



“Our Kirk
Matters”

HOLYTOWN
PARISH
CHURCH

December 2019 to

February 2020

Edition 2







From our minister, The Rev Caryl Kyle

Well, by the time you read this Advent will be on the way for it begins on 1st December this year and that will be the day when our Advent wreath comes into church and we begin to banish the darkness. It is also the day when we share a time of remembrance with those who have lost loved ones throughout the year at our Blue Christmas Service.

Advent is a season of preparation – but each year we need to ask ourselves – what exactly are we preparing ourselves for over those four weeks of hope, peace, joy and love.

When I was reflecting on this notion of Advent being a season of preparation it seemed to me that personally I actually spend a lot of my time preparing already!

As I write, I have just finished packing for my holiday having firstly prepared a list of what I wanted to take!

On a weekly basis in my ministerial life each day I would be preparing for my personal devotions, for school assemblies, for the Sunday Services, for the Bible Study Group, preparing my visiting lists and prayerfully preparing for those visits and for those I would be visiting.

As each season of the church year approaches it sees me preparing for that season but also beyond it so I get the overarching flow of the church year – so at the moment while I am preparing for Advent I am also preparing ahead to Christmas and Epiphany and Lent and Holy Week and Easter and Pentecost.

Preparing is just something I am very used to as a person – even as a teacher I had to produce not just daily plans, but weekly plans and monthly plans and yearly plans too – lots of preparation!

Even as a mum and wife I had to be prepared for all the different family activities and, of course, prepare the menus for the week and then prepare the meals too!



So loads and loads of preparation going on in and throughout my life and I am sure going on in your life too!

But – is this the preparation we are talking about in Advent?

I think much of the preparation of which I have spoken is more about getting ourselves organised rather than anything else and I actually think Advent is much more than that – more than just practical preparing and getting ourselves organised for Christmas time!

So how do we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us?

I think we have to take time to reflect deeply on our spiritual lives throughout this season and ask ourselves if deep down in our souls we are really ready to meet Emmanuel.

For me, this is an inner, spiritual preparation time – a time where we prepare our hearts and minds and souls for this wonderful mystery to come of God with us.

One of my fellow writers on the Spill the Beans Team – the Rev Roddy Hamilton – speaks of Advent like this:

*The mystery begins
Where the winter finds its feet
the rush of frost and chill
competes with the old hope of incarnation
Darker nights unfold
and with the fading of the light
the sun weakens
held by this frozen earth
wrapped in winters frost
the mystery of the ancient hope is alight once more
for from the stump of Jesse
the dry old tree of David's line
comes a new branch
a new shoot
cracking through the season*



*with a promise yet unfulfilled
this is the hoping
the waiting
the advent
Let us gather round the words
the prophets spoke long ago
and believe:*

Emmanuel is on the way

Advent is the season for your inner, spiritual preparation.

Are you ready to meet Emmanuel?

Advent Blessings

Caryl

Communion Sunday

*You are invited to share in Communion on Sunday 1st
December 2019, Holytown Parish Church at 10am*



Blue Christmas Service

*Our Blue Christmas Service takes place this
year in Holytown Parish Church on Sunday
1st December at 3pm. This is a special
service of remembrance and is open to anyone who has lost a loved one at any
time and who would like to take some quiet reflective time away from all the
busyness of Christmas to remember their loved one in a special way. Do come
along, if you wish, and share in this time of remembering which many find helpful
at this difficult time of year.*



Advent and Christmas

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Advent 1</i> | <i>1st December</i> | <i>Communion 10am Blue Christmas 3pm (H)</i> |
| <i>Advent 2</i> | <i>8th December</i> | <i>Gift Service 10am Carols and Pies 6.30pm (H)</i> |
| <i>Advent 3</i> | <i>15th December</i> | <i>Nativity Service 10am</i> |
| <i>Advent 4</i> | <i>22nd December</i> | <i>Lessons and Carols 10am</i> |
| <i>Christmas Eve</i> | <i>24th December</i> | <i>Crib Service 7pm (W) Watchnight 11pm (H)</i> |
| <i>Christmas</i> | <i>25th December</i> | <i>Christmas Day 10am (H)</i> |
| <i>Christmas 1</i> | <i>29th December</i> | <i>Worship 10am</i> |



*9pm - 12.30am
Holytown Church Hall*



Sunday Readers

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| DECEMBER 2019 | 1 st | Glen Baillie |
| | 8 th | Betty Reid |
| | 15 th | Graham Kyle |
| | 22 nd | David Paterson |
| | 29 th | Jim Smith |
| JANUARY 2020 | 5 th | Kirsty Shaw |
| | 12 th | Ian Houston |
| | 19 th | Christine Duns |
| | 26 th | Una Smith |
| FEBRUARY 2020 | 2 nd | Paula Speirs |
| | 9 th | Glen Baillie |
| | 16 th | Betty Reid |
| | 23 rd | Graham Kyle |

[Matthew 1:23](#) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

[John 1:14](#) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."



Pastoral Care

If you know of anyone who is unwell, at home or in hospital or you feel it would be of benefit for our minister to visit, please contact Caryl by phone or e-mail. Alternatively, please contact our Session Clerk or speak to one of our Elders.



Contact details can be found on the back page

[Prayer for All Those Working in Hospitals](#)

Dear Father God,

Thank You for all those that have chosen to work in our hospitals and clinics so that they may help others who are seriously ill or needing some specialist health care.

Bless the nursing staff and doctors we pray, and all those that make up the different medical teams – the various therapists, anaesthetists and surgeons...as well as the admin staff and ancillary workers. Bless each staff member – all of whom are so vital to the smooth running of our health centres and hospitals.

Give each one the wisdom and patience to work in this stressful environment and may Your quiet calmness and peace settle in their hearts, as they work together to care for all their patients. May our clinics and hospitals be truly caring environments. May the love of Jesus show forth in each one and we pray that many of our hospital staff, who do not yet know You may come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray, Amen.



Parish Register 2019

Funerals

August

William Galloway

September

Mary Marshall

Jessie Millar

William Boyd Simpson

October

Margaret Brownlie



Retiral of our Church & Hall Caretaker

We would like to record our sincere thanks to Mr Jim Smith our Church and Hall Caretaker. Jim will be retiring from this role with effect from December 2019. We thank him for his dedication and service over a considerable number of years. We hope that Jim & Alice enjoy their forthcoming ten-week trip to Australia for their family reunion with their two sons Derek & Gordon, daughters-in-law and grandson James. We will miss you both at Church and look forward to your return in the New Year. Wishing you both all the very best for the future.

With our grateful thanks.

The Minister, Elders & Congregation of Holytown Parish Church


You will have noticed recently that the two plants have disappeared from the Church door. These were donated some time ago by Jessie Owens from Greenside Nursery and Garden Centre. As they were getting a bit on the big side Jessie arranged for their collection and to put them up for sale on behalf of the Church.

These have now sold and £120.00 was donated to Friends of Holytown.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to Jessie and her family for the time they have taken and for their generosity.

Syd & Netta McCartney

Thank you to all those who assisted with the Church Grounds Clean Up on Saturday 12th October 2019. Your efforts are very much appreciated.


Thank you to all those involved with our 'Sausage Sunday' events. A lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes and we appreciate all the effort that goes into this for our benefit.

Dear Friends, due to mobility problems I will not be sending Christmas cards this year, instead I have decided to make a donation to the church and use this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
God Bless you all.



Betty Meechan

*The Boy's Brigade will once again be collecting Christmas cards for the village of Holytown from Sunday 8th December until Sunday 22nd December.
Cards are due to be delivered on Monday 23rd December.*

A huge thank you to the Boys' Brigade for this service which is very much appreciated. (Donations welcome!)



Candy Cane

Author Unknown



Look at a candy cane, what do you see?
Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me!
White for my Saviour, Who's sinless and pure!
"J" is for Jesus, My Lord that's for sure!
Turn it around and a staff you will see,
Jesus, my Shepherd, is coming for me!



The Legend of Robin Redbreast

A few months ago we were in the process of locking up the Church after morning worship when we discovered two Robin Redbreasts flying around the entrance vestibule. It is probably the closest that we have been to these two very small but wonderful little birds. A week without food, fresh-air, water, nourishment was unthinkable, so the only alternative was to try and persuade them to leave the warmth and shelter of the Church and fly away. It took 3 of us adults a good 20 mins, a lot of flapping, tweeting, whistling and encouragement but eventually our mission was successful as one of the little birds flew outside. All 3 of us were out of puff, chasing them up and down the staircase and waving our arms frantically to encourage their exit. Finally..... success.....the second Robin Redbreast flew away up into the sunlit sky and 3 very tired parishioners could get down the road for some well-earned lunch!



This true story reminded me of the Legend of Robin Redbreast which is from a 'Christmas Stocking' by Louise Betts Egan. It tells the story of how the robin got his red breast after burning himself on a fire he fanned to keep the baby Jesus warm. Another legend says that the robin's breast is red because of his association with Christ's death and crucifixion. When Jesus was on the road to Calvary it is said that a robin plucked a thorn from Christ's temple and a drop of Jesus' blood fell on the robin's chest, turning it red.

On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mother Mary worried that her baby would be cold. She turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.

"Could you blow on the embers," she asked the ox, "so the fire might continue to keep my son warm?"

But the ox lay sound asleep on the stable floor and did not hear her. Next, Mary asked the donkey to breathe life back into the fire, but the sleeping donkey did not



hear Mary either. Nor did the horse or sheep. She wondered what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. This robin had heard Mary calling to the animals and had come to help her himself. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard.

His wings were like little bellows, huffing and puffing air onto the embers, until they glowed bright red again. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, a flame suddenly burst forth and burned the little bird's breast a bright red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily.

Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said "From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed."

And to this day, the robin's red breast covers his humble heart.

*Six Things
to Believe
in this
Christmas*

- 1. Believe in Miracles (Isaiah 9:6)*
- 2. Believe in Gods Purposes (Luke 4:18)*
- 3. Believe in Love, Grace & Hope (John 3:16)*
- 4. Believe in Comfort (Psalm 147:3)*
- 5. Believe in Joy (Nehemiah 8:10)*
- 6. Believe and Seek Him! (Hebrews 11:6)*



Redundancy

When someone is made redundant, it is not only their job that they lose. Not everyone is lucky enough to have a redundancy package and for most people they are suddenly presented with a big financial problem, but they also lose the structure, the relationships and the purpose that shaped most of their days. People's sense of their own worth can be terribly damaged. Often that has an impact on all their friends and family, because the anxiety and hurt of the trauma cause relationships to become strained. Children and partners can find the new circumstances just as difficult because of the change of atmosphere at home.



If this is describing you, these words are written with sympathy and in the hope that that you will find them sensitive. If you have been made redundant, there are several things that you need to address:

You need someone to listen to you who will not attempt to change the subject because they are embarrassed by the fact that you are not your usual self. Christians believe that God has put them together in communities (churches) in order for them to find support. Do not attempt to keep your feelings to yourself, but seek friends.

You need to address the new financial circumstances you are in. If you live in the UK, advice about what your entitlements are is available from the Citizens' Advice Bureau <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/> However, you also need to adjust your spending to fit the new situation, and a first step is to work out without panicking what monthly expenses are necessities and which are luxuries that can be cut.

You need to think about how you are going to get your next job. So ensure your CV is up to date, and that the applications you make for jobs read well and do not have spelling mistakes. Most churches have people in them who have experience of this kind, and it is hoped that asking for help would receive a positive response. Be prepared to apply many times and do not give up hope.



And also, you need to think who you are. The true you is not simply an employee. Your job was only a small part of you. Christians believe that the way God sees you is not as a worker, but as a person with skills, a person with love to share, a person able to do good in the neighbourhood, a person who creates things that add to the beauty in the world. At this point in your life, all those things can take on their full significance. You may find this to be the occasion when you think about the way you relate to God, because he is absolutely unable to reject you no matter how you feel you have been rejected by others.

The Christian faith is based on death and resurrection. Jesus Christ, whom Christians follow, took that journey. His followers invariably at points in their lives experience the same. Redundancy is the end of a job, but it is only one chapter in the ongoing life which God has given you.

Practical suggestion

Find out your rights, benefits and contact addresses of those who can help you at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job/>

What the Bible says about it:- An extract from the Bible:

[Jesus said:] 'I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds ... Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.'

Where to find it:

John 12:24,17

About these words:

Jesus talked about life as a cycle of death and resurrection. Like a seed, his death would produce life that far surpassed everything that had gone before. Jesus' followers have always found inspiration in the fact that bad experiences that happen are part of a cycle out of which better things will come. Like Jesus, events that seem deathly will one day be seen to have made life better.



And they said...

Revd Jesse Jackson, civil rights activist:

Faith allows you to hold on. When it's real dark it's faith that will get you through. You can't stop fate or unforeseen, unpredictable circumstance. And fate can't stop faith. So when the [Bible] writer says, 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things unseen,' faith is a weapon. Without faith you surrender. You cannot win if you surrender, but with faith all things are possible.

Oscar Wilde, playwright, 1854–1900:

The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Inc (fired as CEO in 1986 and rehired ten years later), 1955–2011:

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE FACING REDUNDANCY

“Lord Jesus, We pray for those who are facing the uncertainty of redundancy. We pray for those especially within our own community. Those who have lost jobs recently with Thomas Cook and Devro, Bellshill. We pray for those who are struggling with zero-hour contracts and who are tirelessly trying to make ends meet. Lord help them and guide them and encourage them to keep going and to take each day one day at a time. Amen

With so many in our community facing an uncertain future, the Church should see this as a pastoral initiative. We need to be on the look out to support those facing redundancy. Neighbourliness is so important in crisis situations, whether it's offering people new prayers to God, or by simply being there with a listening ear.

Not once does the Bible say, "Worry about it,"

"Stress over it" or, "Figure it out"

But over and over it clearly says,

"TRUST IN GOD."

Karaoke – a nothing to do with Christmas story

This is not a particularly Christmas story but I thought I would share it with you and, it is all true. I had been spending a Saturday in darkest Glasgow recently and at long last after spending what felt like days (as opposed to hours) in Debenhams with my better half, we were heading to Central Station for a train home. Our route took us past the Horseshoe Bar so we decided to nip in for a wee 'coffee'! It was about 'four deep' at the downstairs bar but the bouncer (it was only about 4.30pm and they had a bouncer on the door!!!) told us we could go upstairs and that there would be more room up there. We took the bouncer's advice and proceeded up a whole lot of stairs until we reached the upstairs lounge. Now it was only about one quarter full but there were reserved signs on all the available tables for a private party that was due in. We explained we were only intending being in for about half an hour so we got sitting down at one of the reserved tables. After we ordered our 'coffees' and began to enjoy them it was noticeable that the place was filling up and after about ten minutes, a DJ appeared and announced karaoke was about to begin and someone came round all the tables with a wee bit of paper you could write the name of the song you would like to sing. I may add that ours remained blank. The DJ started the singing and he was pretty good and a couple of singers that followed after him were also good, they could hold a tune and earned some polite






applause when they finished. We were just about to head off when a young lady in her early twenties took the mic. And you could see from the tv screen that she was going to sing 'I say a little prayer' by Aretha Franklin. Now I love music and in terms of female vocalists, I like Eva Cassidy, Dusty Springfield, Whitney Houston and quite a few others but my overall favourite is Aretha Franklin so I looked towards the stage with great expectation and thought... 'this could go two ways!'. The intro had begun and the young lady at the mic was already getting some body movement started and looked confident and then, the first line was delivered – 'the moment I wake up, when I put on my make up...I say a little prayer for you!' It became immediately apparent that this wasn't an Aretha 'sound alike', no and far from it,..... a million light years far from it! Different thoughts came to me along the lines of:

- How many verses are in this song?
- Would it be rude to gulp what was left of my 'coffee' and leave quickly?
- What was everybody else thinking?
- What would this lassie's parents think if they could hear this performance?
- In the next life, would the deceased Aretha now be labelled as 'birling Aretha'?
- If anyone hadn't heard the real Aretha, this could not be considered to be a good advert for her work.
- I even thought that the sound of fingernails getting scraped down an old blackboard would be preferable

The reaction in the lounge surprised me pleasantly because everybody was joining in enthusiastically with the lines that are repeated and there wasn't a disapproving face in the house. I thought this said more about Glasgow folk than anything else so we joined in as well and by the end of the song, this young lady received a bigger round of applause than anyone that had gone before her and everyone in the room, ourselves included were wearing broad smiles.

I was trying to think if there was any message or morals to be gleaned from this experience and the best I could come up with is as follows: If for any reason the



minister can't be there on a Sunday morning, please treat whoever is standing in with the same good grace that the folks of Glasgow showed on that rainy Saturday afternoon to that wee lassie that sang the song made famous by the legend that was Aretha Franklin.

My letter to Santa

When I was a wee boy, I remember writing out the list of the presents I was hoping Santa would deliver on Christmas morning. This list was considerably shorter than some of the lists I've encountered since! At that time, we had a coal fire and the accepted process was to put your list near the top of the fire, it would then magically be sooked up the chimney and find its way to the north pole where Santa lived. My list normally consisted of a main present like Scalextric, Subbuteo or Lego then there would be a few secondary items like a Corgi car, the Oor Wullie/Broons Book and Selection boxes. Although its not PC these days, one of my secondary items was always a toy gun. Over the various childhood years, I accumulated a six-shooter, a spud gun, a James Bond gun (complete with shoulder holster) and a man from U.N.C.L.E. gun.

These days I have little need for main presents and secondary presents although a Cadbury selection box is still appreciated but I have managed to prepare a list where I feel all grumpy old men like myself would appreciate Santa's intervention and it is as follows:

Dear Santa

- Could you please get people to return their trolleys when shopping at the supermarket.
- Could you please stop people dropping their chewing gum in shopping precincts.
- Could you please stop people taking up more than one parking space in car parks.



- *Could you please get people to stop telephoning me about the car accident I have never had.*
- *Could you please stop the tv advert about funerals that I find really patronising.*
- *Could you please make people pick up after their dog.*
- *Could you please make Aldi or Lidl open another checkout when I go there.*
- *Could you please make people only use fireworks on Guy Fawkes night.*
- *Could you please make Indian, Chinese and Italian food have less calories without affecting the taste.*
- *Could you please make people be more tolerant, patient and polite with staff in shops and restaurants.*
- *Could you please alert me about and help me avoid temporary traffic lights.*
- *Could you please stop people dropping litter.*
- *Could you please help me to remember all my PIN numbers and passwords.*
- *Could you please help me remember to phone or visit friends I haven't seen for a while.*
- *Could you please help me remember to take my phone with me when I go out.*
- *Could you please inject some positivity into people who always seem to have a negative view on 'things'.*
- *Could you please get politicians to be honest.*
- *Could you please make more people say please, thank you and good morning.*

If all the above is unachievable, I'll settle for another gun (ONLY KIDDING)



At this year's General Assembly, an African minister was asked why he thought the church was growing in Africa and was in decline in the West. He answered as follows: 'in the West, you have God and things, in Africa, we only have God'.

Jottings from the late 1950s and 1960s

Articles 1-3 (Margaret Milne)

When the Rev James McLeman was the minister, he had a Bible class which met at 5.30 pm. Initially the number of young folk attending was under ten – it was said that only four attended the first meeting. Undaunted, the Bible Class continued to meet in the vestry, but, before long it moved into the Church. At first the first two or three pews were occupied. News of how interesting the Bible Class was spread. More and more seats were needed. It would be no exaggeration to say that the numbers were up to between sixty and seventy.

Why was this happening? Mr McLeman was going through a three-year course. Incidentally, the age of those attending crept up and up as everyone wanted to complete the course.

From time to time we had a social evening in the Hall. A two-piece band played. During the evening Mr & Mrs McLeman came over from the Manse and joined in.

Naturally, we raised cash and were able not only to give a donation to the Church but also to pay for the young worshippers' league prizes but also to give to the Church's Foreign Mission and Church Extension Funds in Edinburgh.

The story of the Bible Class in the 1950's and 1960's would not be complete if one very special evening is omitted. To the best of my knowledge such an event had never taken place. It has certainly never been repeated.

A cat had been roaming about outside the Church, with a little encouragement from a few Bible Class members it was wheedled into the pulpit and was lying on the pulpit cushion. Those of us at Evening Worship knew all about the cat but the congregation did not. Mr McLeman went into the pulpit and sat down extremely carefully. He said absolutely nothing. What those who didn't know about the cat must have wondered at the minister's actions but still nothing was said. Puss must have been quite comfortable because it was absolutely quiet. The crunch came at



the end of the service when the minister turned around and picked the cat up and carried it down the pulpit steps. He later took it over to the manse and fed it. Even at Bible Class the next Sunday he said nothing.

I do believe he realised just how good a rapport he had with the Bible Class as otherwise no one would have dared to get Puss into the pulpit. The story has no doubt been told on a number of occasions. The McLemans left Holytown in 1956. Initially Mr McLeman was in Burghead but later Alves was linked to create a ministry in a fishing community and one in a farming community.

The Union Representative

When visiting Rec J McLeman in Elgin he told me he had become the Union Rep. How did this happen? The group of houses in which he lived were supposed to have their gardens looked after by Moray Council. For some time, no one from the Council had done anything to the gardens. The neighbours persuaded Mr McLeman to go to the Council Offices to find out what was going on. He did as requested and was successful. This, he said, made him the Union Representative for his area.

From the way in which he told the story it was clear that he had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In Years gone by

If it were possible to turn the clock back eighty years, what would we find?

One notable change is the time of the Morning Service. It did not begin until 12 noon – quite a change from today's time. The Sunday School met from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. The Primary Sunday School met at the same time as the Seniors. The Primary Sunday School did not meet during the Morning Service until January 1949.

The Church Hall was very different. In the main hall there was a small stage with two steps up on to it. At each side of the stage the senior boys and the senior girls met. We had forms in those days. A few individual chairs were used by the Sunday School teachers. In the remainder of the hall the other classes were arranged.



The numbers were much higher than today – approximately 100 in the Senior Sunday School.

In those days everyone had to memorise a text which was later recited during the lesson. Marks were awarded according to how well you had learned the text.

These marks were used when awarding prizes. Quite a few did not receive a prize.

We did not go back to learning the shorter catechism although a question was specified in the little booklet, we all had to guide us. We did, however, learn the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the Beatitudes (St Matthew 5).

The Senior boys were taught by Mr David I Paterson, grandfather of our Elder and the Senior girls by Miss Margaret Young (better known as Maggie Young).

Mr Paterson was the Superintendent and conducted opening and closing devotions. Miss Young played the piano. Mr Douglas was an army chaplain for several years). When the minister, Rev Robert Douglas was on leave he came to the Sunday School and went around to speak to the boys and girls. After his return he said that he had missed seeing the children growing up – something about which he could do nothing.

Well do I remember that the only Christmas carol we sang was “Who is He in Yonder Stall?” Other hymns which appeared very regularly included:

- Holy Spirit, hear us
- Great God, and will thou condescend
- Let us with a gladsome mind
- Stand up! Stand up for Jesus
- Jesus, holy undefiled
- God who made the earth
- God is always near me
- Loving Shepherd of the sheep
- Gentle Jesus, meek and mild



In those days the collection was taken up by Miss Young. She had a tin box with a slot to receive all our pennies – in these days the regular offering was 1 penny.

During the 1940s the Sunday School trip went to South Howden Farm where George Warnock, a good friend of Mr Paterson, was the farmer. We all walked there as a group, complete with mugs for tea. Races were held. Miss Young had a black cloth bag with a drawstring. She put the bag on her wrist. From the bag she careful took out 3d (3 pennies) to give to whoever was first, 2d for the second and 1d for the third. The rest received nothing.

The picnic in the field was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The milk for the tea came from the farm.

Mr Paterson kept a register of Church attendance. At the end of the year, the calendar year at that time a number of prizes were given. This preceded the Young Worshippers League.

Let me add a little about Mr Paterson and Miss Young. When the Church gave its approval to having women on the Congregational Board, Miss young was among the first to be appointed.

As well as being in the Sunday School Mr Paterson was the Church Treasurer, Session Clerk, and, for many years the Presbytery elder. He was also the founder Captain of the Boys' Brigade Company.

Just how many young lives were influenced by Mr Paterson and Miss Young is impossible to assess. There is no doubt they both had a wonderful influence for good at all times.

Margaret P. Milne



FLOWER LIST – 2019/20

If you would like to help in this so special outreach of love, please add your name to the flower list on the notice-board or alternatively, please speak to our flower Convenor, Mrs Christine Bell or one the Church Elders.

By adding your name, you are agreeing to provide flowers or a donation towards the cost of the flowers which adorn so beautifully the front of the Church. This gives so much support to so many when delivered to homes after the service.

The Flower List for 2020 is now ready for your names to be added. Once again, we thank you in advance for your kindness.

| | | |
|----------|------------------|----------------|
| DECEMBER | 1 st | |
| | 8 th | C. Duns |
| | 15 th | M. McPherson |
| | 22 nd | David Paterson |
| | 29 th | C. Boyd |

The Sunday School



We very much look forward to Welcoming you all to Sunday School. We meet most Sunday mornings at 10 am within the Church. The Nativity Service will take place on Sunday 15th December at 10 am.



1st Holytown Boys' Brigade



Below are pictures from Monday 18th November's visit to M & D's Cosmic Bowl where the boys enjoyed their night of bowling and burgers afterwards.

Still to come and before our Christmas break, night with the magician and then our DVD and chippie night.





Our Company is organised into 3 sections with the following core ages:

Anchor Boys - P1/P3 (5 - 8 years)

Junior - P4/P6 (8 - 11 years)

Company Section: (11-18 years)

All sections meet from 6.15 - 7.45pm

Returning on Monday 6th January 2020

Mr Glen Baillie, BB Captain



1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

All Sections / Christmas
Holidays

Finish Wednesday 4th
December and start back
Wednesday 8th January 2020

Rosebuds - age 3 - nursery

Explorers - P1-P3

Junior 1 - P4 and P5
7.30pm

These sections meet from 6.15 -

Junior 2 - P6 and P7

Brigaders - S1 and onwards

These sections meet from 6.15 - 8 pm



It would be great to see you all join us!

For further information please add us on

facebook - Holytown Gb

GB is the place to bee.....Mrs Linda Baillie,
GB Captain



The Guild

Hello everyone,



Please let me give you a small insight to what we get up to on our Wednesday evenings.

Our first speaker was Caryl (our minister). Her main purpose of the evening is to rededicate our Guild. She also gave us some interesting tasks and we had some fun (as always).

We enjoyed the evening very much with her and we thank her for taking the time to come along.

Our own Stewart McNeil very kindly stood in for a speaker who could not manage one of the weeks (we thank you for this Stewart).

He started off with a couple of "ice brakers" as he calls them - stories true to life with meaning and fun and then went on to talk about his week at the General Assembly in Edinburgh. This was interesting. His rendition of the week's events gave us an insight of the Assembly and brought home to us the need for everyone to be involved in moving forward in the church. It reminded us that we are the people and without the people where would we be. Everyone needs to be looking at working alongside everyone and looking for ways to try and bring people in through the doors. So Stewart, we thank you for this and we will have feedback and will be looking for ideas to help our church.

We had a lovely speaker, Jean Urquhart from Walk a Mile in My Shoes - This talk was about domestic abuse to both men and women and the affect is has on the whole family, children too. She is a retired school teacher and has given 20 years of her life to working in this organisation.



We had a Country and Western Evening, but this was more a Gospel Evening with Ishbel and Walter A most enjoyable evening of talk and song.

An unusual one and very interesting - Ian Thompson from Strathaven came along to talk to us about VIP and Royal Security. What an amazing night - Ian talked for over an hour. He is a retired Policeman - he was a driver for Royalty and various Dignatories for many years. He gave us a total new insight to The Queen and her family. His talk was very interesting. A clever man by all accounts and what a superb knowledge he has for driving and streets/motorways all over the UK. He was also very funny. He does lots and lots of charity work.

So friends, that's just a small insight to some of our events. Please try and come along, all are welcome. Until next time.

The Guild Syllabus

- Wednesday 20th November - Practice for Guild Week - service in church.
- Wednesday 27th November - St. Andrews Night - our own take on that.
- Wednesday 4th December - Behind the Smiles - Jane Fucella
- Wednesday 11th December - Peter Gardiner and Friends and our Christmas "night in"

Mrs Christine Duns
President

The Fellowship Group

The Fellowship group would welcome new

members to enjoy a Thursday afternoon in the Church hall from 1.30 to 3.30 pm.

We enjoy tea and biscuits, a chat, dominoes and the odd quiz.

All will be made welcome.

Mr Bill Jenkins





Shop online!

As you may know we are raising funds to renovate the toilet in the Church and make it suitable for people with disabilities. We are hoping to receive donations through purchases made online by families and friends of the Congregation. We would be obliged if you would spread the word!

Do you shop online with Amazon, eBay, Argos, M&S, John Lewis, Clarks, GAP, Next, Debenhams, Booking.com, Thomas Cook, Expedia, Aviva, AA, RAC, ASDA, TESCO, Morrisons, Sainsbury etc? These are just a few examples of companies that will donate to good causes. There are over 3,600 companies to choose from.

Instructions:- Just log on to

[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

then select your good cause which is

Holytown Parish Church. Then go to your preferred retailer, for example if you select Amazon this will take you to the Amazon website where you can shop and pay as normal. The retailer will donate to our bank account through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and all of this is at no extra cost to you.

What could be easier?

Since we launched in the Summer 2019 magazine our total to-date is £62.22

Thank you to all who have supported this venture. Happy shopping!!



Basics Food Bank Lanarkshire

Food donations are most welcome. A food collection box is available at the vestibule of Holytown Parish Church every Sunday morning.



Most needed Items:-

- UHT Long Life Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Custard
- Long Grain Rice
- Small Jars of Coffee

Listen to what others say.....

"It gave me such hope. I will never forget your kindness"

Lady referred from Womans Aid

"The Christian literature offered gave me hope"
Single Man

"I don't believe someone would do this for me"
Referral from Health Visitor

We are a Christian Charity based in Lanarkshire. Charity No: SCO42625

From any of our four distribution outlets we are equipped to reach out to those in Crisis with the provision of a food parcel, toiletry items and a gift of Christian literature in the form of a gospel.

We are based in [Motherwell Crosshill Parish Church](#), [Wishaw Baptist Church](#), [Airdrie Pilgrim Community Church](#) and [Viewpark Parish Church of Scotland](#).

Should you know of anyone in need, please contact the SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND on 0300 555 0405 as they could provide a financial payment to avoid having to come to a Foodbank. If this can't be done they will make a foodbank referral.

"TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT THEM TO TREAT YOU" Matthew 7



Dear Lord, Help us, as part of your church, to be obedient to your call to look after people in need in your name. Give us your daily bread, and help us to share abundantly the plenty that we have been blessed with. Amen.

Social Committee / Friends of Holytown / Dates for your Diary

Thank you so much for your support of our Film Nigh – ‘Mamma Mia Singalong.

We raised over £200. The Christian Aid Quiz was a wonderful evening and grateful thanks must go to our minister Caryl and her husband Graham who organised everything for this event. Thanks also to Cynthia Boyd and her family. Once again it proved to be a huge success. A letter has been received from Christian Aid thanking us for our donation.

Following our successful ‘Sausage Sunday’ on Remembrance Day, we were able to provide Poppy Scotland with a donation of £137.00. Thank you all for your support.



Film Night – It’s a wonderful life (colour version) Learning lessons of love, loyalty and what it means to lead a wonderful life. **Friday 20th December 2019 at 6.30 pm Church Hall** (Entry is free, however, there will be a donation box should you wish to help our fundraising efforts)



31st December 2019 – Hogmanay
Church Hall @ 9 pm (Hot Buffet supper!)
Free event



| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Friday 24th January - Burns Night</p> <p>Church Hall @ 6.30 pm (3 course dinner / live entertainment) £14.00 (children £7.)</p> <p>Please add your name to the sheet in the vestibule of the Church.</p> |
|  | <p>Whiskey Tasting Evening</p> <p>The Masonic Hall, New Stevenston (downstairs lounge)</p> <p>27th March 2020 @ 7.30 pm (more information soon) So perhaps all the males in our congregation could start spreading the word and save the date!!</p> |

Did you know a smartie tube can hold £27.00

of pound coins & £12.00 of 20p pieces.

Why dont you give it a try!!!



| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance @ September | £7,360.00 |
| Paid in 10th September | £80.00 |
| Paid in 9 th October | £210.00 |
| Paid in 13 th November | £140.00 |
| Total at time of print | £7,790.00 |



Meeting Conference Venue Holytown Parish Church Hall is available to hire! For any general enquiries on hall lets, please contact Alice Smith:-

alicesmith51@gmail.com Tel: 01698 833190

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Facilities available to hire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Large Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Small Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Break out Room <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive parking space with overspill to rear <input type="checkbox"/> Projector and Screen available <input type="checkbox"/> WiFi <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled facilities | <p><i>Let times available</i></p> <p>Monday - 9am - 4pm</p> <p>Tuesday - 9am - 6 pm</p> <p>Wednesday - 9am - 4pm</p> <p>Thursday - 9am - 12noon</p> <p>Friday - 9am - 10pm</p> <p>Saturday - From 2 pm</p> <p>Sunday - 1 pm - 10 pm</p> |
|---|---|

Monday

Boys' Brigade

Church Hall

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Keep Fit - NHS Lanarkshire</i> | <i>(GP referral)</i> |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Girls' Brigade</i> | <i>Church Hall</i> |
| | <i>The Women's Guild</i> | <i>Michael Sherry Comm. Centre</i> |
| <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Fellowship Group</i> | <i>Church Hall (Afternoon)</i> |
| | <i>Bible Study</i> | <i>The Manse (evening)</i> |
| <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Keep Fit - NHS Lanarkshire</i> | <i>(GP referral)</i> |
| <i>Saturday</i> | <i>Baby Ballet</i> | |
| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Morning Worship/Sund School</i> | <i>10 am Church</i> |



Christmas Angels



We are hoping to flood Holytown and New Stevenston with Angels this Christmas!

Our hope is that hundreds of tiny angels will descend on both villages on the Saturday before Christmas – which this year is the 22nd December.

Each of the tiny angels you have knitted will be a heavenly reminder to folk in our villages of the 'Good News' the angels brought when they announced the birth of Jesus.

The idea is that the angels will appear overnight, probably about 5a.m. in the morning, bringing people the good news of the birth of Jesus.

We will leave signs saying they are a gift from the church and the line 'Angels brought the Good News that Jesus had been born, and they still bring Good News.' We hope this will be a fun way to bless people and remind them of the true meaning of Christmas! We will also encourage people to take 'Selfies' with the angels and post them on social media – if I can get someone to help me set up a hashtag – like #thanks for the angel or #angelsinholytown or #angelsinnewstevenston!!

The Christmas Angel pattern is available from the vestibule of the Church

If you require further information



Financial report as at 31/10/19

General Income

| | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Freewill offering | 11100.50 | 13053.50 |
| Plate | 4903.49 | 4125.12 |
| Standing Orders | 8490.00 | 8695.00 |
| Hall lets | 4704.00 | 4431.00 |
| Funerals/Weddings | 1175.00 | 820.00 |
| Donations | 680.00 | 1315.00 |
| Magazines | 155.00 | 130.00 |
| Wrangholm Linkage | 1733.49 | 2813.25 |
| Spring Fayre | 2481.00 | 2666.19 |
| Christian Aid | 324.80 | 177.42 |
| Retiring offering | 438.00 | 0.00 |
| Gift Aid | 7852.45 | 7702.69 |
| Investors Trust transfer | 0.00 | 3000.00 |
| <u>Day of Giving</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>2287.00</u> |
| <u>Total General income</u> | <u>£44137.73</u> | <u>£ 51216.17</u> |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Fabric Fund</u> | <u>£ 368.52</u> | <u>£ 16892.63</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Total Income</u> | <u>£44506.25</u> | <u>£ 68108.80</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

General Expenditure

| | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ministries & Mission | 27702.00 | 28018.80 |
| Presbytery dues | 863.00 | 794.00 |
| Insurance | 2800.96 | 2871.60 |
| Minister's expenses | 925.36 | 845.66 |
| Pulpit supply | 330.00 | 580.00 |
| Electricity | 1118.22 | 1150.17 |
| Gas | 3544.40 | 5340.44 |
| Telephone | 607.88 | 657.44 |
| Broadband | 808.80 | 924.72 |



| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Council Tax | 1420.75 | 1383.32 |
| Organist/Church officer fees | 0.00 | 788.60 |
| Organ maintenance | 162.00 | 0.00 |
| Hymn Technology | 0.00 | 2625.47 |
| Paper/Toner/Copier Maintenance | 305.33 | 449.62 |
| Photocopier | 1008.00 | 0.00 |
| Life & Work Magazines | 127.40 | 136.50 |
| Spill the beans | 0.00 | 62.00 |
| Planner | 0.00 | 7.99 |
| Garden maintenance | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| Baptism Certificates | 17.97 | 18.97 |
| Audit fee | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Christian Aid | 200.00 | 177.42 |
| Freewill Offering envelopes | 175.54 | 179.77 |
| <u>Wrangholm transfer</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>60.00</u> |
| Total General expenditure | £ 42217.61 | £ 47672.49 |

Fabric Fund

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Fire Extinguisher service | 138.60 | 251.70 |
| Fire extinguisher replacements | 268.20 | 0.00 |
| Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector service | 585.00 | 615.24 |
| Asbestos survey | 624.00 | 436.80 |
| Boiler Manse | 0.00 | 2200.00 |
| Boiler repair Church | 0.00 | 1300.00 |
| Vacuum cleaner | 0.00 | 55.00 |
| Replace slates/clean gutters | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Electrical checks Church, Hall | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Light bulbs | 0.00 | 161.94 |
| Architects fee | 0.00 | 450.00 |
| Manse renovation | 0.00 | 11000.00 |
| <u>Gutters/drainpipes cleaned</u> | <u>80.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Fabric expenditure | £ 1695.80 | £ 16870.68 |

Total Expenditure **£ 43913.41** **£ 64543.17**



Investors Trust Funds

Balances as at May 2019 are as follows:

General Fund £13019.97

Reserve Fund £8270.71

Legacy Fund £832.14

Sunday School £437.92

Boys Brigade £1084.58

Vacancy - Church & Hall Cleaner

A vacancy has arisen for a cleaner for our Hall & Church. The job description will be available shortly, however, should you have experience or have knowledge of anyone who may be interested, please contact the Session Clerk (contact details on back page) At the time of writing the hours would be a minimum of 4 hours per week @ the living wage.



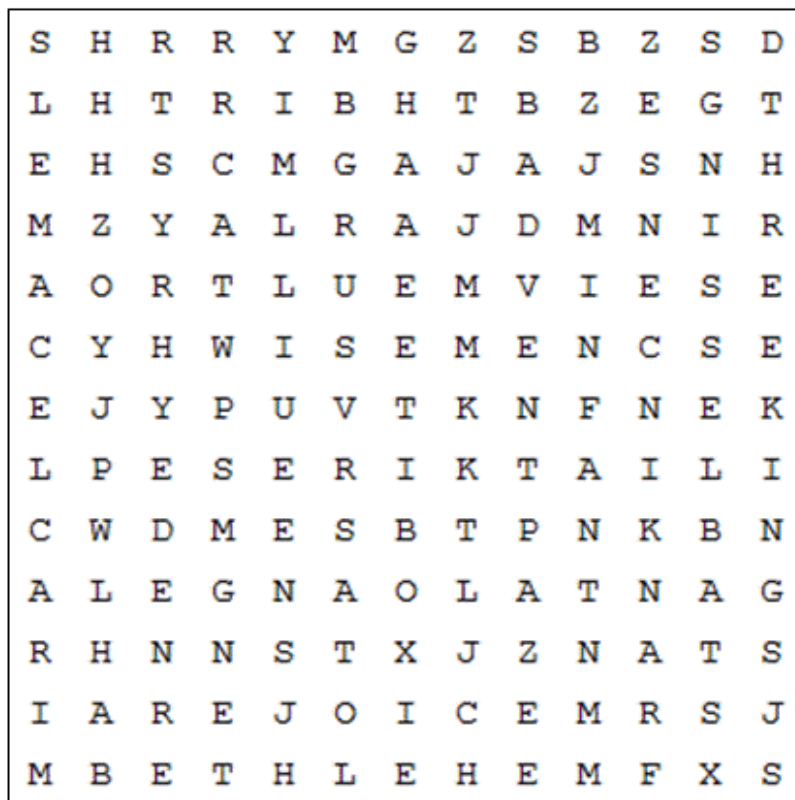


For the kids.....and kids at heart!!!





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN





Christmas Word Search



N O R T H P O L E R E D
W Q E S G S G O N G G E
S C S R N V S A N T A C
M T R E E O H G B N T O
E H E L N E W O I P O R
R C T V N A D M L K Y A
R N F E G V C N A B S T
Y I W S D F Y Y I N R I
Q R Z C X V B M D E N O
S G N I T E E R G N R N
V N M W E T R U I Y A S
C T Y U I P E C V X Z C

Candy Canes
Decorations
Eggnog
Elves
Greetings
Grinch

Merry
North Pole
Reindeer
Santa
Snowman
Toys

Free Printable Christmas Word Search

designed by Sweet Pattern Days



Holytown Parish Church of Scotland

A quarterly newsletter is now produced prior to Communion Service and will be distributed by an Elder. You can also view online copies of the magazine via our website. We welcome your contributions so please do get in touch.
holytownpsnewsletter@gmail.com



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. (Morning worship @ 10 am)

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Contact Address</i> | The Manse, 260 Edinburgh Road, Holytown, ML15RU |
| <i>Minister</i> | The Rev Caryl AE Kyle, BD(Min), DipEd |
| <i>Tel:</i> | 01698 832622 (Minister) or 07960824437 (Session Clerk) |
| <i>E-mail:</i> | CKyle@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| <i>General Enquiries:</i> | info@holytownparishchurch.org.uk |
| <i>Magazine Editor:</i> | holytownpsnewsletter@gmail.com |
| <i>Web:</i> | www.holytownparishchurch.org.uk |

Session Clerk: Mr Stewart McNeil Treasurer/FWO Treasurer: Mrs Susan Reid / Property Convenor: Mr David Paterson / Caretaker: Mr Jim Smith
 Printing/Hall Lets: Mrs Alice Smith / Web Editor: Mrs Elizabeth McCreadie
 Magazine Editor: May McNeil / Magazine Distribution: Church Elders
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