

Holytown Parish Church

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



Welcome!

If snowdrops are the first sign of Spring, surely it must only be round the corner. I know it is hard to believe, given the snowfall we have had of late, but the signs are starting to appear... The lighter evenings, the birdsong early in the morning and the fresh shoots emerging from the ground are all signs that the change of seasons is upon us.

May this new season leave you with a renewed sense of hope, peace and expectation for all that this new year will bring.

Lucy

*“And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth’s dark breast,
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest”.*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley



Spring Fayre

Everything you need to know about this year’s Spring Fayre.



Notes for your Diary

Be sure to take note of all the upcoming events.



Children’s Corner

A little space for the little members of the congregation!

A Note from the Minister...

I have always loved jigsaw puzzles, since the very first one I received as a child which I remember as being of a scene of tulip fields in Holland. I used to receive lots - maybe that's why I am such a patient person - you need lots of patience to complete jigsaw puzzles!

It doesn't really matter to me the subject of the puzzle or the size of it, there is just something so wonderful about opening the box of a new puzzle, opening the packet inside and gazing at all the different coloured pieces and then deciding how to begin to recreate the puzzle maker's picture right there in front of you.

I have to say my usual strategy is to go through the whole box and every piece of the puzzle to find the straight edges first so that I can recreate the frame, laying aside all the distinctive pieces as I find them. Then once the frame is complete I move on from the edge to begin to form those distinctive features of the puzzle adding them all in before then settling down to the most challenging parts of the puzzle usually the sea, sky or grass!

It is just so satisfying to complete a puzzle piece by piece, (by the way not allowing anyone else to add a bit!!!) and then finally to have the completed picture, just as it is on the box right there in front of you.

I am sure some of you might find this a sad hobby - but when life is busy it can be a very relaxing way to unwind!

Needless to say though I haven't physically done a large puzzle for a long time - (but there is a website where you can do virtual ones and occasionally I will venture there where you can find puzzles large and small to fit in in a few spare minutes!!!)

Why all this talk of jigsaw puzzles?

Well, as I write this we are just about to move into the Season of Lent - that time of deep personal reflection leading up to Holy Week.

The Season of Lent is our time to reflect once more on Jesus and what lies ahead for him as he nears the time of his crucifixion and, of course, we reflect on what this means personally for and to us as Christian people today.

As I was preparing for my own Lenten reflections I happened to be thinking about jigsaws and it seemed to me that in a way this Season of Lent should almost be for us like doing a big jigsaw of Jesus and his life.



The Bible is like our big box with all the pieces of the puzzle inside - all the pieces of Jesus' life and ministry lying there before us on the pages - some straightforward pieces, which we understand readily; some more distinctive pieces which we can identify but still need to think through and then the challenging pieces which require much more thought, reflection and patience - yet it is all there for us in the foretelling of prophets and in each and every one of the gospels.

We just need to take time to reflect, and find the pieces, and put them together into the puzzle maker's picture for us in our lives and the Season of Lent gives us the time to do just that for our own personal lives.

I think you know how important I feel it is for us to travel through Holy Week together each year and to make the journey with Jesus during that last week in order to help us understand what he went through for us.

I know for a great number of reasons many people don't get the opportunity to do so and that is why this year I am delighted that we are at present immersed in the gospel of John for, in effect, the focus readings each week of Lent will in fact be taking us through the events of Holy Week.

In other words Lent will be like an extended Holy Week for us which may seem a little strange, perhaps even out of sequence to what we are used to, but as I always say we are supposed to be uncomfortable during Lent.

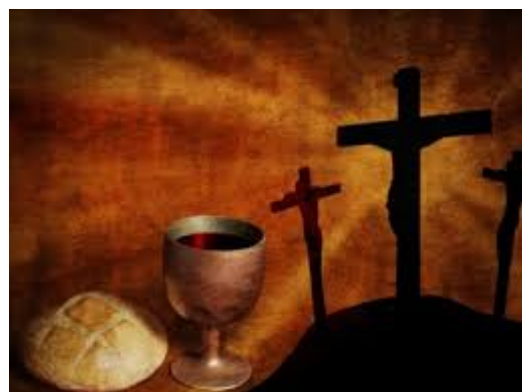
A six week Holy Week may seem strange but I am sure it will heighten our experience of Lent and Easter and give each of us much to reflect on in relation to Jesus life and ministry and how that affects us in our lives.

Let's make the journey together, put the pieces together, recreate the picture and be blessed in the travelling!

Lenten Blessings,

Caryl

You are invited to share in Communion
on Sunday 4th March 2018,
Holytown Parish Church at 10am.



What's On

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with our Palm Sunday Services on Sunday 25th March and then continues from Monday 26th March to Friday 30th March in Wrangholm Kirk meeting each evening at 7pm in the sanctuary to share both worship and fellowship.

As we will have been journeying throughout Lent with the texts of Holy Week our reflections for the evenings of Holy Week will be focusing not only on these texts but also looking this year to the Thief on the Cross.

Through his first person account, as he is crucified next to Jesus, we will attempt to get inside his heart and mind and try and understand and appreciate what Jesus endured on the cross, why he did it and God's amazing grace.

Do come and join us and share the journey that is Holy Week.

Easter Day

This is no April Fools' Day joke!

Our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service takes place at 6.30am in the Garden at Holytown Church Hall on Sunday 1st April.

This Service will be followed by Easter Sunday Breakfast in Holytown Church Hall.

Breakfast is then followed by Easter Sunday Worship at 10am in Holytown and 11:30am at Wrangholm Kirk.



Spring Fayre

Saturday 28th April 2018



This year's Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 28th April between 11am and 2pm in Holytown Church Hall - please put the date in your diary!

We will be having a cake and candy stall this year, alongside the other usual stalls. We are appealing to those of you who are able to bring out the mixers and baking tins to do some baking for the tea room and the cake and candy stall. The baking last year was amazing!

Our colour-themed stall is 'Orange' this year. The other stalls include a Silent Auction, Lucky Dips, Unwanted Gifts, Fancy Goods, Jewellery, Burgers, Games and the ever popular Tea Room and Cake and Candy stalls. Please note that any gifts donated to the 'Unwanted Gifts' stall must be new and unopened.

Quiz sheets costing £1 and tea tickets costing £3 can be bought from any committee or board member.

The hall will be open at 6pm on the Friday night to allow stall holders to set up their stall and will open again at 9:30am on the morning of the fayre.

If you are willing to help, please offer your assistance as it is greatly appreciated!

(Committee members; L Baillie, K Bell, I Hinshelwood, I Houston, B Jenkins, M McNeil, S Reid, T Stewart, S McCartney - Treasurer).

Blessings from Nepal

Susan Reid

Last November my sister and I went on our annual sun-seeking winter jaunt to Abu Dhabi. This was our second visit there but the first to the Yas Island area (surprise! surprise! it's not actually an island but there is a beautiful beach and the F1 race track!).

Most of the staff in the hotels are from India, Pakistan and the Phillipines with a few Eastern Europeans thrown in to the mix. So we decided we would visit a restaurant in one of the other hotels across the square as we had already been in the Belgian Cafe and the Italian restaurant in our hotel and fancied something different. We ended up in an Indian restaurant where we discovered our waiter was from Nepal. We chatted to him about where he lived. He told us that he had a room in an apartment with three other young men and only manages to go back home once a year for two weeks to see his family.

I told him that the Church of Scotland had been running a campaign to help the people in Nepal rebuild their homes and that the Church here in Holytown had sent enough money to cover the costs of building two houses. He asked me to pass on his thanks and blessings to all who contributed to this worthy cause.



The Guild - Celebrating 40 Years!

Christine Duns, President

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped celebrate the forty years of the Guild! Please see pictures of the event. Also a special thanks to our “helpers” who served and prepared the tea. It was very, very much appreciated.

On Friday 2nd March 2018 Holytown Guild is holding the World Day of Prayer in the Church - everyone is welcome. The service will commence at 7pm and tea will be served in the hall afterwards. We will be welcoming ladies from the local guilds; Chapelhall, Calderbank, Newarthill, Wrangholm and New Stevenston Methodist Church. Please come along and celebrate with us.

The past few months we again have enjoyed various speakers including our very own May McNeil - who gave us a talk about her work at The Royal College for Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow. She also gave us some craftwork to do, which we always enjoy. Thank you May for your time. We had Jackie Gilliland, a local lad, who gave us a talk on the wild life in and around the area. It was nice to see some “guys” from the congregation who came along to see Jackie that night. Paul Morrison from Morrison Butchers in New Stevenston also visited us and gave us an insight to his local shop. He talked about the renovation of the shop and how he likes to support the community all he can. He is a local lad and he knew most of the ladies at the Guild who frequent his shop. He brought along some of the apple pies he bakes in his shop and obviously they were enjoyed by everyone.

Our session comes to a close next month, but we will be back in October. A warm welcome is always extended and it is a great time for fellowship so please come along - it would be nice to see you!



1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

Linda Baillie



Christmas is a distant memory but the girls all had a great time. The younger girls enjoyed an entertainer and Santa managed to come to the party, bringing gifts for all. The older section had a movie night in the hall and enjoyed a Chinese buffet. On Saturday 3rd February the Divisional Competitions took place and the Explorer and Rosebud team were lucky to be runner up in the Bee Olympics. We were also placed 3rd in the singing competition which was to the tune of Jesus Loves Me. This was written by an officer in another company to celebrate the Girls Brigade being 125 years old this year. The mascot is a lovely bee called Gracie which we have been lucky to get for our company.

Tune - Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves the bumble bees, buzzing sweetly in the trees; Making honey for my tea, Jesus loves them just like me. Yes Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus

loves me, Yes Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

Building Works Required

Lately there has been discussions with a representative from Hamilton Presbytery in relation to various changes we are required to make to the Church building.

The main changes are; the creation of a disabled toilet, and a complete rewire and installation of improved lighting.

Needless to say, this will incur significant costs over and above the usual financial outgoings. There are grants available but in general terms, the way this works is that we have to show that we can raise money ourselves before grants are awarded. We basically have to show that we're not just sitting back waiting on grant funding but are proactively raising a proportion of the finance ourselves for the required building works.

You will have heard Caryl intimating the meetings of members of the congregation in relation to the building works and the associated fundraising. It would be great if even more of you became involved in these groups. It's not all work and a significant element of fellowship comes with participation in these groups. If you do not wish to be part of the groups then I would appeal for the support of you and your friends and relatives for any of the fund-raising events that may be forthcoming and to show your support for our Church requirements in a tangible and practical manner.

Social Committee / Friends of Holytown

May McNeil

We are making some progress on our fundraising and we thank you for your support. **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!** Please pick up a tube of Smarties from the vestibule of the church and fill with your 20 pence pieces or £1 coins and return when you can. I would encourage you to continue your efforts as it is very much appreciated.



Each Smartie tube takes £12 worth of 20p pieces. Each time 30 of our congregation return their tubes we could make a £360 profit.

Money raised over the last two years as follows:-

	2016	2017	TOTAL
Smarties	1,320	1,000	
Membership Fees	50	60	
Social Evening	700		
Scottish Night	350		
TOTAL	£2,420	£1,060	£3,480

SHINE Youth Music Theatre

A trip has been arranged to see SHINE Youth Music Theatres production of 'Titanic The Musical' in Motherwell Concert Hall on **Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

In the final hour of 14 April 1912 the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and 'the unsinkable ship' slowly began to sink. It became one of the most tragic disasters of the 20th Century when 1517 men, women and children lost their lives.

Based on real characters aboard the greatest ship in the world, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America, the newly-enfranchised Second Class dream of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and the millionaire Barons of the First Class dream of their luxurious lifestyle lasting forever. This stunning musical focuses on the hopes and aspirations of those aboard, unaware of the fate that awaits them.

Calendar of Events

Below is a calendar of events to date. This is for our fellowship and social programme. We do have some more ideas for raising funds to contribute to the fabric side of the Church. More information soon. Any social/fundraising suggestions you may have will be most welcome.

Monday 12 March @7.30 p	Shine Music Theatre - TITANIC The Musical Motherwell Concert Hall
Sunday 18 March 11 am approx	*Sausage Sunday - Church Hall
Friday 6 April @ 7.30 pm	Film Night - Church Hall
Sunday 8 April at 11 am approx.	*Sausage Sunday - Church Hall
Saturday 28 April (11 am - 2 pm)	Spring Fayre - Church Hall & Manse Gardens
Sunday 6 May at 11 am approx.	*Sausage Sunday
Sunday 20 May at 11.30 am approx (Coach to Edinburgh Princess Street Gardens)	Joint Service @ 10 am Holytown Parish Church then Edinburgh for 'Heart & Soul'. * Sausage Sunday - Church Hall
May	Taylor Fashion Show / Cheese & Wine - Church Hall (Date to be confirmed)

Thank You!

(If you have a message of thanks you would like to share with the congregation, please let me know and I can include it in a future edition - Lucy).

- * "Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and flowers when my son died in December. Also to everyone who came to spend time with me. It was greatly appreciated". *Janette Cook*
- * I would like to thank everyone for the Get Well cards and good wishes while I was in hospital. I would also like to thank those who visited me and Caryl, the minister". *Betty Reid*



Flower List

4th March	I McNally
11th March	VACANT
18th March	C Docherty
25th March	VACANT
1st April	C Duns
8th April	U Smith
15th April	VACANT
22nd April	C Bell
29th April	C Menzies
6th May	L Reid
13th May	D Patterson
20th May	C Boyd
27th May	I Hinshelwood

It was proposed at a recent meeting of the Kirk Session that the minister should decide where the flowers that are donated weekly should go. Before implementing this change it was decided that notification of the proposed change should be included in the magazine. Any objections should be relayed to the minister or the session clerk.'

Sunday Readers

4th March	David Shaw
11th March	Christine Bell
18th March	Glen Baillie
25th March	Betty Reid
1st April	Graham Kyle
8th April	David Patterson
15th April	Jim Smith
22nd April	Kirsty Shaw
29th April	Christine Bell
6th May	Jim Smith
13th May	Glen Baillie
20th May	Graham Kyle
27th May	David Patterson

When love is declared even in the midst of suffering, when reassurance is given to someone who had no hope, when an act of trust restores dignity to someone, let the Spirit of God be heard fluttering through the air among people who have new possibilities.

Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas: peas of mind, peas of heart, peas of soul.

Plant four rows of squash: squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce: lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another.

No garden without turnips: turnip for Church, turnip for meetings, turnip to help one another.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme: thyme for God, thyme for study, thyme for prayer.

Author unknown

Home Vs School

Anonymous

I saw the following article, a letter prepared by a school for children to take home to their parents, and thought it worth sharing:

‘Dear Parents,

We would like to remind you that magic words such as “Hello”. “Please”, “You’re welcome”, “I’m sorry”, and “Thank you”, all begin to be learned AT HOME.

It’s also AT HOME that children learn to be honest, be on time, diligent, show friends their sympathy, their empathy as well as show utmost respect for their elders and all teachers.

HOME is also where they learn to be clean, not talk with their mouths full and how/where to properly dispose of litter and other rubbish.

HOME is also where they learn to be organised, to take good care of their and other people’s belongings and that it is not just OK to take something that belongs to someone else.

HERE AT SCHOOL on the other hand, we teach language, mathematics, arithmetic, history, geography, physics, sciences and physical education. We only reinforce the education that children should receive AT HOME from their parents.’

Following on from this, I saw a tee-shirt for sale with the following writing on front:

‘I’M OLD SCHOOL, I BELIEVE IN HAVING GOOD MANNERS, RESPECTING MY ELDERS AND HELPING OTHERS WHEN I CAN’.

Born Free

When I was young, I loved the film ‘Born Free’. Virginia McKenna OBE was the female lead actress in this film and recently issued the following statement on behalf of the Born Free foundation (formed for the protection of wild animals).

‘The bravado of humans with firearms - killing not for survival but to prove superiority, manliness and even for fun - with an end result of a skin rug or a mounted head - this in our world of vanishing wild creatures has no justification. We do not need now to kill wild animals in order that we can survive. We do not need their skins to keep us warm. We need, now, to let them live.’

Easter

I see an attempt presumably to achieve political correctness involves removing the word ‘Easter’ from certain chocolate egg products by certain manufacturers. You can all make up your own minds how to react to this but in my case I’ll be sticking to the ones that are not afraid to include ‘Easter’ on their packaging.

The Train of Life

At birth, we boarded the train and met our parents with the belief they will always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents will step down from the train leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; including but not limited to, our siblings, friends, children and even the love of our life.

Over the course of time, many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated their seats.

The train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, disappointments, hellos, goodbyes and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery of the is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

Reap success and give lots of love. But most importantly, thank God for the journey and for allowing you to be a passenger on this train of life.

Lent

In the past, Caryl has previously put forward the suggestion that rather than give something up for Lent, it may be a more positive move to take something on e.g. contacting someone you have not been in touch with, volunteering to help at a charity shop, getting provisions in for a neighbour. Fasting can be another means of observing Lent and I came across the following article which provides another aspect to fasting and saw fit to share it with you:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words, fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude for what you have.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience. fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God, fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful, fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others, fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Many of these things can be much more challenging than simply trying to give up chocolate for a wee while.

Parish Register

Funerals

2017

November

Allison Watson

December

Sarah Swann
Helen Baillie
Gladys Westwater
Mary Swan
Roger Dunnachie
May Chalmers

2018

January

Agnes Findlay
May Moody

Baptisms

2018

January

Max Patrick Lyons
Thomas Russell Ramage
Aaron Jack Marsden



Financial Statement

Financial report as at 31/01/18

General Income

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Freewill offering	1170.00	1706.00
Plate	311.25	481.35
Standing Orders	1150.00	865.00
Hall lets	186.00	482.00
Funerals	160.00	360.00
Donations	100.00	365.00
Magazines	100.00	130.00
Wrangholm Linkage	16.00	0.00
Total General income	£3193.25	£4389.35

Fabric Fund **£20.00** **£117.60**

Total Income **£3213.25** **£4506.95**

General Expenditure

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Ministries & Mission	0.00	0.00
Presbytery dues	0.00	0.00
Insurance	358.95	356.13
Minister's expenses	0.00	0.00
Pulpit supply	0.00	0.00
Electricity	83.00	138.00
Gas	529.00	828.22
Telephone	0.00	0.00
Broadband	228.48	133.80
Council Tax	169.00	158.00
Organist/Church officer fees	0.00	50.00
Paper/Toner/Copier Maintenance	43.91	0.00
Life & Work Magazines	0.00	0.00
Baptism Certificates	5.99	0.00
Wrangholm transfer	60.00	0.00
Total General expenditure	£1478.33	£1664.15

Fabric Fund

Floor covering for Manse	0.00	387.13
Floodlight	0.00	126.01
Total Fabric expenditure	£0.00	£513.14

Total Expenditure **£1478.33** **£2177.29**

Investors Trust Funds

Balances as at November 2017 are as follows:

General Fund £15887.45
 Reserve Fund £8196.84
 Legacy Fund £824.70
 Sunday School £434.02
 Boys Brigade £1074.89

Invitation to Taize!

The Scots Kirk in Paris is inviting young people (18-25) to spend a week in Taize in France. This is a great opportunity for young people in the congregation/ presbytery or area, during the Year of Young People.

The Taizé community welcomes thousands of young people from all over the world to share in community, prayer, and explore questions about life and faith. There will be 1 night in Paris, including a visit round the city and a service at the Scots Kirk, followed by a week as part of the Taize community.

For more information and if you are interested contact: scotskirkparis@orange.fr

Dates : 14th - 22nd April or 31st June - 8th July 2018

Cost: The cost will be a return flight to Paris plus £120, covering travel and accommodation in France.

Choral and Organ Concert

Lanarkshire Society of Organists

Choral & Organ Concert



with the Schola Benedicti

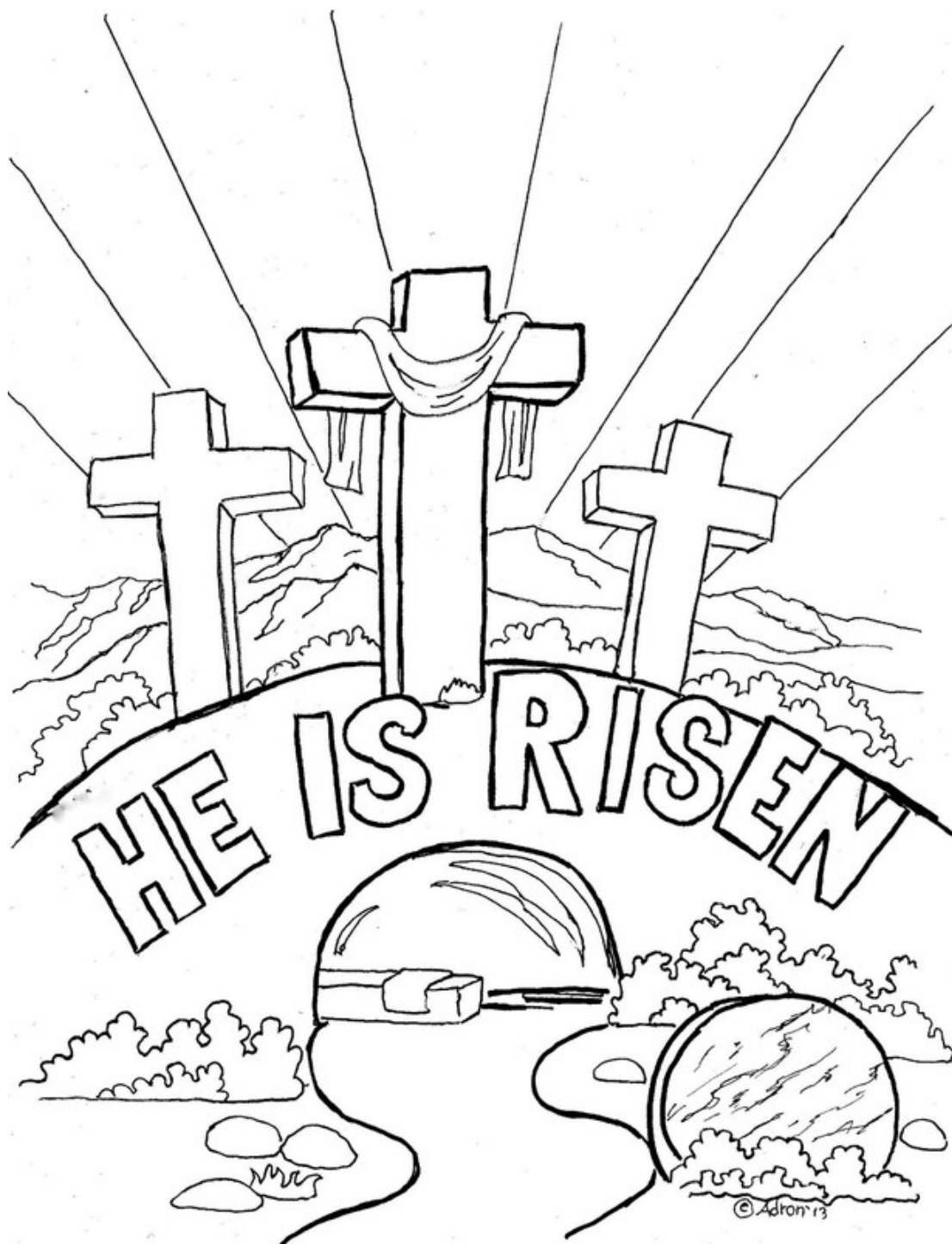
**Saturday 10 March 2018
at 2.30pm**

**Bellshill Central Parish
Church, 346 Main Street,
Bellshill, ML4 1BA**

Tickets £5.00 or pay at the door
Refreshments served afterwards

Children's Corner

This is the space for the younger members of the congregation (although I suspect a few 'big kids' might enjoy it too)... Kids, let me know what you would like to see in this space!



Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



A G K Y T Q S P I C E S X E F
 A R D T T C G H R J T V H N F
 F O F R G N D E Y O G W Y T R
 B U Z J I C C H E P L V V E I
 W N W V C N T B W X S L R R G
 G D I D E C V R S O D T E E H
 B L P S S C Y V E R M A O D T
 R H I E B R D B B M S E Y N G
 Y R G D Z B G D A C E F N N E
 I F I R S T B O W E D M I L B
 V D F D G B A R L F A N B R Z
 H X E A X W W C V W R O T E R
 M Y J A C E A I R O Y V O X R
 H I G D D E Y M M S Q N M U K
 Y T R D S K S Z B H P M B F C

BOWED	FACES	GROUND	MORNING	RISEN
WOMEN	WEEK	FRIGHT	STONE	LIVING
ROLLED	FIRST	REMEMBER	DAY	DEAD
TOMB	AWAY	SPICES	ENTERED	BODY