

HOLYTOWN PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



OUR VISION

**Our vision is to be a living, caring church
at the heart of our communities -
celebrating worship, offering support.**

Dear Friends,

While re-organising the bookshelves in my study at the beginning of the year it struck me that one particular bookcase had not even had one book pulled from it to be read in the previous seven years - they had simply been unpacked and arranged on the shelves in my study when we moved into the manse.

Routinely the books would be dusted but not one had actually been taken from the shelf and read!

So I resolved to revisit each and every one of those books over this coming year.

Now the bookcase contains about one hundred and twenty books so it may seem a huge task to undertake.

However, I don't believe it will be because they are all novels aimed at children and young teenagers.

Some are from my teacher training days at Hamilton College - including a whole library of Nina Bawden's books which I had to read in preparation for meeting her face to face and interviewing her; some are my varied collection for all ages from my teaching days and some were bought to read to my own children.

Having passed the Kelpies on my way to a meeting in Edinburgh one day I was reminded of the cover of a book I had used with some of my senior classes and so decided to start with a book entitled 'The Kelpie's Pearls' by Mollie Hunter - which incidentally cost me 20p to buy so that tells you how

long I have had it - and it has my maiden name written inside the front cover too!

What a joy it was to re-read this book and to be immersed once more in the story - it was wonderful to be looking at it with fresh eyes and to recall special parts of the book which spoke to me in a totally different way now because I was reading it for pleasure and reading it as an adult!

No longer was I looking for interesting passages to discuss with the children as a reading project or look for art ideas or even history or geography topics - just reading for pure pleasure!

Having enjoyed the experience so much it has spurred me on to get through the books and I am thoroughly enjoying taking a little time each night to re-visit stories and look at them afresh!

One unexpected result of this exercise has been that when I do my daily Bible devotions I am encouraged to see that I am also looking at the Bible passages with fresh eyes too - not purely as sermon preparation or Bible Study preparation or looking for meaning within them but just reading them for pure joy and what a wonderful experience that has been too!

Why not try it?

Re-visit a book from your past - see if you engage with it in a different way - see if it opens your eyes to new things you never spotted before in the story.

Or . . .

Why not re-visit books of the Bible you have not read for a long time and don't read them for meaning or to understand but just for pure joy at the Word of God laid out before you?

You might just be surprised at how it makes you feel!

Blessings and Happy Reading
Caryl

THANK YOU

Mrs Sadie Swann and Mrs Sheila Mitchell, both of Bluebell Walk, New Stevenston, would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers which they received. They were much appreciated.

Mr John Murray would like to thank everyone for their cards and visits after his recent spell in hospital and Mr Tom Stewart for the lifts to church. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness.

Mrs Jean Henderson was delighted with the flower arrangement from the Church and wishes to say "thank you" for this most acceptable gift.

Anne Baillie and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, flowers and cards. It is a great comfort to know that people care.

He who kills time kills opportunities.

Those who go against the grain of God's laws shouldn't complain when they get splinters.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER 2015

Funerals

January

Isobel Hunter

February

Samuel Hill
Ann McClymont
Violet Hamilton
Walter Ritchie

March

Alex Hamilton
Margaret Watson
Agnes Hamilton

April

Wilhelmina Heron
John Crawford
Matthew Walker
Margaret Devonport
John McKay

May

John Blades

June

Flora Anderson
Mary Underwood
Carolyn Gallacher
John Inglis
Elizabeth Nicol

July

Colin Maxwell
Helen Gibb
George Hutchison
Ann McGhee
George Nisbet

September

David Pender
John McKeraghan
Elizabeth Sleith (Murray)

October

Margaret Coventry
Ann McGhee (Snr)

November

Marion Hay
Raymond Jackson
John Gillan

December

Patricia Lennox
Winifred Menzies
Agnes McGinty

Baptisms

Sophie Lyons
Nicole Fiona Jay Adamson
Amelia Christy Dalziel
Carolann McNab
Jai John Paul McNab
William Crockert Dorta
Edward Davis
Mikey MacKenzie
Aaron Daniel Paton
Allison Forrest Brown
Lily Grace McAlpine
Grace Alice Simpson Dyer

Weddings

Laura McKenna to Greg Kelly
Lucy Reid to Christopher McKay
May Lovell to Stewart McNeil
Kelly McDonald to Jamie Paterson
Victoria Clark to Jordan Lang

ROBERT BAILLIE - AN APPRECIATION

It was with sadness that we learned that Robert Baillie had passed away. Having been ordained in 1980 Robert was one of our longest serving elders.

Robert was a friendly man who always had a kindly word to say to everyone. As a district elder he was a most welcome visitor. Some of his visits were very practical. On at least one occasion he cut the grass at the back and the front of someone's house and tidied up the clippings as well.

Many will remember that for many years Robert and John Murray tidied the grounds of the manse, the hall and the lane between the church and the manse. If anyone happened to go up to the church the two of them were always ready to chat and what was said was usually amusing.

Robert attended Kirk Session meetings regularly and contributed to the discussions. He was very clear about what he believed was the best course of action.

We shall all miss him but it is Anne and the family who will most feel the loss. Be assured we shall remember them in our prayers.

FLOWER LIST

February	14	C Boyd
	21	N McGlone
	28	C Menzies
March	6	-

NB: There are still a number of vacant Sundays on the Flower List. If you wish to give flowers please write your name opposite your choice of date.

SPRING FAYRE - SATURDAY 23rd APRIL

The Committee for the Spring Fayre is: Linda Baillie, Kenneth Bell, Isa Hinshelwood, Ian Houston, Bill Jenkins, May McNeil, Susan Reid and Tom Stewart. The Treasurer is Syd McCartney.

There will be the usual stalls: tea room, cake and candy, burgers and hot dogs, unwanted gifts, colour stall, lucky dips, fancy goods and hand knits, jewellery, silent auction, games, bouncy castle. Will you please keep your unwanted gifts and gift bags. More information will be given in next month's magazine. Tea tickets at £2 and Quiz Sheets at £1 will be on sale shortly and are available from any committee member or board member.

FRIENDS OF HOLYTOWN PARISH CHURCH

(We are including this article in this month's magazine so that you have an opportunity of re-reading it. Over Christmas we are always so busy we don't study many things very closely.)

A group of us from the community are hoping to get together and form a new group called 'Friends of Holytown Parish Church' early in the New Year.

With the increasing costs of repairing and maintaining Churches, making them Disability Compliant etc, many concerned individuals are joining together to set up Friends

Schemes. Such a scheme can enable a wide group of people to help share the burden of ensuring that the local Church is in a reasonable state to hand on to the next generation.

Whilst the Aims and Objectives have still to be finalised, the main purpose of this group would be to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of Holytown Parish Church for the benefit of all who value Holytown Parish Church not only for the present, but for future generations.

The main aim will be to raise funds which can then be disbursed to Holytown Parish Church as the 'Friends Group' sees fit. In the first year of the Group's formation we would wish to raise at least £5,000 and in doing so, we may then also enable Holytown Church to be able to access additional funding for grants etc, to assist with their maintenance and making their Church Disability Compliant.

Membership will be open to anyone who would like to join and is prepared to support the objectives of the group. We hope to draw people from a wide circle within the community. Individuals would include, for example:-

- People who wish to see the building there for future generations for whatever reason.
- People who want to have the church available for family occasions or have been pleased to use the services offered, for example, weddings, baptisms or funerals, but do not worship regularly in that church.
- People who see the Church here in Holytown as part of the community and who wish to see its continued use and

existence.

- People who have family ties within Holytown or have used the church in some way, but who themselves have moved away.

We very much hope that through various social events, we can raise money to support Holytown Parish Church in the challenges that they face.

Please spread the word, that your community needs you. The Church needs your support. More information on how to join will be given in the New Year.

SMARTIES - FUNDRAISER

*We've given you these Smarties to eat
But the empty tube you must keep
20p pieces are what you must find
Ask friends and family, they won't mind
Fill up your tube, right to the top
Return in three to four weeks,
For our charity pot.*

Many thanks,
Social Committee/Friends of Holytown

WORDSEARCH

In the Christmas magazine, the additional word you may have found was "JOY".



Thanks to all at Holytown Colts for their kind donation which will be put towards our weekend away with the boys from the Junior and Company sections in March. This year we are heading to Kirkham just outside Blackpool

WHEN ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoe box on the top of her wardrobe that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask about.

For all of these years, she had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out his wife's affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed that it was time for him to know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found 2 crocheted dolls and a stack of money amounting to around £50,000. He asked her about it.

When we were to be married, she said, my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll.

The little old man was so moved, he fought back tears. Only 2 precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him twice in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

Honey, he said, that explains the dolls but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?

Oh that? She said, that's the money I made from selling the

dolls.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE BARD

My cousin's daughter shared this poem by Robert Burns that was read at her grandfather's funeral.

An honest men here lies at rest
As e'er God with his image blest
The friend of man, the friend of truth
The friend of age, and guide of youth
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd
Few heads with knowledge so informed
If there's another world, he lives in bliss
If there is none, he made the best of this.

GOD'S LOVE IS A HAVEN IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

God's love is like an island
in life's ocean vast and wide -
A peaceful, quiet shelter
from the restless, rising tide
God's love is like a fortress,
and we seek protection there
When the waves of tribulation
seem to drown us in despair
God's love's a sanctuary.
where our souls can find sweet rest
From the struggle and the tension
of life's fast and futile quest.
God's love is like a tower
rising far above the crowd,

And God's smile is like the sunshine
 breaking through a threatening cloud.
God's love is like a beacon
 burning bright with faith and prayer,
And through the changing scenes of life
 we can find a haven there,
For God's love is fashioned
 after something enduring
And it is endless and unfailing
 like His character above.

Helen Steiner Rice