

## **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 2015**

Thank You, God, for everything -  
the big things and the small -  
For every good gift comes from God,  
the Giver of them all,  
And all too often we accept  
without any thanks or praise  
The gifts God sends as blessings  
each day in many ways,  
And so at this time We offer up a prayer  
to thank You, God, for giving us  
A lot more than our share.  
First, thank You for the little things  
that often come our way -  
The things we take for granted  
and 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.  
Then thank You for the miracles  
we are much too blind to see,  
And give us new awareness  
of our many gifts from Thee,  
And help us to remember  
that the key to life and living  
Is to make each prayer a prayer of thanks  
and each day a day of thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

Dear Friends,

'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory.'

These are the words of Dr Seuss, the writer of many wonderful children's books and a particular favourite of mine when it came to teaching children their rhyming words for who could forget the fantastic 'Cat in the Hat' or indeed 'Green Eggs and Ham'!

I have to say though, I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment of his words for I too believe that sometimes we just don't realise how important a moment truly is until it has become a memory.

I think this was brought home to me most recently on my trip to Bristol last week - a trip we had organized as a kind of re-visiting of our life there some thirty-eight years ago; for it was there in the village of Keynsham situated half way between Bath and Bristol that we first set up home together following our marriage in 1977.

Over the few days we were there we re-visited our first home, our first places of work, our church, our old haunts in Bristol and Bath and as we retraced our steps all the memories of that time spent there together came flooding back - some we had almost forgotten so deep in our memory were they and so it was wonderful to bring them back to mind as we walked around.

Some people say you should never go back but actually we found it a great experience - yes, many things had changed -

'our village' seemed somehow busier, familiar shops had gone, the Fry's factory where Graham had worked for Cadbury's was now closed and houses were being developed on its wonderful riverside location, the whole city of Bristol where I had worked seemed to have been redeveloped into a one-way system and Bath - well it just seemed too full of tourists for our liking!

But . . . It still felt familiar and our trip didn't just bring back many wonderful memories of our time there all those years ago it also helped to create many more memories too!

Who, for example, could not be surprised by walking into a newly created square and seeing a statue of the theologian Tyndall or Penn of Pennsylvania fame?

'Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory.'

We have been given so many moments by our gracious God, let's try and value each and every one of those moments for they are a blessing to us; let those moments become wonderful memories and let's remember to thank God that he has given us those valuable moments.

Blessings  
Caryl

*There is no place where God is not,  
Wherever I go, there God is.  
Now and always he upholds me with his power  
And keeps me safe in his love.*

*Anon*

## SUMMER SERVICES

The vote we took recently in both churches to decide whether or not to hold joint services of worship during the months of July and August were overwhelmingly in favour of this suggestion.

Permission was sought from Hamilton Presbytery to allow us to hold a joint service of Public Worship during these months and that permission was granted by Presbytery.

As a result Joint Services shall take place at 10 am each Sunday morning during July and August.

Note it was decided to have the Joint Service at 10 am in both churches to allow for those who wish to travel on the church bus to take advantage of this service should they wish to do so.

However, please do advise any of the elders or Caryl if you wish to go to church but cannot travel on the bus - transport can be arranged and we would like everyone who wishes to attend church to be able to do so!

Services this year during July shall take place in Holytown and during August in Wrangholm.

There will be an opportunity for fellowship after morning worship - coffee, tea and a blether (maybe even a cake!) - each week in both churches during this time.

Our Summer Services are always a lot more informal so why not come and worship together on those Sundays when you

are not on holiday and get to know those in our Linkage a little better!

Caryl

## **FLOWER LIST**

June	14	Betty Meechan
	21	Agnes Ferguson
	28	Betty Houston
July	5	D Paterson
	12	Christine Menzies
	19	Alice Smith
	26	Cathy Davidson
Aug	2	Nancy McPherson
	9	B Jenkins
	16	Jim and Anne Coventry
	23	D Paterson
	30	J Shaw
Sept	6	Betty Meechan

## **CHURCH OUTING TO CARLISLE**

The outing to Carlisle will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The plan is to go first of all to Carlisle and then to return to Gretna Outlet and have High Tea at the Gretna Chase Hotel.

A list will be in the Vestibule of the Church for the names of all those who are interested in going. It is important to know the numbers in order to know what size of bus to hire.

# **THE GIRLS' BRIGADE**

The principal award winners were:

## **Best Girl**

Best Explorer	Aimee Woodlock
Best Junior 1	Ellie Brown
Best Junior 2	Nikki Barr
Best Brigader	Georgia Ferguson

## **Best Squad**

Squad 3 - Chloe, Rachel, Raygen, Amie, Louise

## **Divisional Trophy - Teddy Bear Olympics**

Abby, Heather, Caitlin, Sophie

**Junior 2 - Runner-up Crafts** - Olivia, Lucy

## **Hugh Anderson Endeavour Awards**

Explorer Section	Abbie Campbell
Junior 1 Section	Rachel Meechan
Junior 2 Section	Amie Hutchison
Brigader Section	Codee Hillen

## **Joe Meechan Best New Recruit**

Explorer Section	Caitlyn Paterson
Junior 1 Section	Morgan Fraser
Junior 2 Section	Louise White

## **Bible Knowledge Trophies**

### **David Shaw Memorial Trophy - Rosebuds**

Runner-up	Caitlyn Paterson
Winner	Sophie Clelland

### **Milton Trophy - Explorers**

Runner-up	Aimee Woodlock
Winner	Erin Summers

### **May Murning Jubilee Trophy - Junior 1**

Runner-up	Mia Devine
Winner	Stephanie Jenkins

### **Deveron Trophy - Junior 2**

Runner-up	Olivia Wardrop
Winner	Aimie Hutchison

### **Alexander Burt Trophy - Brigaders**

Runner-up	Brenna Donnelly
Winner	Georgia Ferguson

## **QUEEN'S AWARD**

This year, 7 girls from Motherwell Division Girls' Brigade gained the highest award within the organisation, the Queen's Award. Three of these girls were Emma Baillie, Jacqueline McKendrick and Kirsty Shaw from our own Girls' Brigade Company. The award has to be completed in no less than two years and takes a lot of hard work and commitment in order to pass. For example, the girls had to undertake voluntary work over a period of 6 months and this took place



in the British Heart Foundation shop and PHEW in Motherwell.



Left to Right:: Kirsty Shaw, Jacqueline McKendrick, Emma Baillie

They also completed a general exam paper on the monarchy and produced written and creative products on a subject that meant a lot to them. Emma produced a 6000 word piece on living with diabetes whilst Jacqueline also wrote a 6000 word project on her chosen career path, Social Work. Kirsty produced numerous creative pieces through painting her

Christian journey. The girls also had to complete 2 initiative tasks within their company which included organising activities for company nights and these were assessed by the Divisional Commissioner. To end the Queen's Award experience the girls travelled to Linlithgow for a residential weekend with fellow Queen's Award candidates to join in a time of fellowship and worship. The Awards were presented at a ceremony in Glasgow Science Centre. The girls hope that they can pass their enthusiasm and commitment on to the girls in their sections on a Wednesday night.

Linda Baillie, Captain

## **CLIMB TILL YOUR DREAM COMES TRUE**

Often your tasks will be many,  
and more than you think you can do.  
Often the road will be rugged,  
and the hills insurmountable, too.  
But always remember, the hills ahead  
are never as steep as they seem,  
And with faith in your heart, start upward,  
and climb till you reach your dream,  
For nothing in life that is worthy  
is ever too hard to achieve  
If you have the courage to try it  
and you have the faith to believe.  
For faith is a force that is greater  
than knowledge or power or skill,  
And many defeats turn to triumphs  
if you trust in God's wisdom and will.  
For faith is a mover of mountains -  
there's nothing that God cannot do -

So start out today with faith in your heart  
and climb till your dream comes true.

Helen Steiner Rice

## **EGP INDIA - CHARITY NIGHT - 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

As many of you know I will be heading to Mitranikelan in the South of India this summer with the charity "Edinburgh Global Partnership".

While there we will be building Chicken Coups for 6 weeks in an effort to help disadvantaged families.

I would like to thank all of you for your support so far and as a result of your continued generosity we have raised over £600 already.

In order to reach my final fundraising target of £1000 we will be having a Charity Night on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of June at the Centenary Suite in Fir Park, Motherwell Football Club. Tickets will be priced at £5 and doors will be open at 7.30 pm and conclude at 12.00 pm. For those of you who were at Rebecca's successful "Malawi Night" last year it will be a similar event.

Thank you once again for your continued support!!

Richard Lovell

*I like this little bon mot I came across. "An optimist may be wrong just as often as a pessimist - but he has more fun."  
How true!*

# **Boys Brigade Results 2014 / 2015**



## **Anchor Boy Promotions**

**Ben Stacey / Isaac Gardner**

## **Junior Section Promotions**

**Jack Stacey / Colby Grant**

## **JUNIOR SECTION MAIN AWARDS**

### **A.CALDERWOOD FOR BEST BOY**

Noah Gardner

### **ENDEAVOUR AWARD**

Colby Grant

### **WILLIAM GARDNER FOR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**

Devlin Taylor

### **BIBLE FOR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE EXCELLANCE**

Louis Taylor

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Jim Smith

## **RIDING ON A DONKEY**

In Biblical times a donkey was a very important animal. Over the years it seems to have fallen considerably from favour.

The nomadic peoples had donkeys as pack animals to carry people as well as goods. The saddle was made of three layers - felt, straw and haircloth. Sacks were either roped together and slung over the saddle, being tied together underneath for security, or else they were hung from a cradle that had been put across the saddle. In Genesis 42:25-26 we read, "Joseph then gave orders to fill their bags with grain . . . They loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed." Children were sometimes carried in the boxes.

Donkeys were even used for pulling a plough but Deuteronomy 22:10 warns, "You shall not plough with an ox and a donkey yoked together." Donkeys are also harnessed to corn mills and to water wheels. (Once in Sousse in Tunisia I did see a donkey attached to a wheel. It kept endlessly going round and round as corn was ground.)

Some breeds of donkey were marked out for royal usage and though they were used by important people for transport, donkeys were replaced by mules as a status symbol, and the horse later became the mount for going to war. The donkey gradually became a symbol of labour and peace, although



always the mount of ordinary people. Zechariah 9:9 forecasts Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. In his words, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

## **PENTECOST**

I thought Caryl's illustration of Pentecost on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May using inflated balloons to illustrate the notion of being filled with the Holy Spirit was very effective ie the balloons were fairly useless until they were inflated. When they were inflated and increased in size, they could be used for decoration, they could be a child's toy, they had a nice shape. Something had to change to increase their effectiveness and usefulness. Similarly at Pentecost, the disciples might have been similarly deflated while they were wondering what, if anything, was going to happen next after witnessing the resurrection of their uniquely wonderful teacher and friend. When the tongues of flame touched them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the transformation was dramatic. I think this is an image we can all envisage and it has been represented in various different ways in many paintings by many famous artists. However the event actually happened, there is no doubt about the impact of this amazing change. There, the seeds were planted that led to the Gospel reaching the very ends of the earth.

## **POSTSCRIPT TO PENTECOST ILLUSTRATION**

As a side issue to this illustration, at the end of the service, quite a lot of the congregation gave me their balloons to give

to my grand-daughter who didn't attend on that particular Sunday. With some assistance, we got back to my car and put all these red balloons in the boot. The regular routine kicked in after that, garden centre, get home, get the jeans on, cut the grass, stretch out on the couch and so on. Later that day, my dear wife announced we needed some stuff from Tesco so, taking the dog with me, I jumped in the car and headed down to Bellshill. Now I don't know if it's only me that does this - I never get just those items that are on my list. I always get more, usually because there are offers. I'm a pure sucker for a sale, a 2 for 1 offer, additional loyalty points etc. The other thing I always do is 'forget to bring the bags I bought the last time I was here'. So here I am with a reasonably full small trolley heading back to the car with my wee dog sitting on the rear parcel shelf waiting for me returning. Now, just so as you get a picture of what happened next, it had been over 7 hours since the morning service had ended. For a gentleman of my advancing years, I often find that my memory is tending towards being selective rather than photographic so I wasn't quite prepared for what happened next. When I opened my boot to pack my messages away, I had completely forgotten it was nearly full of inflated red balloons intended for grand-daughter. Balloons were now floating and bouncing around the Tesco car park with their direction determined by a light but swirling wind and I had a trolley to empty and I didn't want my wee dog to leave the car and join me in chasing these balloons down. I can't begin to describe the actions required to accomplish this seemingly impossible set of simultaneously challenges but I can say: 'the mission was (eventually) completed satisfactorily' and I can also say there were many highly amused shoppers that could verify this story?

## THANKS

A big thank you from May and Stewart for all your best wishes, cards, presents and donations to our just giving page (as I write this, the total with the benefit of gift aid is sitting at £846) on the occasion of our marriage on 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was great having the support of those from our church family that could make it along to the Church service and I know that Kris and Lucy felt the same when they tied the knot exactly one week before.

I'm not sure how often a clerk to the Kirk Session marries a clerk to the Board but based on my own albeit, limited personal experience, I can't imagine it being a frequent occurrence. This places it in the same bracket as a total eclipse, a white Christmas in Scotland, the sighting of a wild haggis, the arriving early for a meeting and May walking past Debenhams without going in!!!!!!



## ARE YOU HOSPITABLE?

For the people of the Bible entertaining others to eat and to stay was important. This seems to have come from a nomadic way of life. Nomadic people are conscious of the loneliness of the desert and that the provision of food is often a matter of life or death.

Because Esau was too weak to prepare a meal for himself after he had been hunting, his brother, Jacob, was able to extract the birthright from him. Genesis 25:32 states, "Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?'"

On the subject of food Paul wrote in Romans 12:20-21 ". . . 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will keep burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

If a person was in one's tent or home, he was absolutely safe under the protection of the family. When David wrote, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies," he was referring to this kind of safety and protection (Psalm 23:5) The custom was taken up by God in the giving of the law so that it was reinforced by divine sanction. As the Jewish

people had received protection from God, they were to give protection to others. It was therefore a sin to eat alone or to refuse to share one's food with the poor and needy.

## GETTING AROUND

In Biblical times it was a good idea not to travel because the roads were dangerous. The roadway could be so faint that it was difficult to make out, or the surface was uncomfortably bumpy. Psalm 107 tells the following story in verses 4 to 7, "Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way until they reached an inhabited town."

Did you know that the wheel had been invented in Mesopotamia. It was a small, heavy disc of wood and it replaced the runner on a sledge. This development led to the need for roads on which the wheels would not disintegrate on large stones or in deep hollows, for the wheels could not pick their way around obstacles in the way that animal feet could. But even with the need for good roads, there was little development in road building. Initially a road was simply a track where the stones had been removed, the bumps flattened, and the holes filled in. When an important person was to arrive, it was the practice to "prepare the way for the Lord." all the mountains (bumps) were made low, and the valleys (ruts and holes in the road), were exalted. (Isaiah 40:3-4) This is echoed in Matthew 11:10 with the words, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

I've never seen God  
but I know how I feel,  
It's people like you  
who make Him so real . . .  
It seems that I pass Him  
so often each day  
In the faces of people I meet on my way . . .  
He's the stars in the heaven,  
a smile on some face,  
A leaf on a tree or a rose in a vase . . .  
He's winter and autumn  
and summer and spring . . .  
In short, God is every  
real, wonderful thing . . .  
I wish I might meet Him  
much more than I do,  
I would if there were  
More people like you.

Helen Steiner Rice

*A friend who is a pastor said this: "Whenever the conflict gets too much in my church I go and visit the local kennels. There's a whole group there that's always pleased to see me!"*

## **CHURCH MAGAZINE**

Please note that no magazines will be produced in July and August.