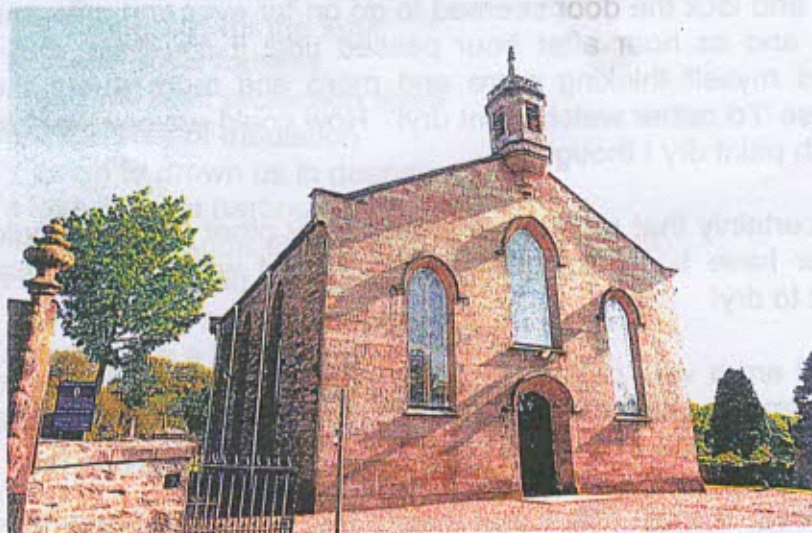


GOD'S LOVE

## 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**

**MAY 2015**

Dear Friends,

'I'd rather watch paint dry!'

Recently I personally had cause to wait for paint to dry on our flat door so that I could actually then shut the door and go to bed for the night without spoiling the paint job.

Well, the waiting for that paint to dry enough for me to actually shut and lock the door seemed to go on for ever and ever and ever and as hour after hour passed until it could be shut I found myself thinking more and more and more about the phrase 'I'd rather watch paint dry!' How could anyone want to watch paint dry I thought!!

For certainly that night there were plenty other things I would rather have been doing than waiting and watching for that paint to dry!

Now I am a very patient person and as you know I do like to take time to reflect on things - but that night was certainly a challenging one even for me!

However, it gave me a real insight into why the phrase was often used when people did not want to do something that was boring - you know like when they might say 'I'd rather watch paint dry than read that book or go to that film'.

However, to alleviate my boredom as the hours passed I decided to do some research on this phrase - thankfully I had my trusty computer to hand and 'Googled' the phrase trying to find the origin of this idiom - but really to no avail!



I did however discover some fascinating facts!

Such as there is actually a web site with a web cam pointed at a painted surface where in fact you can just sit and watch paint dry for hours on end!

I also discovered that a certain gentleman named Keith Jackson actually gets paid to watch paint dry!! The article I read was written in 2006 and at that time he was fifty-seven and he had for thirty years just sat and watched paint dry!!

He commented that people did often laugh when he told them what he did for a living and his job could be described as the most boring one in the world but as he pointed out it was a very important job he did, as the drying times of paints had to be assessed for customers who needed paint to dry quickly for certain locations such as in Underground Stations which could not be closed for too long or indeed some hospital settings. By the way he also said the highlight of his day was simply touching the paint to assess its tackiness!!

Wow!

Well as usual all of this got me thinking!

It seemed to me that what some of us class as boring can indeed for another person actually be an extremely interesting pastime or job.

Also, probably without all the boring jobs in our world the world itself might be a very different place.

Without that man watching paint dry how would painters ever have determined which paint to use in certain locations

safely?

Without researchers working in labs routinely doing the same thing day in day out how would medical science progress?

Without all the people who have to do repetitious jobs every day how would manufacturing succeed and our world develop?

As always it seems to me that we need to value each other, to value what we all have to do - whether we determine that to be boring or not - and then continually appreciate our differences for the value they add to God's world.

I am sure Jesus must have got bored at times trying to get his disciples to understand what he was trying to say to them and to teach them - maybe they even got bored listening to his stories without understanding them - but one thing is for sure each and every one of his disciples was valued and appreciated for what they brought to God's world.

Watching that paint dry may have been boring for me - it may have made me grumble - but then it has also been an encouragement to me to think once more about how we should value the people God has given us and also appreciate the many blessings we have in our lives!

And who knows perhaps that's why I had to watch that paint dry - maybe God just wanted to remind me of this and subsequently you too!

Blessings  
Caryl



## FLOWER LIST

May	10	D Paterson
	17	M Anderson
	24	U Smith
	31	J & A Coventry
June	7	A Smith

## THANK YOU

**Mrs May Walker** would like to thank the minister, Caryl, for all her kindness and help. She also wishes to say "thank you" for the flowers she received and for the cards she received.

## YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

**The Thanksgiving Service** for the Boys' and Girls' Brigades will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at the usual time of 10.00 am. At this service three members of the Girls' Brigade will be presented with Queen's Awards, the highest award in the organisation. Following the service refreshments will be available in the Church Hall.

**The Girls' Brigade Parents' Evening** will be on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May in the Church Hall. All parents and friends will be made most welcome.

## A TESTING CHALLENGE

Many might find it difficult to believe that a group of 14-16 year olds opted, among other things such as several miracles and parables of Jesus, to study the book of Jeremiah. By the end of their study they had a reasonable knowledge of the main

aspects of Jeremiah.

Who is this man whom we know as Jeremiah?

Jeremiah was someone whom God had chosen even before he was born. God had a real purpose for his life. In Chapter 1, verse 5 we read, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah was to be the spokesman for God just as Moses and Isaiah had been in earlier generations. This task was not going to be easy for him but he did have the reassurance that God was on his side and that he would be guided and assisted at all times.

As a young man God touched his mouth and said, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jer 1:9-10). It must have been overwhelming to hear these words and to consider their implications.

Jeremiah is asked what he sees. The vision is "a branch of an almond tree". (Jer 1:11) What significance does this have? The almond tree signals the beginning of spring and it is as if this tree watches over all that happens as the season progresses.

In the second vision, Jeremiah sees "a boiling pot, tilted away from the north" (Jer 1:13). This was to indicate that danger would come from the north. God is warning Jeremiah that he was going to take action due to the people's disobedience.

This must have had quite an effect on the young Jeremiah.



However, God is priming him for the task ahead. It falls to Jeremiah to "stand up and tell them everything I command you" (Jer 1:17). God warns "They will fight against you but they shall not prevail, for I am with you, says the Lord." (Jer 1:19)

It is already clear that Jeremiah was to become a powerful spokesman for God but this was a testing task for him despite the reassurances given to him by God.

In today's world are we ready to face the challenges God sets us?

### **SUMMER - An Extract from a poem by Rupert Brooke**

Just now the lilac is in bloom,  
All before my little room;  
And in my flower-beds, I think,  
Smile the carnation and the pink;  
And down the borders, well I know,  
The poppy and the pansy blow . .  
Oh! There the chestnuts, summer through,  
Beside the river make for you  
A tunnel of green gloom, and sleep  
Deeply above; and green and deep  
The stream mysteriously glides beneath . . .

### **AN INTRIGUING STORY**

A happy looking friend was rather pleased as she was coming back from the shops. She explained, "I was at the chemist's and I whispered to him, 'Have you anything for grey hair?'" He whispered back, "Yes . . . The greatest respect!"

## Thank You

I just want to say a huge personal 'Thank you' to those who came along to our Spring Clean-up Day on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We had fourteen people turn up that day - and you all know who you are - and by working together - and blethering together - and eating rolls and sausage and rolls and bacon together with our cups of tea and coffee and just getting on with it what a wonderful difference we made to our grounds and you know somehow this Spring it didn't seem so hard as last Spring - maybe it was all the fellowship as we went along!

As a result the lane looks fantastic; the road outside has never been so clean; the car parks back and front are neat and tidy; all the overhanging branches are gone making our car park safe and sound; litter has been picked and bagged; smelly drains cleared - well done to



that particular team!! - even some seeds were sown to  
bring future delight!

What a fantastic bunch you are!

Thank You one and all the grounds look great and your  
company was brilliant!

Here's a bouquet for you!



Caryl

## THE SEA AND ITS MANY MOODS

Off the southern coast of Australia are numerous rocks in various shapes and formations. These are known as the twelve Apostles. Nowadays there are fewer than twelve but the name continues to be used. These rocks show just how stormy this coastline must be.

Wild seas can wreak havoc on an exposed coastline. The ruggedness can also show the impact of heavy seas crashing in on the land. The sea is unpredictable - in the morning it can be calm but by late afternoon it can blow itself up into a frightening storm. Small wonder the hymn "Eternal Father, strong to save" was written. Surely whoever penned these words had experience of the sea. The unpredictability is also a warning to us never to take the sea for granted but always to respect it. This is also true around our coast. on an inter-island ship in the Shetland Islands the sea was so stormy that the only safe place to sit was on a seat actually fixed to the ship - that was proved when a chair, the weight of a sturdy easy chair, somersaulted two or three times inside the shelter deck.

These stormy seas remind us just how powerful the sea is and make us realise that only God can control the sea. We are powerless. What has happened in the Mediterranean Sea to the people fleeing from Syria surely makes us pause and think about what can be done to alleviate the problems in the Middle East.

*Reading the Bible helps you come up with solutions to your problems.*



## MISSIONARIES AND BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

In 1613 Jesuit missionaries published the whole New Testament in Japanese. The first Protestant version was printed in Malay. This was carried out by the Dutch East India Company. The first whole Bible was in 1663 by John Eliot in Massachusetts. It was in the American Indian language and contained some words of 15-20 letters long.

In India translations began in earnest with Danish Lutheran missionaries. The New Testament in Tamil appeared in 1711, and the Old Testament was added in 1728.

On the left a scroll which contains the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.

On the right a court secretary copying a manuscript in his library - around the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



Things changed when the English missionary, William Carey, reached India in 1793. Over a period of forty years, together with two colleagues and many Indian helpers he worked on many translations of the Bible. When he died translations of the entire Bible or New Testament had been produced in 37 languages or dialects. These included Burmese and Chinese. Not merely Bibles and Testaments had been translated grammars and dictionaries had also been compiled.

## WHERE CAN WE FIND HIM?

Where can we find *the Holy One*?

Where can we see *His Only Son*?

The Wise Men asked, and we're asking still,

*Where Can We Find This Man of Good Will?*

Is He far away in some distant place,

Ruling unseen from His throne of grace?

Is there nothing on earth that man can see

To give him proof of *Eternity*?

It's true we have never looked on His face,

But His likeness shines forth from every place,

For *The Hand of God* is everywhere

Along life's busy thoroughfare . . .

And His presence can be felt and seen

Right in the midst of our daily routine,

The things we touch and see and feel

Are what make God so very real . . .

The silent stars in timeless skies,

The wonderment in children's eyes,

The gossamer wings of a humming bird,

The joy that comes from a kindly word . . .

The autumn haze, the breath of spring,

The chirping song the crickets sing,



A rosebud in a slender vase,  
A smile upon a friendly face . . .  
In everything both great and small  
We see *the Hand of God in All*,  
And every day, somewhere, someplace,  
We see *the Likeness of His Face* . . .  
For who can watch a new day's birth  
Or touch the warm, life-giving earth,  
Or feel the softness of the breeze  
Or look at skies through lacy trees  
And say they've never seen His face  
Or looked upon His throne of grace!

Helen Steiner Rice

### **TELL ME AN OLD, OLD STORY**

There is an old story that, as Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus fled to Egypt, pursued by Herod's soldiers, they stopped to speak to a farmer who had just ploughed his field before sowing seed. To the farmer's surprise, the Baby began to speak and told him to have his harvesting tools ready for use that very afternoon. The Babe also said that, when the pursuing soldiers asked if he had seen them, the farmer was to say that they had passed when he was sowing the grain.

It all happened as predicted. The soldiers came along that afternoon, and when they questioned the farmer he was able to say, quite truthfully, that the people they were seeking had indeed passed that way, when he was planting the seed he was now harvesting.

"That must have been months ago," said the soldiers, turning

to go in another direction, and thus the Holy Family finished their journey in safety.

*God's training is for right now, not for some mist-shrouded future. His purpose is for this minute not for something better down the road. His power and His presence are available to you as you draw your next breath, not for some great impending struggle. This moment is the future for which you've been preparing!*



## GOD'S LOVE

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 an anchor  
when the angry billows roll -  
A mooring in the storms of life,  
a stronghold for the soul.  
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 is like a harbour  
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 beacon  
burning bright with faith and prayer,  
And, through the changing scenes of life,  
we can find a haven there.

Helen Steiner Rice

## INSPIRATION FROM A TREE

It's important to have roots. In today's complex world, it pays to branch out. If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb. Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows. Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.