



## **‘Our Kirk Matters’**

Holytown Parish Church

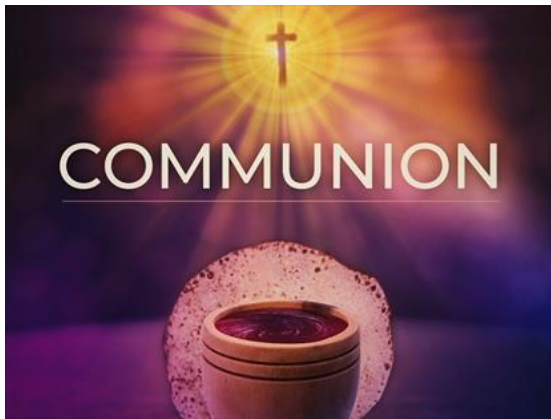
October 2024

# *Harvest Thanksgiving*

***Galatians 6:7-9 – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***



Our vision is to be a living, caring Church at the heart of our communities – celebrating worship, offering support, giving a welcome and sharing the good news of Jesus.



**You are invited to Holy Communion**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10 am**

***"Do this in remembrance of me."***

**All are welcome to attend & participate**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Holytown Girls' Brigade**

To mark the closing of the Company, a

**Service of Thanksgiving** will take place on

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am in the Church.**

It would be fabulous to see the girls and their families come along. If girls still have their uniforms, do please wear them, if not, own clothes are fine. It would also be great if you could invite any former members to come along and join us. All would be most welcome.



### **Donation Day Sunday 6th October 2024**

Envelopes will be available in the vestibule of the Church and can be returned there as you leave. If you are unable to attend and still wish to make a donation please ask your elder or contact Susan Reid on 01698 732904 , email [williemreid@gmail.com](mailto:williemreid@gmail.com) and an envelope will be delivered to you.

Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations by the donor. This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter. Get help on making JustGiving your Gift Aid Agent.



*giftaid it*

## Letter from the Manse - Rev Terence C Moran BD; Cert Min



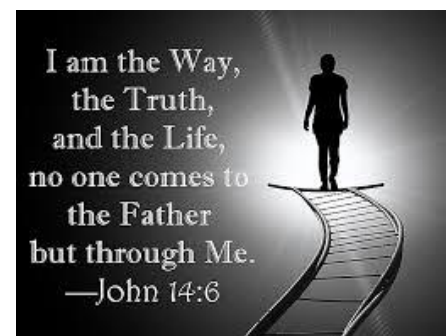
This has been a challenging week as a minister with my having to turn down the request from someone claiming to be a part of the Church of Scotland who wanted to use our premises for un-Christian practices, to taking part in the funeral of someone connected to the recovery work we undertake who overdosed on drugs leaving her six year old daughter to be raised by her grandparents. In such circumstances it's not easy for the family to hear well-meaning platitudes from friends, neighbours or acquaintances who just can't find the right words to say, such as: *'You'll be alright'*, *'She's in a better place'*, *'Time's a great healer'*, *'It will get easier.'* Believe it or not I find it just as difficult to offer words of comfort, even though such words are based on my belief in the Christian gospel message that Jesus died and rose again, overcoming death, and that those who believe in him might inherit eternal life. A message that the person who died had accepted when they went forward at the recent Franklin Graham 'God loves you' tour in Glasgow and that the person asking to use the church must have accepted too when they joined the Church of Scotland, which according to them they had done, though not my church.

I often wonder if these words actually bring comfort to people who are grieving, especially in a day and age when many, including many who profess to be Christians, don't appear to believe in them. Or perhaps worse, in a day and age when many think that belief in Jesus makes no difference to our eternal destiny. They think that everyone 'goes to heaven' - saint and sinner alike. The clear problem with this for me is that it is not the Christian gospel! In John 14:1-7, a text often used in funeral services, Jesus himself said: *'I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.'* And this, for me, means through faith in him as our personal Lord and Saviour! That doesn't mean that Christianity excludes people, as some would have it, it means that God does, but only those who choose not to accept him!

In the old days, the phrase *'fire and brimstone'* was often used for the type of preaching that sought to scare people into a life of faith by reminding them of the terrible fate that awaits those who do not believe in God. Nowadays you don't often hear the gospel being preached in that way. Today's preachers tend to stress that we follow a God of love, grace, peace and mercy, all of which is true. But this is the same God who declared himself to be a jealous God in the Ten Commandments, and He has not changed: *'You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down and worship them; for I am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.'* (Exodus 20:3-4) God does not accept those who follow other gods, whether it be idolising so-called Christian saints, venerating man-made figures such as Buddha, or going to spiritualist churches, having your palm read or reading your horoscope, or any other spiritual practices that are not based firmly in belief in the God of the Old and the New Testaments, such as those promoted by the person asking to use our church. The response from this person after their request was turned down by me was that it was attitudes such as mine that are the reason churches are closing. I beg to differ. Churches are closing because we in the west have drifted from belief in Jesus being the ONLY way, truth and life that leads us to the Father, and allowed eastern spirituality to become more prevalent not just in our society but in our churches. I firmly believe that the sooner we return to the gospel according to Jesus the sooner the church in Scotland will flourish as it once did. Now there is a challenge for all of us!

Your brother in Christ,  
Terry

Rev Terence C Moran BD; Cert Min  
South Wishaw Parish Church  
East Academy Street  
Wishaw ML2 8BG





## Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's visit

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the Church Elders and congregation were truly honoured to have the newly appointed Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson conducting our service of worship & Holy Communion.

As recorded in our November 2023 edition of the magazine, Shaw is originally from our village here in Holytown where his Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather were Elders within our congregation and had their own building company. Rt Rev Dr Paterson said *"One of the themes I'd like to have for my year as Moderator is building together"* and this goes back to his roots.



It was wonderful to see how busy the Church was on the day and we were so grateful to have representatives from our local cluster groups and also Churches from within the Bellshill, Motherwell & Airdrie areas. Also in attendance were representatives from Shaw's own Church, Strathaven Trinity. It was great to enjoy the fellowship afterwards in the hall.



## From Mr Bill Hastings, Locum



'Here we are again' there is a song about that, "Happy as can be all good pals and enjoying good company". I have said it before we here at Holytown Church enjoy our Sunday worship we sing good going hymns and the words mean something to each one of us. We have a special time for prayer we call 'Reflections' where we sit quietly praying to our Lord about anything that comes to mind, it has been commented that we **feel** the presence of the Holy Spirit as His family.

In my time as a preacher I have never felt the power of Jesus Christ my Lord as much as through you as friends and most importantly as brothers and sisters. I cannot put words together to thank you for just being there.

They say someone is thinking of you so with that in mind 'Keep the bright hope of the future in view someone is thinking of you.'

Here's a wee thought... Not all scars show, not all wounds heal, not all illnesses can be seen, not all pain is obvious.

May we continue to walk hand in hand with each other and with our Lord and Saviour.



*Bill Hastings  
Locum*

## Sunday Readers 2024

We warmly invite all members of the congregation to contribute to the service by volunteering to read from scripture during the service. Should you wish to do so, please contact our Locum Bill Hastings or one of the Elders. Plenty of notice is always given for you to prepare in advance for the reading that is chosen.



## From Stewart McNeil (Session Clerk)

### Rev. Billy Habib Steele

We were privileged to have Billy or Habib (as he likes to be known) taking the sermon at our morning service of worship on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

He is a retired Minister of the Word and Sacraments of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, which is a member Church of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.



Habib received the degree of Master of Divinity, jointly from Knox College, Toronto, The Toronto School of Theology, and The University of Toronto, and studied Pastoral Care at St Michael's Roman Catholic Hospital, Toronto and graduated in 1980.

He was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments by the Presbytery of Brockville of the Presbyterian church in Canada and served Presbyterian churches until being called to serve as Minister by the John Calvin Christian Reformed church, Truro, Nova Scotia. He was admitted to the Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America by Classis Eastern Canada in 1993. A Classis in the Christian Reformed Church is the equivalent of a Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church.

He served Christian Reformed churches in Canada, and as Missionary with Christian Reformed World Missions in the Republic of Guinea, West Africa until 2009. After he retired, he served as a volunteer missionary and Middle School Teacher with All Nations Church and All Nations Christian Academy, Yangpyeong, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Korea (Hap Dong).

He was approved to serve as a Minister of the Church of Scotland in 2014 and served as a locum Minister in Trinity Church Hamilton from January until May, 2014 and was then invited to return to Canada to serve in an ecumenical residential community, but that never got off the ground because some of the people who were supposed to come from European countries could not obtain Canadian visas.

Habib moved from Canada to Bridgend, Wales in 2016 to be near his family who moved there from South Korea and served as a supply Minister with the United Church Area (Methodist Church and United Reformed Church) until the Covid lockdown when he retired.

It was great to have Habib with us and we would love to hear more of his extensive experience as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **Mission Planning**

As you are aware, it was the proposal of the mission planning team in our presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale that we should be part of a cluster of four existing congregations, ourselves, New Stevenston Wrangholm, Kirk 'O Shotts and Newarthill. Newarthill would be the main place of worship and only the halls at Shotts and Holytown would be retained.

We appealed this decision at presbytery level and our appeal was not upheld. The next option taken was to request a review of this decision to the main offices of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. 85% of congregations who requested a review were rejected on receipt of their application. Our application went to the next stage but we are still awaiting the outcome of this stage of the process.

Susan and I attended a meeting in Coatbridge along with representatives from other churches in our surrounding area in terms of how implementation of the new clusters would take place. We had always been under the impression that there would be a possibility of still retaining morning worship at Holytown similar to the arrangement we have with Wrangholm at present as part of a cluster. At this meeting, it was made clear that each cluster would have a main place of worship, and this is the only place where Sunday worship will take place. It was stated that worship could be held at other locations in the cluster but this would not be on a Sunday morning.

Once we are made aware of the outcome of our review by Edinburgh, we will be in a position to determine what our next actions will be. As always, any changes will be intimated at morning worship.

Stewart





<b>To All:</b> A Big Thank you to all who have done something for their Church over the past quarter no matter how large or small. You know who you are!		
<b>Flower List 2024:-</b> Thank you to all who have added their name to the flower list for 2024. If for any reason you are unable to fulfil your commitment, do please let Christine Bell know by calling 01698 – 732337. The Flower List for 2025 is now available.		
<b>The Jenkins Family:</b> Betty, Stuart & Alan together with the extended family wish to thank the members of the congregation for the cards & flowers they received. They are very appreciative of the love and support they received on the sad loss of Bill.		
 <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 @ 10 am</b> <b>- Church</b>	Communion Service / Donation Day & Thanksgiving Service for 1 <sup>st</sup> Holytown Girls' Brigade   	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 @ 2-4 pm - Hall</b> <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10 am - Church</b>	See Harvest flyer. All are welcome to join  <b>Harvest Thanksgiving Service</b> Please bring along donations for our local Salvation Army.	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10 am – Church</b> <b>&amp; 11 am @ War Memorial</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> 	
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at 10 am</b>		<b>Gift Service</b> Please donate a gift suitable for a child (baby to teen) and clearly mark your parcel, boy, girl and age.
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 23:15 (11.15 pm)</b>		<b>Watchnight Service in the Church</b> 

**Snow Clearers:** Winter is coming and with it the possibility of snow. That means we need to ensure the paths around the Church are cleared of snow before the Sunday service. We are looking for volunteers to be ready, in the event of a snow fall, to be at the Church Hall before 9 am on a Sunday morning and help make the approaches to the Church safer. Over the last few years, we have not had many Sundays when the snow needed to be cleared, so it is not an overly onerous commitment. If you would be prepared to help out, please let David Paterson our property convenor know *or just turn up on the day.* (Contact details on back page)



## A Harvest Initiative from a local resident

Session was recently approached by Chalcedony (Chelsea) Williams, a local resident who serves at a Church in Glasgow. She was speaking with friends about hosting an event to bring our community together and share the love of Christ with them. They thought one way to do this would be through holding a “harvest” inspired celebration in October. They are inviting everyone from the Wilkie Drive estate opposite the Church to share in a light snack and fellowship. They are also asking them to donate non-perishable food items to distribute to those who are in need. In addition, they would be extremely grateful if members of the Parish Church could help them with spreading the word to invite others, donating food items and in any other way they feel able. They believe there are many people in Holytown who would really benefit from meeting others and coming into contact with people who love Jesus. Chelsea would also appreciate your Prayers for this event.

After meeting Chelsea, Session was delighted to allow her request and to the use of the hall premises free of charge. Please see further details below. Do please note the event will take place in the Church **Hall**.



**HOLYTOWN HARVEST**

Join us for food and meet the neighbours

We will be collecting food donations for families in need. If you are able, please bring:

- Tins (baked beans, macaroni cheese, etc.)
- Rice, pasta
- Cereal
- Pasta sauces
- Other non-perishable items

PLEASE CHECK ALL ITEMS ARE GOOD QUALITY AND IN DATE.

For more info, contact Chalce (no. 133) on 07704446742.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Holytown Parish Church**  
**Sat 19th October**  
**2-4pm**

## What Foods Do Food Banks Need the Most?

- Cereals. ...
- Tinned soups and stews. ...
- Pasta, rice and pasta sauce. ...
- Tinned meat and fish. ...
- Tinned beans and vegetables. ...
- Tinned fruit. ...
- Condiments and spices
- Canola and olive oil sprays.

Food banks may also need other items, such as:

- Toiletries and hygiene products, such as soap, toothpaste, diapers, and sanitary products
- Tin openers
- Baby food

All food collected is likely to go to the Salvation Army in Bellshill.





# 'Our Kirk Matters'

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holytown Girls' Brigade

# Holytown Parish Church

With deep regret and due to changes in circumstances and different commitments 1<sup>st</sup> Holytown Girls' Brigade has had to close. This was a very difficult decision for all the Officers to make. They said *"It has been a pleasure spending our Wednesday nights with the girls and to see them progress through the Company. We wish them all the very best for the future."*

*A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support over the years. It has been very much appreciated. Also, thanks must go to the Kirk Session and congregation for their support and encouragement throughout the years."* The final Holytown Company night took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Please see photographs below).





## The Girls' Brigade closing hymn:-

*Jesus Tender Shepherd here me, Bless thy Girls' Brigade tonight.*

*Through the darkness, be thou near me, watch my sleep till morning light. Amen*



## A Brief History of the Girls' Brigade (1938 – 2024)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Holytown Company of the Girls' Guildry was founded in 1938 by two local ladies, Mrs Mair and Mrs Murning. The present-day Brigade was born out of an amalgamation of three separate girls' groups based in Churches throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland – The Girls' Guildry, the Girls' Life Brigade and the Girls' Brigade of Ireland. The amalgamation took place in 1965 when they all came together under the one flag and title of the Girls' Brigade. This amalgamation brought about sweeping changes in the badge structure but the centrality of the Cross of Christ and our dependence on Him has remained unaltered.

**We hope that former members will join us on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am for our Thanksgiving Service** where we will acknowledge God's place within our organisation and the way the Company strived to 'Seek, Serve & Follow' Christ. We will come together with the present Company to give thanks for the girls, young women and leaders who were all part of the Guildry and 1<sup>st</sup> Holytown Girls' Brigade. For all that we received, for the fun, fellowship, laughter. For the joy that our memories give us and for the contribution that it has made to our lives in faith. The service will be for the Decommissioning of Colours.

The lamp of the Girls' Guildry was first lit in 1938 and has continued to shine out its light and to attract young people to the organisation right up to the present day. The many girls who have passed through the ranks of the Company remember with affection and enthusiasm the nights spent in the Church Hall. The games played may have been forgotten but the memory of the fellowship and friendship which have always been associated with the organisation remain a lasting memory and bond between those who have shared in the activities of the Company.

We wish to record our thanks to the founders of the Company, Mrs Murning and Mrs Mair. They had the courage to light the lamp even when the peace of the world was being threatened.

On behalf of our Locum and the Kirk Session we wish to record our grateful thanks to all those who have given of their time and talents over the years. Whilst it is incredibly sad to see our organisation close here in Holytown we must pray that the girls' find other Companies to join and that Christ's guiding hand gives them the strength to face the challenges of tomorrow.

- Semi-Jubilee re-union was held in the Church Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1964 (Rev. Thomas Swanston)
- The Ruby Anniversary re-union was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 1978
- The Golden Jubilee Anniversary re-union took place in the Church Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1988 (Rev. Dr James S Salmond)



*Back Row: Left to Right: Miss C Paterson, Miss M McGhie, Unknown, Miss MP Milne, Miss N Gillan*



*Miss MP Milne, Miss MA Anderson & two of the girls*

**Prayer:**

*Lord Jesus, we thank you for the work & service of our Girls' Brigade Company over so many years.  
We pray that you would continue to bless all those who have fond memories of their time in GB.  
Grant rest to those who have worked so faithfully through GB,  
and we ask you would honour the time, energy & love they invested in so many.  
Grant joy to those who have been served through GB,  
we ask that you continue to challenge them & make Yourself known to them.  
We pray You would bless our efforts as we seek to find other ways to encourage young people to 'seek,  
serve & follow Christ'.        Amen.*



## 'Our Kirk Matters'

## Holytown Parish Church



*Miss Net Gillan & Miss Cathy Paterson  
(Cathy was one of our founding members)*



*Net at 100 years young with The Moderator*





*From left to right:*

*Net Gillan, Margaret P Milne, May Murning (Founding Member), Rev Dr James Salmond & Cathy Paterson (Founding Member)*



*Ruby Anniversary Reunion – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 1978*







## THE GUILD 2024

The Guild is starting back on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 1 o'clock** in the Church hall and we welcome anyone to come along and enjoy the fellowship and speakers.

This year we are excited to welcome on board Irene Gilchrist as our new Secretary and we look forward to a packed syllabus.

If you can spare a couple of hours on a Monday afternoon please come along, bring a friend and give it a try. I am sure you will enjoy the fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you.

Christine Duns  
President



## Hymns for Every Occupation

- ~ Astronaut: "Nearer My God, To Thee"
- ~ Baker: "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- ~ Baseball Batter: "Seek Thee First"
- ~ Builder: "How Firm a Foundation" and "The Church's One Foundation"
- ~ Canoeist: "Flow, River, Flow"
- ~ Children's Librarian: "We've a Story to Tell"
- ~ Civil Engineer: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
- ~ Dentist: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
- ~ Electrician: "O Joyful Light" and "Send the Light"
- ~ Fisherman: "Shall We Gather at the River?"
- ~ Golfer: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away"
- ~ Gossiper: "Pass It On," "It Is No Secret," and "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues"
- ~ Historian: "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"
- ~ Inland Revenue: "All to Thee (I Owe)" and "We Give Thee but Thine Own"
- ~ Jogger: "The Path of Life"
- ~ Lifeguard: "Come to the Water"
- ~ Long-Distance Trucker: "On the Highways and Byways of Life"
- ~ Mathematician: "10,000 Times, 10,000 Times"
- ~ Medical Technician: "Revive Us Again"
- ~ Mountain Climber: "The Rock That Is Higher than I"
- ~ Newlywed: "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- ~ Obstetrician: "He Is Able to Deliver Thee"
- ~ Optometrist: "Open Mine Eyes that I Might See" and "When I Can Read My Title Clear"
- ~ Paratrooper: "Now on Land And Sea Descending"
- ~ Philosopher: "I Am Thinking Today"
- ~ Politician: "Standing on the Promises"
- ~ Real Estate Agent: "I've Got a Mansion"
- ~ Sailboater: "Deep River"
- ~ Sceptic: "Almost Persuaded"
- ~ Shopper: "Sweet By And By"

## 'Our Kirk Matters'

- ~ Speech Therapist: "He Never Said a Mumbling Word"
- ~ Steeple Builder: "Lift High the Cross"
- ~ Stonecutter: "Rock of Ages"
- ~ Switchboard Operator: "There's a Call Comes Ringing"
- ~ Tailor: "Holy, Holy, Holy"
- ~ Voice Teacher: "Sing Them over Again to Me"
- ~ Watchmaker: "Take Time to Be Holy"
- ~ Watchman: "Silent Night"
- ~ Weatherman: "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings"

**Give me a sense of humour Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a Joke!  
To get some humour out of life  
And pass it on to other folk.**

## Holytown Parish Church

Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the world so sweet.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you God for everything.



### Prayers:

Help us to grow our faith and share our faith with others, so that they too will come to faith. May our smiles and words of welcome, our care and compassion shine from us and be a beacon of your love, shining out into the darkness. This we ask in the name of Jesus, whose we are and whom we serve. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are a gracious and compassionate God, abounding in love. We enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. May you dwell in our hearts through faith so that we are grounded in love and strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge. We thank you that you hear and answer our prayers and that your presence calms the troubled world and speaks peace to our souls. Clear our minds and hearts and be with all who need your guiding hand today/tonight and always. Hear our prayer for we ask it in your name. Amen.





## Financial Statement as at 31/08/24

### General Account

Balance held in Bank Account as at 29/08/24	£ 7144.03
Income for 2024	£ 43319.04
Expenditure for 2024	£ 40377.38

### Fabric Account

Balance held in Bank Account as at 27/08/24	£ 761.77
Income for 2024	£ 130.31
Expenditure for 2024	£ 4515.62

### Consolidated Fabric Fund

Balance held by General Trustees on our behalf as at 20/09/24	£ 2734.14
Already refunded to us for Fabric repairs and Insurance costs	£ 7505.01
Claims for repairs and insurance fees have been claimed up to the end of July.	

### Investors Trust Accounts

Balances held as at 15/05/24

General Purposes Fund	£10090.06
Reserve Fund	£ 2523.80
Boys Brigade	£ 1173.72
Legacy Fund	£ 900.51
Sunday School	£ 473.91

These figures include interest added in May and a withdrawal of £4000 from the General Purposes Fund to maintain sufficient funds in the General Bank account.

### Comments

The Accounts for the Church and Organisations for 2023 have been approved and were submitted to OSCR , the Scottish Charities regulator.

A Donation day will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to ensure that we can fulfil all our commitments until the end of the year. Our income is reducing and our outgoing costs are increasing. We would be unable to maintain our finances without the income which we claim back from our Manse rental (Consolidated Fabric Fund) and the transfer from the Investors Trust account. In the longer term, we need to think about ways to increase our weekly income either by increased donations or by signing up to Gift Aid if you haven't already done so.

Your continued support in these fundraising efforts is appreciated.

Susan Reid, Treasurer



A quarterly newsletter is produced in advance of the Communion Service and will be distributed by an Elder. Ideally, we wish to reduce our printing costs, so if you have an e-mail address and wish to be added to the distribution, do please let us know.

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