

## **OUR VISION**

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



**HOLYTOWN PARISH CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND**

**JUNE 2014**

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have noticed just how different the landscape around us is at the moment.

Now I don't mean because 'Spring has sprung' with the warmer weather bringing much greenery to the land - but rather the great tree felling that is going on all around us here in Holytown and New Stevenston, some of which has completely transformed the landscapes of the roads we travel and created quite disconcerting vistas for drivers on these roads.

It seems to me that no matter which road in the area I am travelling along - be that to the Motorway or down the Bellshill Road to the Raith Interchange or indeed the road from Holytown to Carfin - there are masses of healthy trees being felled to make way for new road systems.

I have to say on many occasions I have spotted deer on these roads - not to forget foxes, rabbits and the occasional pheasant and it has left me wondering, with such devastating tree felling going on, just where all this wildlife will now go - for there is certainly no protection for them now their habitats have become wild open spaces.

Thankfully however, it seems the contractors do have some compassion for some of the wildlife at least, for I have spotted a few 'islands' of trees surrounded by orange netting amidst the devastation to protect these trees from felling at the moment - and on closer inspection it becomes obvious that they have been left because there are nesting birds within them - left for the present - but for how long?

Probably until the little birds have flown the nest and then these trees too will be felled!

Now I would not class myself as what some would call a 'tree hugger' - I know progress has to come - but I have to admit it does bring me some sadness to see such devastation of God's living creation with such fine healthy trees - some quite aged - being felled in such a way and of course with the resulting displacement of so many of God's creatures.

However, as always it got me reflecting on life and church life and in this case on change and transformation.

For it seems to me that progress has to come, change has to come, we cannot stand still - particularly our churches and communities: we do have to be true to our tradition and always be reforming and developing.

However, like the sadness I felt over the felling of those trees, realistically, I know any change brings sadness to some people while others can just embrace it and move on.

Realistically, I know there will always be those who will resist change because they cannot face the sadness which it brings - or the loss they feel when what has been is suddenly transformed.

However, it seems to me that our Church Denomination at the moment is rather like these vast areas where trees have been felled - we are losing so many of our people each year - so many of God's creation - some indeed like those healthy trees.

The challenge for us to ask ourselves why we have ceased to be their 'habitat' and then in some way reform ourselves that they might feel they do belong, that they might adapt to the new 'habitat', that they are encouraged to come and be part of the church community once more - and frankly that probably does mean some sort of change.

However, I am sure that just as the present devastation, where trees have been felled will over the coming months become transformed into something wonderful - I am also sure that our church too, if we allow it, can be transformed and become a wonderful 'habitat' for God's people!

The challenge is there - are you ready to respond to it?

Blessings  
Caryl

## **FLOWER STANDS**

We are very appreciative of the gift of the two new flower stands in the Church. They are most attractive. The inscription reads "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Anne Paterson". Our thanks to the Paterson family for this beautiful gift.

## **FLOWER LIST**

June	8	B Meechan
	15	C Docherty
	22	A Ferguson
	29	A & J Coventry

July 6 D Paterson  
13 Christine Menzies  
20 Violet Hamilton  
27 N McPherson

Aug 3 B Jenkins  
10 Sarah Connell  
17 D Paterson  
24 Jany Shaw  
31 Laura Stewart

Sept 7 Betty Meechan

## **THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

It was encouraging to see so many parents and friends of the Company at the Parents' Evening on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. This is always a very special night for the girls and officers.

The main award winners were:

### **Best Girl:**

Rosebud	Aimee Woodlock
Explorer	Leah Flannigan
Junior 1	Aimee Cleland
Junior 2	Codee Hillen

### **Hugh Anderson Endeavour Awards:**

Rosebud	Olivia Allan
Explorer	Summer McMillan
Junior 1	Summer Rennie

Junior 2    Nikki Barr

**The Joe Meechan Best New Recruit:**

Explorer	Kayleigh Clark
Junior 1	Katierose Donachie
Junior 2	Nikki Barr

**Bible Knowledge Trophies:**

**David Shaw Memorial Trophy (Rosebud)**

Runner Up	Aimee Woodlock
Winner	Sophie Cleland

**Milton Trophy (Explorers)**

Runner Up	Stephanie Jenkins
Winner	Eva White

**May Murning Jubilee Trophy (Junior 1)**

Runner Up	Summer Rennie
Winner	Amie Hutchison

**Deveron Trophy (Junior 2)**

Runner Up	Nikki Barr
Winner	Codee Hillen

Next session our company will be joined by the girls from 1<sup>st</sup> New Stevenston (Wrangholm Kirk) and the company title will become 1<sup>st</sup> Holytown / 1<sup>st</sup> New Stevenston. We look forward to this new beginning and the challenges it will bring.

## THE GUILD

When the new Guild Session begins on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October the office-bearers will be:

President	Mrs Christine Duns
Vice-President	Mrs Una Smith
Secretary	Mrs Norma Gemmell
Treasurer	Mrs Betty Jenkins
Committee	Mrs Christine Menzies Mrs Isobel Stewart Mrs Cathie Docherty Mrs Agnes Lafferty

We welcome Mrs Christine Duns as the new President. We trust that she will find this new challenge rewarding and satisfying. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she embarks on this new venture.

## THE JOY OF FRIENDSHIP

I had the pleasure of attending an event in Glasgow recently. Part of the evening was dedicated to the presentation of two long service awards. Both the recipients joined this organisation on the same day 44 years ago. Later, I learned that they had joined on the same day because they were great friends. I also learned that one of them had got married the day after the other. Now, all these years later, here they are still as friends, coming along together to receive their long service certificates. I considered it a real privilege to meet these two unassuming men and add my own congratulations to those they had already received. This made me think a

little bit about how this friendship has lasted such a long time. Over those 40-odd years, there must have been times when a careless word was said, or a thoughtless act occurred. In all probability there will have been fall-outs and difficult situations. Although I'm only speculating, I don't think it is unreasonable to assume there will have been some serious difficulties to overcome over these forty plus years. Yet here they are sitting as friends after all these years. Things that probably have not been said are things like: 'I will never speak to you again!'; 'I will never forgive you for that: That's the last time you'll ever say/do that to me!' Surely there's a lesson for us all here and it is to aspire to the same level of forgiveness as the Lord demonstrated on the cross when he said, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do'.

Despite my advancing years, I recently tried to find out what this 'face book thing' was I kept hearing a lot about. Most of the younger folks that work beside me are 'into' Face book on their mobile phones during lunch and tea breaks. Anyway, I did get into face book and quickly learned that if you don't have any friends on it or people to follow well . . . nothing happens. Now that I'm a little further on with it, I do have friends because what happens is you get to know somebody, then they recommend people to follow. In turn, they also recommend people and before you know it, you have a lot of 'friends' although they are more virtual friends rather than real friends. You might have a lot of names on a list in your phone, tablet or computer but most of them you will never meet. I guess one risk of face book is that you spend so much time in the virtual world meeting people that you do not have the time or skills to meet real people and make real friends in this real world. My favourite site on face book is 'Holytown Past & Present' where people put up photos of what



our village used to look like and show what the same view looks like now. I find this truly fascinating and it brings back so many memories. The interesting thing for me in these photographs is how some things change radically while other things remain almost exactly as they were in these old photos. Maybe there is a moral in this. I will leave that up to yourselves.

Have a great summer, here's hoping the weather is kind.

### **Begin each day by kneeling to pray**

Start every day with a "Good Morning" prayer  
And God will bless each thing you do  
And keep you in His care.  
And never, never sever the "Spirit's Silken Strand"  
That our Father up in heaven holds in His mighty hand.

### **The Heavenly Staircase**

Prayers are the stairs that lead to God,  
And there's joy every step of the way  
When we make our pilgrimage to Him  
With love in our hearts each day.

### **"The House of Prayer"**

"The House of Prayer" is no farther away  
Than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray,  
For the heart is a temple when God is there  
As you place yourself in His loving care.

Helen Steiner Rice

## **THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

**Session 2013-2014**

A very special Session of our Company has drawn to a close. The memories of the special weekend of the Centenary Celebrations will live on and will be retold many times over. At the Reunion the three speakers each brought not only their own individual memories but also shared the part the Company had played in their lives. The Rev George Sherry could recall events in the company while he was Captain and these were also shared by Charles Allen (now, Lord Allen of Kensington). Both were in the company at the same time. How much did the influence of the Boys' Brigade have on Charles' life? As a boy, David I Paterson, grandson of the founder must have been regaled with many stories about the company and all the escapades at camp. It could be said that the experiences of these three gentlemen echoed that of the many boys who through the years were part of the company. The legacy of the company, past and present, will go on influencing for good all the members of every section. The Reunion was clearly a wonderful opportunity for renewing friendships and for sharing their time in the company.

This session the main award winners are as follows:

### **JUNIOR SECTION**

**A Calderwood Award for Best Boy**      Jack Stacey

**Endeavour Award**                              David McDonald  
Isaac Gardner

**William Gardner for Bible Knowledge**      Caleb Walker

**Bible** Lewis Woodlock

## **COMPANY SECTION**

**D I Paterson Award for Best Boy** Ross Baillie

**David Brownlie Award for  
Bible Knowledge** Paul Oliver

**Best Recruit** Steven Harrison

**QUEEN'S BADGE** David Kelso

The Queen's Badge is the highest award within the Boys' Brigade. The award is only achieved after much hard work and endeavour and includes community service as well as work within the company itself. Many congratulations, David, on your achievement!

**The top picture** shows the Anchor Boys and Junior Section boys who have been promoted into the Junior and Company Sections.

**The bottom picture** shows David Kelso being presented with his Queen's Badge.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this session as successful as it has been. The new session begins with enrolment on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September** from **6.30 - 7.30 pm** in the Church Hall.

Captain Glen Baillie

Boys Brigade Results 2013 / 2014



# Millport Outing 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014



## MILLPORT OUTING

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May we set off from Motherwell train station, into Glasgow Central then on to Largs. Then we boarded the Calmac ferry from Largs to Cumbrae slip followed by bus from Cumbrae Slip into Millport.

Once at Millport we hired bikes to cycle around Cumbrae, all 10¼ miles of it! We all managed back in one piece - just!!!

We then made the return trip on the ferry, stopping in Largs for chips before heading back to the train station in Largs towards Glasgow Central. Next stop was Motherwell train station where most of the boys were picked up.

It was a long day of travelling but the boys enjoyed themselves. I think they all slept soundly that night!!!

*Kodak gives you pictures of yesterday*

*Polaroid gives you pictures of today*

*But only God can give you pictures of tomorrow!*

## A VIEW OF THE PAST (Continued from May 2014)

The Statistical Account of 1841 speaks of a preaching station created by an addition to the schoolroom. The building and the seating were paid for by subscription. Even allowing for the fact that the space allowed for each person was less than today, it must have been quite large to accommodate 300 people. The sitters ie those who attended the preaching station, have chosen the Rev D McLean to officiate. The station is still under the direct control of Bothwell Parish Church as pulpits are exchanged once a month for the administering of baptism to the children. Subscriptions for the "new church" are being gathered and the location is described as to the east of Holytown. This would seem to indicate that a new place of worship had been introduced as a successor to the previous meeting place where the induction took place in 1688.

In 1841 there were only three schools in the Parish of Bothwell - Bothwell Village, Holytown and Newart Hill. The salary for Bothwell is given as two chalders (£29) and for the other two half a chalder (£7). (This is based on the value at the time when the church became a *Quoad Sacra*. One chalder = 16 bolls = 1 Ton of Oat Meal at the highest Fairs or market price.) the number of scholars in Holytown School was around 20 but at this time education was not compulsory. For the times we were in a better position than some of the areas round about.

The School mentioned in 1841 is not the former Primary School which is now Christ the King Church. Inscribed on it is the date 1876. I believe that the school used for the

Preaching Station lies to the east of where the schoolhouse previously stood in a building which until its demolition had been used as a pawn shop - namely Maggie McGarry's or Mrs Farrell's. There was quite a bit of space behind this building which could have been the school playground.

As in other parts of Scotland the owners of Thankerton House, Lauchop and Woodhall House had services of worship at their premises. These services are immortalised in some of the old Bothy Ballads which were commonly sung in rural Aberdeenshire. For the children there was a Sunday School. This was important especially as a transport network such as that which exists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was not there. People used bicycles or travelled on foot - sometimes quite long journeys. In addition, in what was still a rural setting families tended to be more closely connected to one another.

(This information was compiled from Presbytery of Hamilton Minutes which were available in Register House, Edinburgh. Other information was found in "The Statistical Account of Lanarkshire" written by The Ministers of the Respective Parishes in the year 1841.)

## **CRAFTS AND TRADES**

In Old Testament times Israel had few if any craftsmen who made beautiful things for their own sake. Even when it came to making places of worship, they often had to bring in foreign artists to complete the decoration. It was a poor country and skills were limited to making strictly useful objects. However, certain trades were regarded as skilled from an early period. These were the crafts of certain families, who probably handed down 'trade secrets' from father to son



## A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO HEAVEN

**Accommodation** - Arrangements for first class accommodation have been made in advance:

*"In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2)*

**Passports** - Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and their names registered with the ruling authority.

*"There shall in no wise enter anything that defileth . . . But they which are written in the Lamb's book of life"*  
(Revelation 21:27)

**Departure Times** - The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travellers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice.

*"It is not for you to know the time or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own power" (Acts 1:7)*

**Tickets** - Your ticket is a written pledge that guarantees your journey. It should be claimed and its promise kept in hand.

*"He that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death to life" (John 5:24)*

**Customs** - Only one declaration is required while going through Customs:

*"I declare unto you the gospel . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:1,3,4)*

**Immigration** - All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. The quota is unlimited.

*"They desire a better country, that is a heavenly . . . For He hath prepared them a city" (Hebrews 11:16)*

**Luggage** - No luggage whatsoever can be taken.

*"We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Timothy 6:7)*

**Air Passage** - Travellers going directly by air are advised to watch daily for indications of immediate departure.

*"We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)*

**Vaccination and Innoculation** - Injections are not needed as diseases are unknown at the destination.

*"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain" (Revelation 21:4)*

**Currency** - Supplies of currency may be forwarded ahead to await passengers' arrival. Deposits should be as large as possible.

*"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:20)*

**Clothing** - A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveller:

*"He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10)*

**Time Changes** - Resetting of watches will not be necessary, nor will the watches.

*"The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine on it. For the Glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof. . . There shall be no night there"*  
(Revelation 21:23.25)

**Reservations** - Booking is now open. Apply at once:

*"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2)*

**Coronation Ceremony** - The highlight of the journey is the welcoming reception and coronation which awaits each new arrival.

*"There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing"*  
(2 Timothy 4:8)

(Thanks to Gordon Elliot, a friend of Colportage.)

## OLD SCOTS

According to "The Herald" the old Scots word for Easter is "pace". In the following quotation the word for Easter changes to "Pess". Here is a simple explanation of when Easter should fall in any year.

"First comes Candlemas, an' then the new meen,  
The first Tuesday efter that is aye Fastern's Een,  
That meen oot an' the neist meen's hicht.  
An the first Sunday efter that is aye Pess nicht."

The rhyme comes from the poem "The Back of Bennachie" (1915) written by Helen Beaton.

## THANK GOD FOR LITTLE THINGS

Thank you, God, for little things  
that often come our way -  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray -  
The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed -  
A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need -  
Oh make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces  
That come to us with "sweet surprise"  
from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

## PROBLEM SOLVED!!!

A woman was at work when she received a phone call telling her that her daughter was ill. She left work and went to the pharmacist to buy some flu medicine. Unfortunately, having done so, she returned to discover she'd locked her keys in the car.

She looked around for a rusty coat hanger, found one, but didn't know how to use it. So she bowed her head and prayed for help. Within seconds a scruffy man appeared. She was so desperate she told him her plight and asked him, "Do you know how to break into a car with one of these?"

"Sure," said the man, and within a minute had opened the car door.

The woman hugged him and thank him profusely. "Thank you so much," she said, "You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for one hour."

"Thank you, Lord," shouted the woman, "for sending me a professional!"

*Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.*

*Sign in a restaurant window: "Courteous and efficient self-service".*

'A Bucket of Surprises' compiled by J John & Mark Stibbe

## A THANKFUL HEART

Take nothing for granted,  
for whenever you do  
The "joy of enjoying"  
is lessened for you -  
For we rob our own lives  
much more than we know  
When we fail to respond  
or in any way show  
Our thanks for the blessings  
that daily are ours . . . .  
The warmth of the sun,  
the fragrance of flowers,  
The beauty of twilight,  
the freshness of dawn,  
The coolness of dew  
on a green velvet lawn,  
The kind little deeds  
so thoughtfully done,  
The favours of friends  
and the love that someone  
Unselfishly gives us  
in a myriad of ways,  
Expecting no payment  
and no words of praise -  
Oh, great is our loss  
when we no longer find  
A thankful response  
to things of this kind,  
For the joy of *enjoying*  
and the *fullness* of *living*  
Are found in the heart that is filled with *thanksgiving*.

## **Financial Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
FWO	8,496.55	9,465.10
Plate	3,144.06	2,820.49
Standing Orders	<u>2,657.00</u>	<u>2,665.00</u>
	<u>£14,297.61</u>	<u>£14,950.59</u>
Decrease £652.98		
Average per Sunday	£680.84	£711.93
No of Sundays	21	21

## **Fabric Fund**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
January - April	192.41	214.72
May	106.00	109.69
Total to date	298.41	324.41

## **MAGAZINES:**

Please note that no magazines will be produced for the months of July and August. Articles for the September magazine will be due no later than Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

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**Church Services are at 10.00 am and on last Sunday of the month  
and Communion Sundays at 6.30 pm.**

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