



**'EVERY
GOOD AND
PERFECT
GIFT IS FROM
ABOVE...'**

JAMES 1:17A

**HOLYTOWN PARISH CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND**

OCTOBER 2014

This month may I commend this most interesting report of Rebecca Lovell's visit to Malawi. What a wonderful opportunity this was for one of the young people in the congregation!

Blessings
Caryl

REPORT FROM REBECCA LOVELL



On the 10th of June this year I went on the adventure of a lifetime, and I still cannot grasp that at only 17, I travelled to Malawi. It was a very moving and inspirational experience and one that I certainly will never forget. I am so glad that I had this amazing opportunity as part of the 'Aiming Higher in Malawi' team which consisted of 50 individuals (38 pupils and 12 teachers) from schools throughout Lanarkshire. Each pupil had raised £1,600.

On my first day I went to visit the 'Mulange Mission Hospital' which was located in the South East of the country. To this day, I can still picture the looks of despair on the patients' faces and the noble words from one of the Radio Graph doctors; "**We do not have much but we do try**". Each section of the hospital was as harrowing as the next, but it was the operating theatre which impacted on me most. As we opened the doors to the theatre, we couldn't help but notice a pair of feet sticking out from a hospital bed only to be told it was a woman in a state of recovery! The doctor in charge informed us that the hospital was extremely low on funds and even the purchase of necessities such as antibiotics and

anaesthetics could not be guaranteed hence, any patient who has to undergo an operation may not even receive pain relief. In the UK this is something we just take for granted.

The next day began with an early start followed by a coach trip over roads that were fairly rough and uneven compared to those in this country. We travelled to a local church in Mcombie, but as we set foot onto the red earth, it was like a sea of children running towards us. I actually felt a bit like a celebrity! They were all fighting over who got to hold my hand or battling over who got to hold my digital camera. What still baffles me about the children is that they have next to nothing yet continue to smile. This is something we could learn from in this part of the world full of *gizmos* and *gadgets* that we depend upon to entertain ourselves. Despite having all these possessions, we still complain about boredom when we have **everything**, whereas these children get so enthusiastic and overwhelmed over a decent meal or a game of football with their friends played with a 'ball' made out of supermarket carrier bags tied roughly together.



The church was rather basic compared to what we are used to here and the smell inside was quite unpleasant but I admired the determination and commitment of the villagers who walked many miles *barefoot* to honour their religion. In all honesty, it was worth the 6 am start! The church choir was out of this world and when combined with their simple but rhythmic dance routines, I felt like I was in a deleted scene from *Sister Act*!



One of the most memorable activities without a doubt has got to be teaching first aid to some of the locals in Mulange - I felt like a super hero! It has to be the most rewarding experience ever, knowing that you are teaching these vulnerable people a few life saving skills. I was the trainee dummy, where we helped the young girls learn about CPR, how to deal with burns and scalds, bleeding, choking and knowing how to tackle the first common symptoms of strokes and heart attacks. When practising the CPR section, some girls were struggling with remembering the steps to the CPR routine, so

we taught them the 'staying alive' song by the *Beegees*, the necessary skills were imparted and it was safe to say that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout this process.

Each activity on our agenda was tackled with much spirit and enthusiasm but at the same time, elements of our new experiences could be emotionally draining. The activities we were set became more difficult each day and not hearing from your loved ones made the experience even more challenging, in light of this, the teachers and group leader Mr Charles Fawcett decided that a recreational day was needed. Mr Fawcett decided to take us on a mountain hike. I have never really appreciated the beauty that Mother Nature provides to our world, but Likhubula Waterfall was *truly* breathtaking. I felt like I had been transported to Paradise. To reach the waterfall we had to jump and climb over massive rocks, and it's safe to say that there were times where I felt I could fall into the lagoon at any time. Unfortunately for one of my team mates, she experienced just that!

On another day, we went to visit Zomba Women's Prison which was not too far away from our accommodation. During the visit, we were introduced to the prison officers and some of the women prisoners showed us traditional Malawi dance routines. One thing I will never forget from that visit was that each of the local schools made a goody bag full of necessities as a gift for every woman in the prison. Prior to this however, it was stomach turning to watch some women argue over who got the last tube of toothpaste or who got more sweets than the other. In the UK, everyday items such as toothpaste or deodorant are never really considered luxury items, they are things we all take for granted and we never look upon them as extravagances. Watching these women bicker over such

essential items made me realise that I should appreciate everything I have, no matter how big, how small, how cheap or how expensive. I also learned the facts behind some of the reasons these women are being imprisoned, and the reasons are absolutely ludicrous and beyond what you could only imagine. One woman was imprisoned for witchcraft and another was falsely accused of being responsible for the deaths of her children, something which was totally false and completely unthinkable.

Of course, I went on so many adventures in Malawi, I did many activities and went on life changing visits, gained memories and experiences that will remain with me for the rest of my life that nobody can take away from me. It would be an honour and a privilege to return to Malawi soon. I really miss how welcoming the locals were and the children's enthusiasm and acceptance of our party.

From the money that I raised and from the generous donations I received, I would like to donate half to the Mulange Mission Hospital. They desperately need this money to improve their ability to care for their patients. I would like to donate the remainder to the **Go For Girls Health Organisation**. This is a group we were involved with throughout our trip. Young girls in Malawi are not treated with the same equal rights and respect as boys are in Malawi and this programme allows these young girls to learn new skills, gain an education and encourage other girls to stand up for their rights.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank a number of people for this educational

journey:

- **Bellshill Academy** for all their help and encouragement in undertaking such a massive project, the first of its kind for the school
- The parishioners of **Holytown Parish Church** for their generous donations and support towards this amazing experience.
- **The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow** for their generous donation of £250.
- **North Lanarkshire Council**
- **My family** for their unwavering support

From your kind-heartedness, many lives in Malawi will be improved and changed for the better. This would not have been possible without your support. It is the most rewarding feeling ever to know that together, we have made a difference.

FLOWER LIST

Oct	12	B Reid
	19	June Bell
	26	C Boyd
Nov	2	Christine Duns

THANKS

Mrs Sheila Mitchell would like to thank you for the lovely flowers she received from the Church.

Miss Betty Reid would like to thank you for the lovely flowers she received from the Church and also for the cards and gifts she received for her 80th birthday.

THE GUILD

The Guild resumed on Wednesday 1st October. The next meetings will be on Wednesdays 15th October and 5th November at 7.15 pm in the Michael Sherry Facility.

REFERENDUM

I have never known such an interest in politics and I've been working at elections for the past 30 years. There were a few things I had never seen before. A man came into my polling station in the morning and he said to me 'I'm 73 years old and have been self-employed all my days, do you know this is the first time I've ever voted?' A lady came in looking quite anxious, and took her ballot paper into the polling booth. She then literally stared at her blank ballot paper for up to five minutes before making her selection. She was not the only one. Others took quite some time to mark their paper. These folks seemed quite stressed with this momentous and historic decision they were faced with.

So after the intense build-up, it's all over, the speculation, the campaigning, the relief, the emotion - it is indeed all over - or is it?

PULPIT SUPPLY

Thanks must go to Frank Haggarty and Sheena Bell for responding to Caryl's request and conducting morning worship

on a couple of Sundays when Caryl was unable to be with us.

CHANGES

You'll be seeing some changes going on around the Church and Hall in the coming months due to various pieces of legislation we must comply with. A small wash hand basin is getting fitted in the hall kitchen. This is to comply with food hygiene regulations. Once it is fitted, it will allow us to do some basic food preparation and serve a filled roll and a cup of tea after morning worship every now and again. A number of us have passed the training course in food hygiene. There are also changes that will have to be made to comply with fire regulations in the Church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee plan to hold a 3 course festive dinner in the Church Hall on Friday December 5th. Tickets are on sale priced at £10 from Office bearers. We hope that Santa will also make an appearance.

YOU CAN'T TURN THE CLOCK BACK . . .

The area from Ard Loan to Windsor Road had for many years two rows of houses. One row was alongside Stevenston Street and the other one behind it with space for drying greens in between. This was Bairds' Square. At the edge was what became the Orange Hall but previously had been Garvie's grocer's shop. At one time the miners and steelworkers who lived in Bairds' Square received tokens or vouchers and were obliged to buy in this shop. This practice stopped many years ago but it does show just how the employers controlled the

actions of their employees.

With one exception the house doors on Stevenston Street were bricked up. It is said that this was to keep everything peaceful! The doors on the rear were quite far apart. Many fine folk including Holytown Church members lived very happily there.

HARVEST LONG AGO

For many years one of my favourite Old Testament books has been 'Ruth'. Ruth lived in Moab, the place to which Naomi and Elimelech and their two sons went because of a famine in Bethlehem. Sadly Naomi's husband and the two sons died leaving only Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. Orpah was persuaded to remain in Moab but Ruth was determined to remain with Naomi. The two travelled to Bethlehem and arrived at the time of the barley harvest.

Now at harvest-time someone who was willing to follow the reapers was permitted to pick up the grain which was left behind. This was known as gleaning. When Ruth gleaned she would naturally attract attention because she was not local. Soon everyone knew that she had accompanied Naomi on her journey home. Ruth's loyalty and care of Naomi was noted by everyone. The fields in which she worked belonged to a kinsman (a relative) called Boaz.

Boaz, after satisfying all the family rules, marries Ruth. Their son, Obed became the father of Jesse, who in turn was David's father. If we were to follow down through many many generations we arrive at the birth of Jesus.

To me it is intriguing that the loyalty and devotion of Ruth to her mother-in-law led to her being a little part in the genealogy of Jesus.

Do read this little book for yourselves. It only has four chapters.

FOR BIG THINGS AND FOR SMALL

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 thank You for the "miracles"
 we are much too blind to see,
Lord, 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 every day thanksgiving.

Helen Steiner Rice

THE PAST - IS IT IMPORTANT?

Have a look at the two pictures of Martin Luther. The one on the left is Luther in disguise and the other is what we would normally recognise as Luther.



These two pictures show the room in the Wartburg where Luther translated the Bible into German as well as writing other material and the other is the Wartburg itself.



When Martin Luther posted his Theses on the church door, he couldn't possibly have realised just this deed would shape his

future life. One of his roles in the breakaway church was a teaching one. Even during meal breaks Luther lectured to the university students. In Wittenberg it is possible to visit this fairly large hall where what became described as "Table Talk" took place. Luther's home was actually a former monastery. The following are two examples taken from "Table Talk".

"Scarcely a small proportion of the earth bears corn, and yet we are all maintained and nourished. I verily believe that there are more people in the world than there are sheaves of corn grown, and yet we are all fed. Yea, and there remains a good surplus of corn at the year's end. This is a wonderful thing, which should make us see and perceive God's blessing."

"When Moses, with the children of Israel, came to the Red Sea, then he cried with trembling and quaking, Yet he opened not his mouth, neither did the people hear his voice on earth. Doubtlessly he cried and sighed in his heart, and said: 'Ah, Lord God! What course shall I now take? Which way shall I now turn myself? How am I come to this strait? No help or counsel can save us. Before us is the sea. Behind us are our enemies, the Egyptians. On both sides are high and huge mountains. I am the cause that all these people shall now be destroyed.' Then answered God, and said: 'Wherefore criest you unto me?' It was as if God was saying; 'What an alarm doest you make, that the whole heavens ring!' Human reason is not able to search this passage out. The way through the Red Sea is full as broad and wide, if not wider than Wittenberg lies from Coburg, that so doubtlessly, the people were constrained in the night season to rest and to eat therein; for six hundred thousand men, besides women and children, would require a good time to pass through, though

they went one hundred and fifty abreast.”

Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, a former nun. To understand why she was a nun we must go back to her early childhood. When Katharina was only six years old her mother died. Although her father re-married, his daughter had already been placed in a Convent in Brehna. It would appear that the widowed father could not see how he was going to look after his daughter. In the convent she was well-educated - reading, writing, singing and elementary Latin. For a girl in the 16th century such privileges were rare. At the age of sixteen she went to Nimbschen where she made her vows. Life in the convent was going to change radically as the full impact of the 95 Theses took effect. (To be continued)

A LITTLE OVER HALF A CENTURY AGO

While tidying up I found a copy of a magazine printed in May 1960. The magazine was to advertise a "Garden Fete, Barbecue and Dance" on 3rd September 1960 and also a "Special Finance Appeal" on 10th June 1960.

Included in the Committee for this event were Mrs Isobel Richmond (Convener), Mrs H Hughes (Secretary) and Mrs M Hamilton (Treasurer). I'm sure memories will be brought back when you read the names of the stallholders.

Ices and Refreshments - The Boys' Brigade under Captain Andrew Calderwood. (£6)

Shooting Gallery - Messrs A McCartney and Ian Bell

Stationery - Mrs Milligan (£12)



THE OPENING CEREMONY AT THE MANSE:

Front: Mrs Helen Hughes, Mrs Peggy Hamilton, Mrs Isobel Richmond and Mrs Janet Brackenridge

Back: Mr Henry Steele and Rev Dr James Richmond

Holding the microphone is Mr Jack Radcliffe, comedian

Art Gallery and Museum - Mr D I Paterson (£3)

Balloons - The Congregational Board

Cake 'n' Candy Stall - Miss Lottie Gillan and Mrs Struthers (£21)

Tea Room - Mrs Kyle (£27)

Apron Stall - Mrs Brackenridge and Mrs Hughes (£56)

Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Stall - Mrs Edmondson, Mrs T Brown and Mrs Struthers (£34)

Soft Goods and Embroidery Stall -Mrs Agnes Taylor and Mrs J Kennedy (£45)

Woollens Stall - Mrs Walker and Mrs Bannister (£47)

Handkerchiefs, Old Jewellery and 1/- Parcels - Mrs Smith and Mrs M Bell (£34)

Cosmetics Stall - Miss McCartney, Miss Robertson and Mrs McCartney (£26)

Groceries and Dirt Dispellers/Bric-a-Brac - Miss J Gillan, Miss C Paterson, Miss May McGhee, Miss Pearl Struthers and Miss M Milne (£32)

The total amount raised by the stalls was £343 - I don't have a figure for the balloons or the shooting gallery.

THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

The good, green earth beneath our feet,
The air we breathe, the food we eat,
Some work to do, a goal to win,
A hidden longing deep within
That spurs us on to bigger things
And helps us meet what each day brings,
All these things and many more
Are things we should be thankful for . . .
And most of all our thankful prayers
Should rise to God because He cares!

Helen Steiner Rice

Financial Statement as at 30th September 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
FWO	15,556.05	16,548.00
Plate	5,378.27	4,902.18
Standing Orders	<u>4,757.00</u>	<u>4,797.00</u>
	<u>£25,691.32</u>	<u>£26,247.18</u>
Average per Sunday	£658.75	£673.01
No of Sundays	39	39

Fabric Fund

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
January - August	439.91	473.57
September	24.58	81.00
Total to date	464.49	554.57

THANK YOU

We should like to record our thanks for the legacy we received following the death of one of our most faithful members, Mrs Betty Murray. This legacy is very much appreciated.

OUR VISION

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

--oOo--

THE REFLECTIONS OF GOD

The silent stars in timeless skies,
The wonderment in children's eyes,
The autumn haze, the breath of spring,
The chirping song the crickets sing,
A rosebud in a slender vase
Are all reflections of God's face.

--oOo--

MINISTER: Rev Caryl Kyle, BD (Min), DipEd
The Manse, 260 Edinburgh Road, Holytown, ML1 5RU
Tel 01698 832622

SESSION CLERK: Mr S McNeil
29 Crofters Way, East Whitburn, EH47 8ES
Tel 01501 743274

TREASURER/FWO TREASURER: Mrs S Reid
29 Bowhill Road, Chapelhall, ML6 8WL
Tel 01698 732904

ROLL KEEPER: Mrs A Smith
CHURCH AND HALL CARETAKER: Mr J Smith
3 Tweed Lane, Holytown, ML1 4SS
Tel 01698 833190

CLERK TO THE BOARD: Mrs M Lovell
12 Neptune Way, Mossend, Bellshill ML4 1JL
Tel 01698 831269

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Miss M P Milne
10 Balfron Crescent, Hamilton, ML3 9UH
Tel 01698 428995

MAGAZINE CONVENER: Mrs I Hinshelwood
24 Redwood Road, Holytown, ML1 4PQ
Tel 01698 734310

FLOWER CONVENER: Mrs C Bell
49 Dale Drive, New Stevenston, ML1 4NB
Tel 01698 732337

**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



Embrace the Middle East, the Christian development
charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East.

24 London Road West, Amersham HP7 0EZ • Tel: 01494 897950 • www.embraceme.org
Reg Charity No: 1076329 • Ref: F402L