

Holytown Parish Church

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

A Note from the Minister...

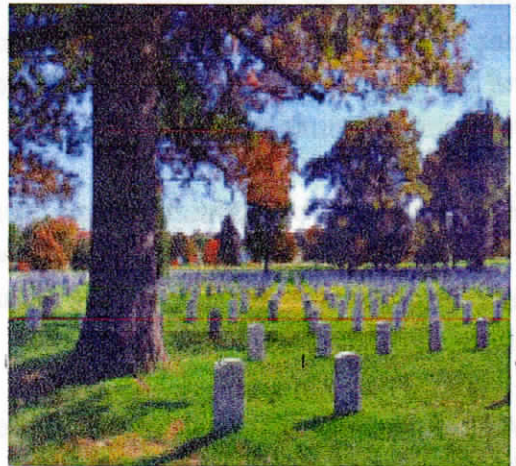
Caryl Kyle

Recently while on holiday in Washington DC, and especially while visiting some of the many different memorials shown below, it struck me yet again how important it is for us as human beings to take time to commemorate the different events which may happen in our lives or the lives of others in history and particularly, the importance of remembering the people who are or were caught up in those events.

Each memorial we visited had been designed with great love, care, respect and thought for the people it was commemorating and each was designed to be a place of tranquility where you could just sit and quietly reflect on the people commemorated there or even sit and contemplate the effect this event had had on people's lives then and now.

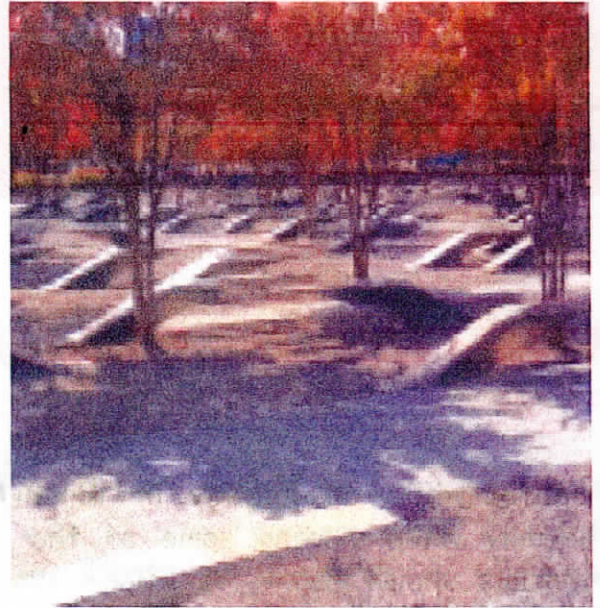
Many of the memorials included water features and these somehow added to the tranquility and peace of the surroundings. Indeed sometimes it was hard to leave a memorial because it was so tranquil and poignant.

In many places the sheer numbers of people being commemorated was overwhelming - I know I gazed in awe at the long line of black marble slabs which seemed to be endless, and with many towering well above me, each etched with the names - five in a row - and many with at least a hundred lines per slab of those who had been killed in the Vietnam War. It was indeed overwhelming to think of so many lives lost - so many young lives too. It was indeed a place where your emotions were overwhelmed - for who could not be touched by the sight of someone's loved ones quietly seeking out their loved one's name and then being aided to climb a ladder so that



they could then take a rubbing of that name. Yet, emotionally overwhelming as it was, it too was a place of tranquility.

I think the overwhelming number of names on this particular memorial and in the seeing of the row upon row of white headstones stretching out in all directions for miles in Arlington Cemetery really brought it home to me just how many lives must have been touched by the First World War here at home where so many lost their lives - thousands upon thousands - seeking to protect their country and its people and so many of those lives lost were the lives of young people.



In this season of Remembrance, some would question if we should continue to remember wars after so many years - after all here we are at the 100 Year Anniversary of The Great War and few of those who fought in The Great War are still alive - so should we remember?

While I believe that we should always be striving for peace and justice in our world and as a Christian that should almost be our duty, I do believe that it is also our duty to remember the sacrifice of all who gave their lives or were injured or maimed in conflict, or affected by conflict in any way.



Certainly, as I stood in the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and gazed at a mountain of shoes taken from Jewish people before they were made to enter the gas chambers - a sight and smell which will remain with me forever - I felt overwhelmed and felt the importance of remembering and of passing on the story for the sake of all those who gave their lives for us.

At the Korean War Memorial's Peace Garden it says this:

We know it is not - so we need to remember.

Blessings
Caryl

(Pictures were taken at Arlington Cemetery, the Korean War Memorial, World War 2 Monument, the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial).

You are invited to share in Communion
 on Sunday 2nd December 2018
 Holytown Parish Church at 10am



Advent and Christmas Services

Advent 1	2nd December	Communion 10am Blue Christmas 3pm (W) Carols and Pies 6.30pm (H)
Advent 2	9th December	Gift Service 10am
Advent 3	16th December	Nativity Service 10am
Advent 4	23rd December	Lessons and Carols 10am Baptism
Christmas Eve	24th December	Crib Service 7pm (W) Watchnight 11pm (H)
Christmas	25th December	Christmas Day 10am (W)
Christmas 1	30th December	Worship 10am
Hogmanay	31st December	Hogmanay Party 9pm - 12:30am, Church Hall



What's On

Blue Christmas

Our Blue Christmas Service takes place this year in Wrangholm Church on the 2nd December at 3pm. This is a special service of remembrance and is open to anyone who has lost a loved one at any time and who would like to take some quiet reflective time away from all the busyness of Christmas to remember their loved one in a special way. Do come along, if you wish, and share in this time of remembering which many find helpful at this difficult time of year.

Social Committee / Friends of Holytown

May McNeil

The annual Christmas Dinner will take place in the Church Hall on Friday 14th December 2018 at 7 for 7.30 pm. The cost is £15.00 per person and £8.00 for children.

Starters: Soup or Melon

Mains: Turkey or Steak Pie

Desserts: Gateaux or Traditional Christmas Pudding

Vegetarian Options are available.

The current total raised by the Friends of Holytown stands at £6,585 - fantastic!

Your Magazine Needs You!

This magazine relies your contributions and feedback. Please let me know what you would like to see here and let me know if you are interested in contributing on a one-off or more regular basis.

Sunday Readers

2nd December	David Shaw
9th December	Glen Baillie
16th December	Betty Reid
23rd December	Graham Kyle
30th December	David Paterson
6th January	Jim Smith
13th January	Kirsty Shaw
20th January	Ian Houston
27th January	David Shaw
3rd February	Glen Baillie
10th February	Betty Reid
17th February	Paula Speirs
24th February	Graham Kyle

"If you desire to find the true spirit of Christmas and partake of the sweetness of it, let me make this suggestion to you. During the hurry of the festive occasion of this Christmas season, find time to turn your heart to God. Perhaps in the quiet hours and in a quiet place and on your knees - alone or with loved ones - give thanks for the good things that have come to you and ask that His Spirit might dwell in you as you earnestly strive to serve Him and keep His commandments. He will take you by the hand and His promises will be kept." - Howard W. Hunter



The Guild

Christine Duns

The Guild has started again for another season. We meet in the Michael Sherry Centre, Main Street, Holytown starting at 7.15pm and finishing between 8.30 and 9.00pm depending on speakers on the night.

On the second meeting Caryl rededicated our Guild. We always have an interesting, fun and enjoyable evening when she pops along, accompanied by a quiz. Thank you Caryl.

We had a visit from The Dogs Trust - and along came Emma with her dog Serge. Emma explained lots about the Trust and especially highlighting dogs that come into the country illegally and all the problems they have attached to them. This is being advertised on TV just now and it points out that this is a big problem, especially with Christmas drawing near. Serge made himself at home wandering to each table getting attention and treats (from a long standing member - no names mentioned but it begins with a 'U' - with three letters in the name - I think you know the culprit!)

We had a visit from "The Shotts" Singing Group. What a lovely evening that was and very funny too. Their minister came along and introduced each hymn they would sing, along with a story attached. The fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. A visit from the Boys Brigade (part of our Guild Project this year) and a St. Andrews Night with Peter Gardiner and friends is up and coming.

An invitation is extended to everyone. We have a varied syllabus and a warm welcome is given to all. So, if there is nothing on the TV on a Wednesday evening that takes your fancy or you are at a loose end - please come along and enjoy the laughs, entertainment and fellowship.

1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

Linda Baillie

The Rosebuds and Explorer Sections had a Muddy Adventure to Strathclyde Park at the beginning of October. This was organised by Motherwell Division as part of the GB125 celebrations, it was a very wet and windy day but the girls were all wrapped up and had a fantastic time as you can see in our photographs of that day.



The rest of the company are off to the Science Centre at the end of November for a Sleepover, there are over 300 girls and officers from all over Scotland going so I am sure this will be a great event.

Day of Giving

Susan Reid

The Day of Giving has raised £2,287.00 to date with more donations still to come in! A huge 'thank you' goes to all who generously contributed. This will help to cover the extra expenses incurred this year for the replacement boiler in the Manse, boiler repair in the Church and the Hymn Technology equipment.

Worship Music

Stewart McNeil

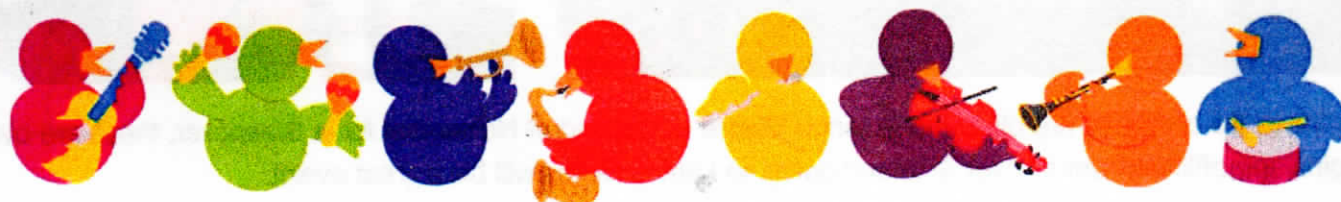
We've had quite a few weeks now using our new music player and generally, the feedback I've received has been fairly positive. I think we're getting used to maybe shorter introductions than what we've been used to and sometimes we go from the end of one line into the next line again, quicker than we're used to. These are things that cannot be changed at this time.

However, what we can do is speed up or slow down any of the accompaniments, change the pitch of any hymn up or down and we can also change the accompaniment sound. We can have different organ sounds or a wide palette of other sounds like brass or strings.

At present, only one of us is organising what is effectively a playlist of the hymns and any other musical items within the order of service. Obviously, this is not ideal and we need others to come forward to learn how to operate and program the new system. Believe me, this is not particularly challenging but a relatively basic knowledge of Microsoft Powerpoint and the ability to create and save files on a PC is required. If you have a PC with Powerpoint, I would be happy to show you what is involved then perhaps we could take on this responsibility on a rota basis.

In addition to setting up the weekly playlist, it would be good to have other opinions in relation to what accompaniment sounds we should try and what, if any, changes need to be made to the pitch or tempo of each individual song to be used in worship. It would also require taking a turn operating the unit on a Sunday morning. This mainly involves pressing a 'start' button when it comes to the time for that musical item in the order of service. Once the hymn starts, all the changes on the tv screens are automatic and the hymn ends, the system automatically goes to the next item on the playlist and nothing will happen until the start button is pressed.

I'm happy to do it for now but at some point, I might be unwell, on holiday etc. and I wouldn't like this to create a problem for morning worship because the items of praise form a really important part of each service. If you meet any of the above criteria, please come down and have a chat with me any Sunday morning after worship. The more folks that can be involved, the better it will be.



Financial Commitments

In the last newsletter we made you aware of our requirement to raise funds for certain works we need to carry out on Church buildings. Since then, the manse has been decorated internally and roughcasted externally.

On top of this we have received the renewal notice that will enable us to keep the web address for the Church (holytownparishchurch.org.uk) for the next three years and this amounts to approximately £500.

For anyone who missed the last newsletter, the main anticipated expenses relating to the Church are as follows:

The first expense will be for a Feasibility Study followed by the cost of the architect, engineer and building warrant. We estimate this will amount to approximately £ 3,500.00. It is unlikely that any of these elements will be covered by Grant monies so we will have to raise this amount ourselves

Phase 1 will be the toilet accommodation and the modifications to the rear exit via the Vestry. Anything else will be a bonus. This will include propping the access stair (to the upper level) to create the necessary space for the DPT (Disabled Persons Toilet), altering the electrics, alarm system and entrance doors to the Sanctuary. The floor level in the Vestry will need to be altered, the internal door modified, the escape door altered and a ramp installed.

Until the initial survey is completed we will not know the extent of the alterations to the upper level or if the access stair to the balcony will need to be modified.

Phase 2 would be the upper level, rewire, new lighting and re-decoration.

Phase 3 will be the external works comprising altering the parking area at the front of the Church, installing a ramp etc although 2 and 3 can be switched to suit our needs.

The above will go a long way to making us Disabled Person Compliant but will not meet every criteria as detailed in the Church of Scotland safety directive.

Drawings relating to these changes can be viewed in the vestibule of the Church.

Parish Register

Baptisms

2018

October

Darcie Margaret Sarah McCulloch



Remembrance Sunday

The 11th November, 2018, is a particularly significant date in history. It marks the centenary of the armistice and the end of WW1.

During the Summer Services at both Wrangholm and Holytown you would have heard our minister make an appeal for people who have the ability to knit or crochet to help create a visual display of poppies. This would help to commemorate the bravery of the men and women who served their country during the First World War.

The aim was to gather at least 100 knitted or crocheted poppies to be mounted on stems and placed outside each church forming meaningful visual displays of appreciation for their ultimate sacrifice.

Following on from this item in last month's newsletter, folks from Wrangholm and Holytown met in our hall one Monday night in October to put the poppies on to sticks, on to the board to make the number 100 and on to the cross we normally decorate with daffodils each Easter morning. Initially, we were looking for around 100 knitted poppies from each congregation but the amount provided far exceeded the initial request. I think this amazing response demonstrates how important it is that we never ever forget the sacrifices made when this country has been at war.

Following the Remembrance Service, Sausage Sunday raised £212 for Poppy Scotland!



Financial report as at 28.10.18

General Income

	2018	2017
Freewill offering	13053.50	13780.40
Plate	4125.12	4598.81
Standing Orders	8539.00	8635.00
Hall lets	4191.00	3739.50
Funerals/Weddings	820.00	980.00
Donations	1315.00	3025.10
Magazines	130.00	130.00
Wrangholm Linkage	2813.25	1386.46
Day of Giving	2287.00	765.00
Spring Fayre	2666.19	2833.68
Charities	177.42	807.87
Gift Aid	7702.69	7828.65
Investors Trust transfer	3000.00	0.00
Total General income	£50820.17	£48510.47

Fabric Fund **£16852.63** **£764.17**

Total Income **£67672.80** **£49274.64**

General Expenditure

	2018	2017
Ministries & Mission	28018.80	27474.30
Presbytery dues	794.00	741.00
Insurance	2871.60	2849.04
Minister's expenses	845.66	832.80
Pulpit supply	580.00	390.00
Electricity	1150.17	1338.00
Gas	5340.44	3407.10
Telephone	657.44	801.39
Broadband	924.72	675.71
Council Tax	1383.32	1337.19
Organist/Church officer fees	788.60	1340.00
Paper/Toner/Copier Maintenance	449.62	531.08
Life & Work Magazines	136.50	136.50
Baptism Certificates	18.97	34.16
Wrangholm transfer	60.00	0.00
Spill the Beans	62.00	68.00
Garden maintenance	600.00	600.00
Amazonia	0.00	101.50
Organ maintenance	0.00	156.00
Charities	177.42	1677.41
Hymn Technology	2625.47	0.00
Planner	7.99	0.00
FWO envelopes	179.77	0.00
Total General expenditure	£47672.49	£44491.18

Fabric Fund

Floor covering for Manse	0.00	387.13
Floodlight	0.00	126.01
Fire Extinguisher service	251.70	112.80
Fire Alarm/Smoke detector service	615.24	641.40
Asbestos survey (part payment)	436.80	0.00
Toilet lock	0.00	48.66
Insurance repairs	18000.00	6000.00
Gas maintenance/new boiler Manse	1986.27	0.00
Boiler repair Church	1300.00	0.00
Light bulbs	161.94	0.00
Vacuum cleaner	55.00	0.00
Roof repair slates/gutters	150.00	0.00
Electrical checks Church/Hall	250.00	0.00
Architects fee	450.00	0.00
Total Fabric expenditure	£23656.95	£7316.00

Total Expenditure **£71329.44** **£51807.18**

(Cont'd over...)

Investors Trust Funds

Balances as at October 2018 are as follows:

General Fund	£12921.50 (£3000.00 transferred to General Bank account)
Reserve Fund	£8214.41
Legacy Fund	£826.47
Sunday School	£434.95
Boys Brigade	£1077.19

Christmas

Anonymous

Christmas is my favourite time in the Church calendar. I find it a great time for reflection, a great time for considering where we are as individuals and as a congregation and a great time for looking forward.

My earliest memories are of seeing children taking part in nativity plays and of the magic of the Sunday school parties. The parties are special in particular because my memories include taking part as a child, being there as a father and actually being Santa at one. I can only describe the Santa element as magical and atmospheric from all three of the perspectives mentioned. The magic of looking into Santa's face as a child, the magic of seeing your child look into Santa's face and the magic of looking at a child through Santa's eyes - these are all truly special moments I will always have with me that a price cannot be put upon.

With each passing year I guess we all move gradually from the magic of the Santa element to the magic and wonder of the coming of the Christ as a baby, born into poverty but with the wise men, the shepherds, the stable, the angelic chorus and the fulfilment of the old testament prophecies adding to the wonder of this incredibly special and moving occasion. I find the music that celebrates the biblical Christmas really uplifting and inspiring and I sincerely believe that everyone connected to a Church must feel the same. Surely the composition and words of such music must have been due to something so much greater than purely the writer's inherent creativity.

The commercial aspect of Christmas seems to be starting earlier and earlier each year (or is it only my imagination?). I reckon this year, the Christmas stock displays began to appear around the beginning of October giving us almost three months of preparation for the secular aspect of the occasion. I found it a little coincidental that roughly, three months on from Christmas, Easter is celebrated. Around the same amount of time passes between the celebration of the saviour's birth and the fulfilment of the prophecies concerning his death and resurrection as the time taken for the build up to the secular Christmas.

Maybe we can learn from this three-month period chosen by the predominantly non-spiritual and commercial sector of society. Presumably they have selected this length of time to give us adequate opportunity to invest prepare and look forward to the big day itself. Perhaps in terms of being forward looking, we need this three months to take us spiritually from the joy of Bethlehem to the passion of Calvary.

Despite the three-month opportunity offered to us, many still leave it to the last minute and things still work out ok. Similarly in the Christian world, many leave it to the last minute before accepting the Lord into their lives and this is also ok.

So let us look back, look at ourselves, enjoy the events that surround the season and at the same time, pause to consider the road and ultimate triumph of what lies ahead. Have a wonderful Christian Christmas.



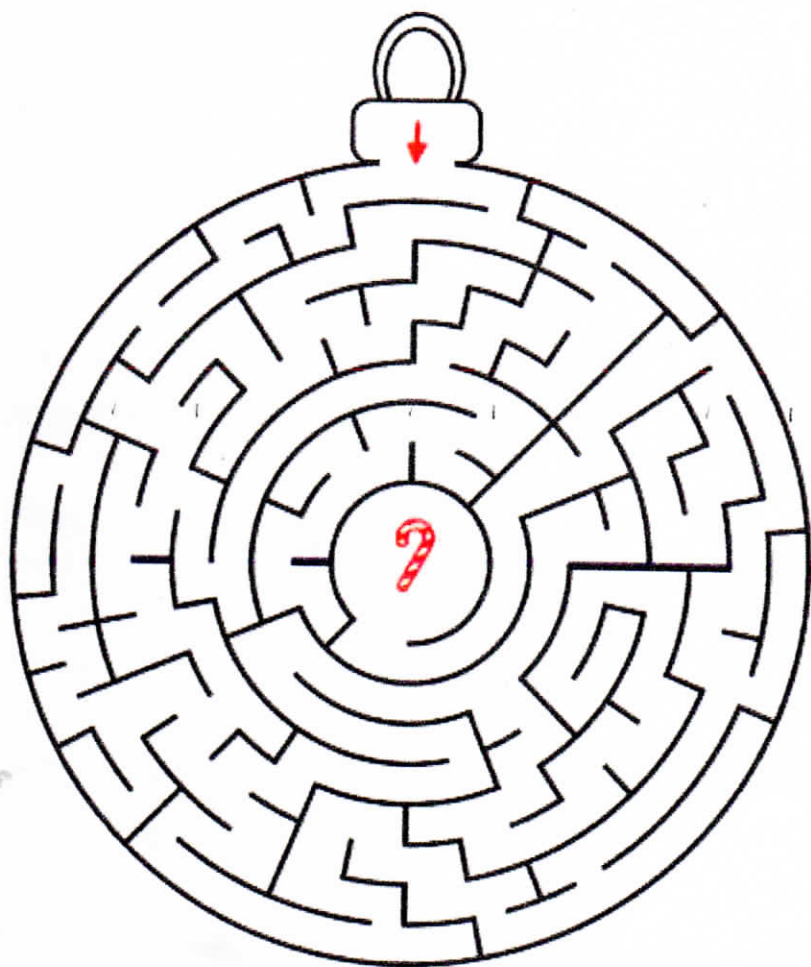
Children's Corner



Christmas Decoration Maze



Can you find a way to the candy cane at the middle of this Christmas decoration? Start at the red arrow.



© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Activity
village

God grant you
the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.
- Wilda English