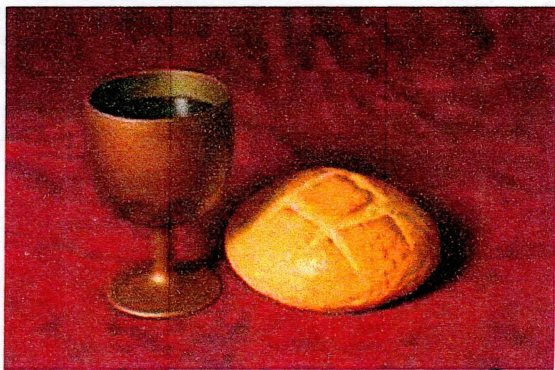


*Holytown Parish
Church*

September 2016



You are invited...

Sunday September 4th

10a.m. or 6.30p.m.

Well once again the Manse garden has been giving me food for thought!

These last few weeks it seems that not only have we had our usual ever growing rabbit families in the back and front gardens as well as, sadly, some losses but we have also had a real influx of magpies to the garden, many of whom seem quite young and all of whom are quite cheeky.

Now while they generally seem to be 'scaredy cats' and easily chased from the garden by a quick movement of the venetian blinds one or two of them have been proving much bolder.

One in particular has taken a penchant to just sitting on the lounge window sill and peering in at us - or maybe it is peering at its own reflection who knows! However, every day at certain times it appears and then begins to stare us out!

Yet another one has developed a way of totally freaking me out!

For often early in the morning it decides to come and sit on the bedroom window and tap, tap, tap so loudly on the window - which is alright if you are up and about and the

blind is open but not when you are half asleep and then woken out of that sleep wondering just who is trying to get in the window!

And what a mighty thud and bang that beak of its makes - one day it might just break through with its persistent banging!

Yet another finds it quite amusing to just suddenly appear at my study window and give a wee thud or two - making me jump out of my seat every time because it is so unexpected!

At first I thought they were just eating away at the spiders and insects caught in their webs around the window frames but their behaviour makes me think otherwise!

And by the way what a noise their chattering cries make too - so much for silent contemplation - no such opportunity with those three around!

However, what has struck me most about these three is their persistence and boldness. No matter how many times I frighten them away - back they come!

We have been thinking a lot about prayer this summer and how to pray and it seemed to me that we could learn a good lesson from these three mischievous magpies.

Namely that we should be persistent in prayer and also be bold when talking to God.

Our prayers won't annoy him, they won't frighten him, they won't make him jump out of his seat, they are not mindless chatter - God does so much want to hear from us each and every day and he doesn't mind if our prayers are voiced or if they are the silent prayers of our heart.

Like any good friend he just wants to hear from us and he will listen to us and hopefully you can find a quiet time to listen for him!

So why not take a wee lesson in prayer from my three mischievous friends - persistence and boldness works for them - persistence and boldness can lead to us becoming prayerful people!

Autumn Blessings
Caryl

Dates for your Diary

As our Magazine now comes out quarterly in order to keep us all in touch with what might be going on between issues I thought it a good idea to include a section called 'Dates for your Diary'.

While I am sure the organisations may well include some of their dates in their own articles whatever I have in my Diary from now until our December issue and beyond is included here!

Caryl

September

- 4th Communion 10am and 6.30pm
- 5th Boys' Brigade Recommences
- 13th Holytown Board Meeting 7pm
- 18th Evening Celebration 6.30pm
- 25th Frank Haggarty Conducting Worship

October

- 2nd GB/BB/Sunday School Re-dedication Service
- 7th Friends of Holytown Fundraiser - General Motors Club
- 9th Baptism of Jay and Amber Ramsay
- 11th Holytown Kirk Session Meeting 7pm
- 16th Harvest Thanksgiving Service
- 28th Quizaid Night 7pm
- 30th Evening Celebration 6.30pm

November

- 8th Holytown Board Meeting 7pm
13th Remembrance Sunday Services - 9.15am War Memorial
10am Church
27th Blue Christmas Service Wrangholm Kirk 3pm
27th Evening Celebration 6.30pm

December

- 3rd GB/BB/Sunday School Party 3pm
4th Communion 10am and 6.30pm
9th Christmas Dinner 7pm
11th Gift Service
13th Holytown Kirk Session 7pm
18th Nativity Sunday
18th Evening Celebration 6.30pm
24th Crib Service Wrangholm Kirk 7pm
24th Watchnight Service Holytown Church 11pm
25th Joint Christmas Day Service Wrangholm Kirk 10am
31st Hogmanay Party Holytown Hall 9pm to after 'The Bells'

January 2017

- 1st Joint New Year's Day Service Holytown Church 10.30am



Would you be interested in a Church Holiday?

I regularly meet with a group of colleagues - four other ministers with whom I first became great friends during our university years together and we are as great a support to each other now as much as we were during our university time together.

A couple of months ago we were talking over lunch and I was saying that I had been spending quite some time reflecting on loneliness and on the fact that recently someone had commented to me that they would love to go on holiday but now found it quite difficult to do so because they were now a single person on their own having lost their spouse.

As I said this my friend reminded me that for the last few years a woman in her congregation and herself had organised holidays for the people in the congregation in which she serves - many of whom were now on their own but also many of whom were couples too!

At first these holidays were only two days away but they all enjoyed them so much that they have now extended it to three days away!

A destination is decided upon - usually just after Easter when hotels are looking for trade and are offering good deals - they have been to places such as York, Harrogate, Chester and Inverness - a programme for the few days is drawn up but always with options so that folk can do their own thing if they wish. Sometimes a wee service is also organised in one of the churches on one of the mornings - which my friend conducts for her folk to attend if they wish.

Usually an information night is held about a year before they go and then those who wish to go can either pay a deposit and then pay it up or pay a deposit and then pay the balance later.

When they are due to go they generally bring a packed lunch to church on the Sunday they are leaving - after the service and after eating their lunch they head off to their destination with stops on the way.

They have their three day break - going on outings - sharing meals together - sharing time together - (sometimes sharing drinks together too - for I am told her folk do like their wee gin and tonic before dinner - usually meeting in her room first!!) - then after their trip they all head home!

I have to say usually within a few weeks they are then enjoying sharing their memories together and photos together at a wee fellowship night before then organising where they'll go next!!

So would you be interested in such a venture?

I know many of you would find it difficult to go on your own, some even perhaps with your spouse because they need a wee bit extra attention - but with your supportive church family and me with you - I am sure we could have a good time together!

By the way it would be open to our whole church family!

If you might be interested could you please speak to me - so I can gauge if it is worth investigating for us.

I would like us to give it a try - it would be just like our church outings but we would be away for a few days longer and I have already gathered a lot of information from my friend and know the best places to go and the best bus driver to ask for!!!!

Caryl

Parish Register January to July 2016

Baptisms

Charlie MacLean-Steele
Rebecca Margaret Brown
Rocco Dalziel Brown
Jack Graham Galloway

Weddings

Freda Marshall and Ross Wilson
Stacey Quinn and David Wilkinson

Funerals

January

Charles Kirk
Janet Robertson
John McClymont
Robert Baillie
William Jeffrey
Irene O'Hare
Janet Allan
Robert McLarty

February

John Pitcairn

March

Lawrence Hancock
Catherine Mulholland

May

Sarah Montgomery
Hugh McCulloch
Janet Mitchell

June

William Haugh
Sarah Kennedy

July

Mary Grant
Margaret Kerr
June Galloway
Elizabeth McLeod
William Lafferty

FLOWER LIST

Sept	4	Betty Meechan
	11	Elaine Woodlock
	18	M & W Mcllroy
	25	June Bell
Oct	2	Janet Hutchison
	9	Betty Reid
	16	Betty McKenzie
	23	C Boyd
	30	June Bell
Nov	6	Isobel McNally
	13	N McPherson
	20	D Paterson
	27	Christine Dunns
Dec	4	Freda Marshall
	11	N McPherson
	18	D Paterson
	25	C Boyd

MIDNIGHT WALK

Well done to all those who took part in the Midnight Walk for St Andrew's Hospice. Over £800 was raised.

THE GUILD

On Wednesday ~~2~~²⁶ October at 7.30 pm our Guild recommences. We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along and join us. Try it out! You will be pleasantly surprised. We have a full programme of speakers lined up as well as musical entertainers, a lovely

cup of tea and a friendly chat.

Give it a try - you will be made very welcome.

We meet in the Michael Sherry Centre in the village.

Christine Dunns

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

The new session will begin on Wednesday 24th August. It will be a Games Night.

Girls of 10 and under will meet at 6.15 pm and those of 11 and over at 7.30 pm.

We look forward to welcoming old and new members. The session will begin on 31st August.

Linda Baillie (Captain)

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Enrolment for the new session will be at any time between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm on Monday 5th September. The cost for all sections will be £10.

The company restarts on Monday 12th September.

Glen Baillie (Captain)

AN EVERLASTING PROMISE

Does anything ever last forever? Just after the flood God made this promise. "So long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest . . . shall not cease". (Genesis 8:22 -NRSV) As the years have come and gone, God's promise has been fulfilled. What has changed from generation to generation are the methods used.

What of today? The sowing of the seeds has been mechanised. Reaping is done by combine harvesters which separate the straw from the ears of wheat or corn. The hay is cut and later a baler produces bales which are later stored for use in the winter.

If we go back nearly one hundred years and make a comparison, it is clear that as the use of machinery increased the number of people required to do the work has diminished.

In the early 20th century at the fermtoons (larger farms) there were cattlemen, horsemen, orraloons (lads who did odd jobs around the farm),, the housekeeper, the kitchie deem and in overall control was the grieve. The third picture shows such a group at a farm in Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire. (Incidentally, the little boy in front of the grieve grew up to become a farmer in Easter Ross.)

The fourth illustration shows the men with their nicky tams - a precaution against insects as the men worked.

The bond between a horseman and his pair was strong. The horse knew exactly how his master operated. Horses are in addition very faithful to their masters.

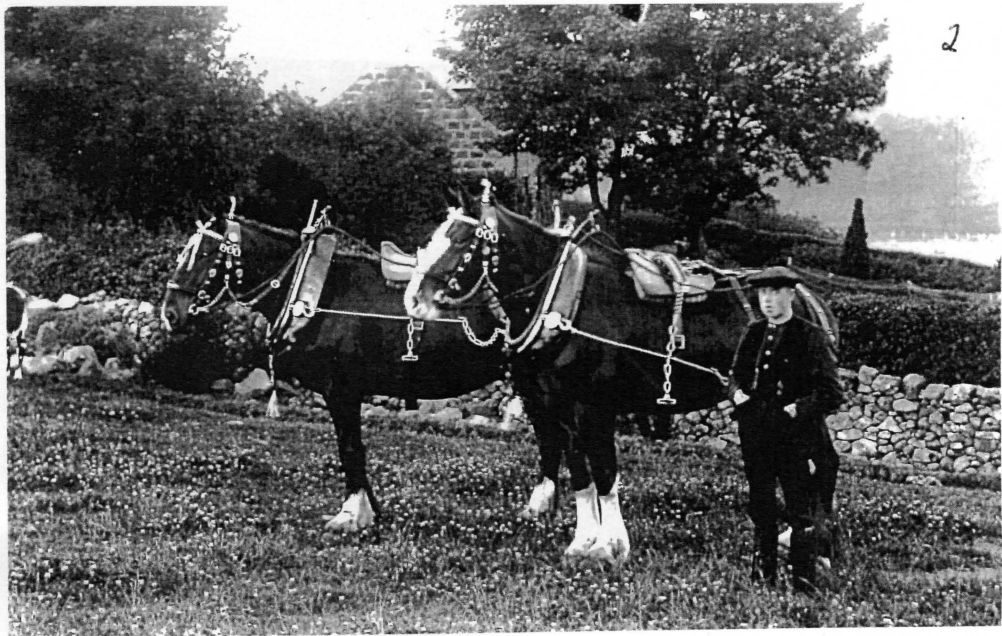
The reaper mowed the hay and initially small coles (piles) were made to help with the drying before the haystack was built. The coles would be fluffed up using a grape (fork). The binder was used for corn (oats). The sheaves were built into stooks which were scattered all over the field. Later, the threshing mill (stame mull) separated the straw and the grain. Threshing day brought all the neighbours to assist with the work. The farmer's wife would be busy from the day before making preparations for the dinner and any other meals involved.

Another feature of the farms were blue grey cows (shown in the picture) - not the biggest of animals but very worthwhile having.

If we go back to Biblical times we find crops of wheat, barley and millet were grown. Due to the warm climate the soil was dried up in the summer and unworkable until the rain arrived in October and November. Ploughing and sowing were frequently done in one operation. A donkey carried a sack of seed to replenish the open basket from which the seed was sown. This was not the most economical use of seed. The seed was ploughed in to prevent the birds eating it. Oxen were used for ploughing.

When it became possible to melt copper ploughs were improved. Particularly problematic areas such as hillsides, proximity to trees, or extremely hard land a mattock was used.

Certain rules were made in connection with harvesting. The poor were permitted to walk behind the reapers and glean what had been missed. This is what Ruth did when she and

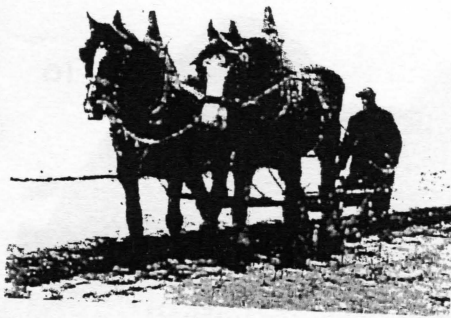




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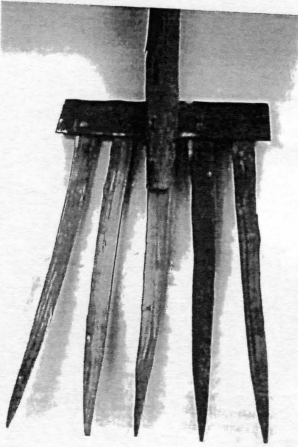


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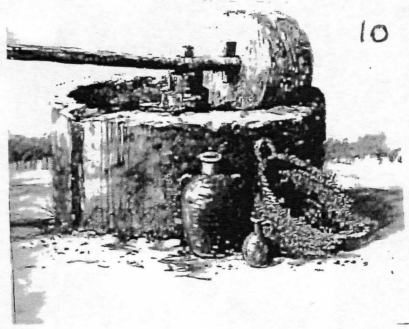


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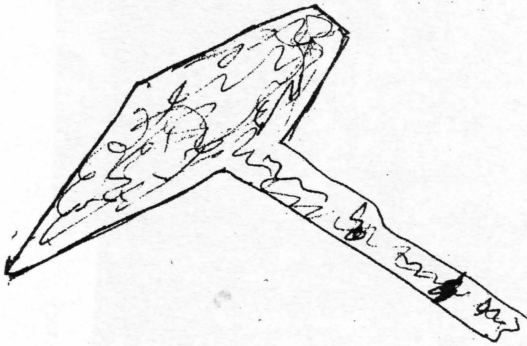
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Naomi came to Bethlehem (Ruth 2). While grain was growing picking ears of corn was allowed. In Luke 6:1-2 Jesus and his disciples ate the corn. The problem lay in the fact that this was done on the Sabbath.

Jesus himself illustrates why wheat and tares are allowed to keep growing together. Until they are ripe it is impossible to distinguish them.

Jesus used his Parable of the Sower not merely to distinguish where the seed landed but to be an illustration of how his message is received.

In Biblical times a wooden fork was used to throw up the grain and straw. The grain fell back. Later by using a sieve the grain was passed through leaving the rubbish behind. It is worth noting that the farmer guarded his grain by camping on the threshing floor. This is illustrated in Ruth 3:203 where we find Boaz remaining at the threshing floor overnight. The grain was finally stored either in earthenware jars or in a dry pit depending on the quantity.

In the Middle East grapes, olives and oranges are all grown and harvested. The vine was used by Jesus to illustrate our dependence on him. We are the branches to reach out to others.

Harvests vary from area to area around the world. It is true to say that wherever we are in the world the promise made by God that seedtime and harvest would never cease has been fulfilled for centuries.

The key to the photos is:

- 1 Taking a rest after the haystacks (or hayricks) have been completed. The style is different from the south of Scotland where the top would have been rounded.
- 2 The horses are all ready to take part in a ploughing match.
- 3 The workers at Pitfour, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire
- 4 Note the broad caps worn by the workers.
- 5 Ploughing in progress
- 6 A binder
- 7 A few blue cows
- 8 The farm workers together
- 9 A winnowing fork
- 10 An olive press
- 11 Containers for grain
- 12 A mattock

HIRING STAFF

Farm workers went to a Feein' Market to get work. In return for agreeing to go a particular farm they would be given **arles** - at one time 1/- (5p). If they failed to keep the contract the farmer was entitled to get his arles back. .

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The new Session of the Fellowship Group begins on Thursday 8th September. The group meets in the Church Hall from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a living, caring Church at the heart of our communities - celebrating worship, offering support, giving a welcome and sharing the good news of Jesus.

It's never a bad time to remind ourselves of the vision we jointly prepared along with our brothers and sisters at Wrangholm Kirk. At this time of year when organisations start back and most holidays are past, we should all put some time aside to consider what we are contributing towards the achievement of this vision.

ADDICTION REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Caryl hosted this service in Wrangholm Church on the afternoon of Sunday 24th July for the third consecutive year since its introduction. There was a really good turnout which was very encouraging. I have not spoken to anyone who has attended this service that has not thoroughly enjoyed it. It was set up for those who have been touched either directly or indirectly by either drug or alcohol addiction. There have been testimonies by former addicts and some whose close relatives have had a specific addictive habit. It was a moving service, a little bit like our Blue Christmas service we have on the first Sunday of advent. The service was enhanced by

twenty members of 'SoundSational', a community choir which initially started in Coatbridge but who now rehearse in the white building opposite to the John Street surgery in Bellshill. They sang three songs and they were wonderful. If you ever get a chance to hear them, make sure you do because you will not be disappointed. You can find out more at <http://www.soundsationalcommunitymusic.com/>

JOINT SERVICES

It's been good having joint services through July and August and the opportunity for fellowship afterwards between the two congregations in our linkage. It's nice that at least for those two months, Caryl doesn't have to rush from one Church to the other and can join with us for a coffee after the service.

ST JOHN BOSCO FUNDRAISING EVENING

On Saturday evening on 6th August, quite a few from Holytown and Wrangholm attended a charity evening in the St John Bosco Church Hall in New Stevenston kindly and thoughtfully organised by the local RC Church to help meet the costs arising due to a break-in at Wrangholm Kirk Church Hall. Some of the Holytown contingent came a very close second in a quiz and I reckon almost everyone in attendance left with a raffle prize. There were also some classic dance moves which became more vigorous as the evening progressed! At the end of the evening Caryl was presented with a donation of £400 and thanked our hosts most sincerely for their hospitality and generosity and for laying on an evening where both congregations within New Stevenston along with a good contingent from Holytown could mix

Socially and have a great time together and all for a good cause.

POLITICS

It's always a risky area to look at and I am not going to take any sides but for politics at home and internationally just now, you must agree, it is an interesting and occasionally, a bizarre time. We have had the vote in the UK as to whether we remain in the European Union or leave it. The UK as a whole has voted convincingly to leave while Scotland as a small country within the UK voted convincingly to stay thus raising a whole lot of constitutional questions none of which would appear to have an easy answer. It has raised questions as to the possibility of another independence referendum and who knows what the outcome might be if this does take place?

In America, we have Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton slogging it out over who will be the next president of the USA. There appears to be significant 'baggage' on both sides in this campaign and whatever the outcome, who knows what effect it might have on the world in general. We have seen coverage of horrific terrorist attacks, mass immigration, clashes of cultures and beliefs and the deployment of terrible weaponry. One common denominator seems to be that no matter what policies are developed, what strategies are followed, what attacks are carried out it is always the innocents that suffer. As always, the actions and intentions of mankind however well they are intended will always be flawed, not fully thought out and they will always at least partly or wholly fail. The solution today is the same as it was 2000 years ago.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every Situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will Guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A.D. KINGDOM AND EMPIRE

We were channel flicking recently and found ourselves on Netflix. Netflix has loads of material ranging from full series made for TV through to films, documentaries, old sitcoms so the flicking continued now that we were in the Netflix domain. We came across a series of 12 episodes called A.D. Kingdom and Empire. The little bit of text informed us that it covered the time following the crucifixion and dealt with the impact of Christ's death on his disciples and on the political and religious leaders of the time. Well, we watched all 12 episodes and it was excellent. Most of the movies that have been made about the life of Christ tend to end at the crucifixion or very soon thereafter. This series begins with the crucifixion and dramatises what happens thereafter which is an incredibly exciting time in the history of Christianity. It deals with many of the happenings in scripture and speculates not unreasonably on how others may have been touched by these events. The series covers Pentecost, the ascension, the conversion of Saul and finishes with the conversion of Cornelius (the first Gentile to be converted to Christianity) and I would commend it to you to maybe expand your understanding of the book of Acts and appreciate the challenges faced by the early Church. (NB It is also available on DVD and it can be viewed on YouTube,)

OLYMPICS

The Olympics were originally held in honour of the Greek Gods of the time. It's refreshing to see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro appearing regularly on our TV screens during coverage of the great variety of Olympic events. It reminds us that whatever is happening in the world, God is watching. Today, as in times gone by, the games provide an opportunity for people from all over the world to meet peaceably in a celebration of human excellence in the various sporting disciplines with all skills God-given.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friends of Holytown are holding a social evening on Friday 7 October within Club 100 (Old General Motors Club). Tickets at £5 will be on sale from Sunday 28th August.

The idea is that our Church members will know of individuals within the village or individuals who have moved away but who still hold fond memories of the church here in Holytown. If everyone could bring along two or three people that would lead to a successful social event and ultimately help towards making our Church disability compliant.

Thereafter:-

Friday 18th November at 7 pm - A Scots Night with Supper in the Church Hall. Tickets £10.

Friday 9th December at 7 pm - Christmas Dinner in the Church Hall. Further details to follow.

Please remember that if you have an idea of something that might be a success to organise within the Church, then please let your thoughts be known to any of the office bearers and we can hopefully take this forward.

May McNeil

FROM THE SOMME

In other days I sang of simple things,
Of summer dawn, and summer noon and night,
The dewy grass, the dew-wet fairy rings,
The lark's long golden flight.

Deep in the forest I made melody
While squirrels cracked their hazel nuts on high,
Or I would cross the wet sand to the sea
And sing to sea and sky.

When came the silvered silence of the night
I stole to casements over scented lawns,
And softly sang of love and love's delight
To mute white marble fauns.

Oft in the tavern parlour I would sing
Of morning sun upon the mountain vine,
And, calling for a chorus, sweep the string
In praise of good red wine.

A singer once, I now am fain to weep,
Within my soul I feel strange music swell,
Vast chants of tragedy too deep . . . too deep
For my poor lips to tell.

(Written by Leslie Coulson who was killed in 1916)

The final verse of the poem seems to suggest that he had a premonition that he was about to become a victim of the conflict.

WELL-KNOWN HYMNS

It is amazing how timeless some of the hymns in our Hymn Book are. Each year as a new year begins we sing the hymn "O God, our help in ages past". Communion Sundays find us singing "When I survey the wondrous cross". At Christmas we are likely to sing "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" On the praise list throughout the year "Jesus shall reign where're the sun" appears from time to time.

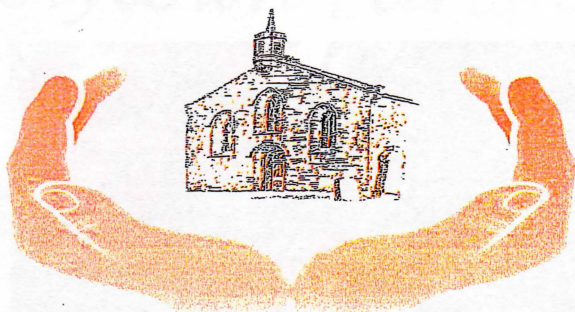
What may be surprising is the fact that the composer of all of these well-known and well-loved hymns lived in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The composer was in fact Isaac Watts.

The hymns mentioned are only a tiny fraction of a total of more than two hundred. Judging from such an output we might think that Isaac Watts had a very full and joyful life. This is not true. He was very short in stature and also had blemishes which made him unattractive. In spite of that, his legacy to us is a collection of hymns, some of which are paraphrased psalms. Even today they are still favourites.

*Deep peace of the running waves to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,
Moon and stars always giving light to you,
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace to you.*

Scots Celtic Prayer

Friends of Holytown



Social Evening

Live entertainment/DJ

Friday 7 October

Club 100

(General Motors Club)

(7 pm - 12)

Tickets £5

(pay at door)

All welcome

Please come along and join in the fun!