



*'Our Kirk
Matters'*

**HOLYTOWN
PARISH
CHURCH**

March to May

2020

Edition 3

From our Minister, The Rev Caryl Kyle

I do not know how many times in a day or a week that the doorbell of the manse will ring and when I leave my study to go downstairs and answer it there standing before me will be someone dressed in black anxiously seeking to know if this is the Crematorium as they are almost late for the funeral they are attending.

I do not know how many times I have said, 'No, I am afraid you are at the wrong roundabout - go down the hill to the next one and take the first left and then first left again and there the Crematorium will be!'

I do not know how much I would be worth now if, as they say, I had a pound for every time I had made that response to someone over the years!

Their response to me is usually that this is where their Sat Nav brought them when they put in the postcode of the Crematorium and I usually have to explain that everyone's Sat Nav does not seem to recognise the roundabout right outside our door mistaking it for the one further down the road!

I also usually explain, in the nicest possible way of course, that there is a sign just before the roundabout which directs them to go straight through, but they must just have missed it!

It seems that today everyone relies on the infallibility of their Sat Nav rather than good old fashioned road signs - for it is not the first time I have been asked 'Are you sure?' and that is even when I am standing there before them wearing my clerical collar and as a minister obviously a frequent visitor to the Crematorium!

They seem to be so reliant on the wrong signs and not willing to believe the true signs!

When I wrote last, we were approaching Advent and preparing for the coming of Jesus once more as a tiny baby and now here we are approaching Lent and preparing to walk the journey to the cross with Jesus as a man.

Not one of us can deny that that journey to the cross is a comfortable time but then, as I always say, if we are truly making our Lenten journey with Jesus then Lent should be uncomfortable for us.

Lent should be such a deeply reflective time that we do feel uncomfortable as we look to our own lives, reflect on them and decide if we truly are going in the right direction to reach our ultimate destination or have we been misled by our inner Sat Nav and are therefore following the wrong signs and going in the wrong direction.

Lent is a time for us to update our inner Sat Nav!

Lent is a real opportunity for us not just to reflect on our lives but to declutter our lives and take time to rid ourselves of what should not be there and vitally and importantly to turn ourselves back towards following the right signs that will point us in the right direction.

The writer Ann Siddall talks of Lent as a 'Letting Go' and I want to share her prayer for Lent here because I think it might help to focus us as we reflect on what we should be doing during our own Lenten Journey as we try to walk with Jesus and get ourselves back on the right road following the right signs:

O Lord, help us to use this season of Lent to examine our attachments, and to sense where you invite us to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of your love into the private corners of our lives where we have acquired so much clutter that it has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves from appetites and needs that drive us into taking, having and wanting more than we need or have time for.

Teach us that in letting go we become free, rather than deprived, generous rather than covetous, and spacious rather than restricted.

We offer you our Lenten Journey and today we place our feet on the road to Easter, and walk the Way that you have walked before us. Amen.

Are you ready to set off on your Lenten Journey?

It may be an uncomfortable one, it may be a very emotional one, hopefully though it will be a worthwhile one pointing us once more in the right direction to our ultimate home.

Lenten Blessings,
Caryl

*You are invited to share in
Communion*

on Sunday 1st March 2020

Holytown Parish Church

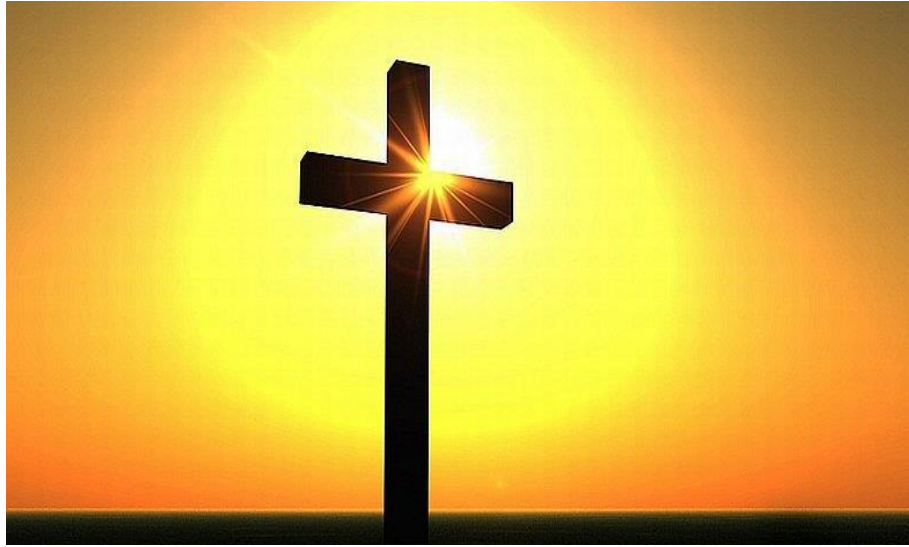
at 10am



Holy Week

Holy Week begins with our Palm Sunday Services on Sunday 5th April and then continues from Monday 6th April to Friday 10th April in Wrangholm Parish Church meeting each evening at 7pm in the sanctuary to share both worship and fellowship.

Do come and join us and share the journey that is Holy Week.



Our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service takes place at 6am in the Garden at Holytown Church Hall on Sunday 12th April.

This Service will be followed by:

Easter Breakfast

Followed by Worship:



CHRIST THE LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!

10am Holytown

11.30am Wrangholm Kirk

Sunday Readers

March	1st	Glen Baillie
	8th	Betty Reid
	15th	Graham Kyle
	22nd	David Paterson
	29th	Jim Smith
April	5th	Kirsty Shaw
	12th	Ian Houston
	19th	Christine Duns
	26th	Una Smith
May	3rd	Paula Speirs
	10th	Betty Reid
	17th	Glen Baillie
	24th	Graham Kyle
	31st	Christine Duns
June	7th	Ian Houston
	14th	Una Smith
	21st	David Paterson
	28th	Kirsty Shaw



Parish Register 2020

Funerals

December 19

Alexandra McNair

Rhona Gray

Ross McKnight

Ann Edmond

Kathleen Johnston

January

Kenneth Wardrope

James Muir

Agnes Boyle

Ann Peat

February

William McMillan

Weddings

December 19

Kirsty McKenna and Alan Milligan

Baptisms

December 19

Erin Alexandra Hill

FLOWER LIST - 2020

If you would like to help in this so special outreach of love, please add your name to the flower list on the noticeboard 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.

Once again, we thank you in advance for your kindness.

March	1st	I. Gilchrist
	8th	C. Bell
	15th	I. McNally
	22nd	C. Duns
	29th	L. Baillie
April	5th	M. McPherson
	12th	U. Smith
	19th	M. Lennox
	26th	C. Menzies
May	3rd	L. Combe
	10th	D. Paterson
	17th	I. Hinshelwood
	24th	C Boyd
	31st	I. Gilchrist
June	7th	E.Sinclair

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

"I wish to express my grateful thanks to all who have helped & assisted me after my recent fall. Thank you also for the lovely cards and flowers. I am grateful to have recovered and I have been back at the Church, but your kind thoughts were very much appreciated. With grateful thanks,"

Jean Henderson



A huge big thank you to all of the individuals who contributed to the Christmas Angels. Please see the article later on in the magazine.

Friends of Holytown: Thank you to all who have supported our past activities. We hope you enjoyed our Hogmanay, Film night - 'It's a Wonderful Life' and Burns evening. Special thanks to Cynthia Boyd for her contribution to all of these activities.



1st Holytown Boys' Brigade

All sections meet from 6.15 - 7.45pm

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)

1st Holytown Girls' Brigade



The sections are as follows:-

Rosebuds - age 3 - nursery

Explorers - P1-P3

Junior 1 - P4 and P5

These sections meet from 6.15 - 7.30pm

Junior 2 - P6 and P7

Brigaders - S1 and onwards

These sections meet from 6.15 - 8.00pm

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!

THE GUILD

Hi everyone,

This season is nearly closing for the Guild this year (last evening is Wednesday 11th March, but please still feel free to come along.



We have had good speakers and entertainers this session.

- Jimmy from Cumbernauld who spoke about growing up in World War II - most of the ladies reminisced - Vera Lynn songs, ration books, gas masks, hand me down clothes and he was very funny.
- Stewart and Peter Gardner - always a favourite and thanks so much for their support
- Jackie Gilliland - local lad who is a Park Ranger for the Council - always interesting
- We had a chap who drove for VIP and Royal Security - he was very interesting.
- A big thanks to Caryl for rededicating our Guild at the beginning of the session and always on hand for support
- We also had a lady who did a talk called "Walk a mile in my shoes". She brought along pairs of shoes and each one had a story - this was to raise awareness for domestic abuse.

Friday 6th March - World Day of Prayer

Local Guilds come together to celebrate the day - a warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to come along. This year it is being hosted in Wrangholm Church at 7pm.

The Guild would also like to say a big thanks to May for compiling the magazine and for her support throughout the year.

The next session of the Guild begins in October 2020 - you will be hearing from me to try and get you to come along - EVERYONE WELCOME.

Christine Duns
President

The Sunday School

We welcome attendance at our Sunday School each Sunday morning, meeting at the front of the Church at 10 am and then over to the Hall where we learn about Jesus and his love for us. We have some fantastic crafts to make and we have great fun playing lots of games. We follow the 'Spill the Beans Programme'. Please join us as you will be made most welcome!



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,

Bill Jenkins



**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.**

Dates for your Diary

<i>Lent Begins</i>	<i>1st March</i>
<i>Sacrament of Communion</i>	<i>1st March, 10 am</i>
<i>Attestation of Church Records</i>	<i>1st March</i>
<i>World Day of Prayer Service</i>	<i>6th March @ 7 pm (Wrangholm)</i>
<i>Stated Annual Meeting</i>	<i>8th March following morning worship</i>
<i>*Congregational Meeting</i>	<i>Tuesday 10th March @ 7 pm</i>
<i>Hamilton Prebytery Attestation of Records</i>	<i>11th March - H/T Church Hall - all day</i>
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>5th April</i>
<i>Holy Week Services</i>	<i>Monday 6th - Friday 10th April @ 7 pm (Wrangholm)</i>
<i>Easter Sunrise Service</i>	<i>Sunday 12th April @ 6 am (Holytown Hall/Garden)</i>
<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	<i>Sunday 12th April 6.30 am (approx.) HT</i>
<i>Easter Sunday Service</i>	<i>12th April @ 10 am</i>
<i>GB & BB Thanksgiving service & Sausage Sunday</i>	<i>26th April</i>
<i>BB Display</i>	<i>27th April @ 7 pm</i>
<i>GB Display</i>	<i>29th April @ 7 pm</i>
<i>Spring Fayre</i>	<i>16th May 11 am - 2 pm</i>
<i>Sunday School Prize Giving</i>	<i>14th June @ 10 am</i>

*Purpose of this meeting is for congregational members to put forward their ideas on how to best shape our Church for the future. You will be given a briefing on our Church nationally and how we, as a congregation, can best prepare our Church for the future. You may be inspired on the night and all ideas/suggestions will be welcomed. In the meantime, can we ask you to include this initiative in your prayers.

Christmas Angels 2019 - Update

You may recall that we were hoping to flood Holytown and New Stevenston with Angels for Christmas 2019. Our hope was that hundreds of tiny angels would descend on both villages .

Thank you one and all for taking the time and your knitting/crochet skills to knit all these little angels - You did not disappoint! Each of the tiny angels was a heavenly reminder to folk in our villages of the 'Good News' the angels brought when they announced the birth of Jesus.

The idea was that the angels would appear bringing people the good news of the birth of Jesus.

There was a great deal of positive feedback from this community exercise. There was the enjoyment of the many who came together to bring the project to fruition. There was also the positive reaction that we had received from various people who thought the idea was wonderful and wished to thank all those involved with the project. **This was indeed a fun way to bless people and remind them of the true meaning of Christmas!**



- "What a lovely gesture from all who made the little angels - community spirit. My tree looks lovely with the angel I was gifted. Thank you."
- "Thanks to all who were involved in the "angels" at Holytown Cross. What a lovely thing to do! I've taken one this morning for myself and my auntie. ❤️"
- "I took a white one, looks lovely on my tree. Thanks so much the ladies who organised this. What lovely, kind gesture"
- "Beautiful, wonderful idea".
- "I've got them too. It was a really lovely thing to do."
- "My daughter gave me mine- beautiful thanks to the people who did the knitting. Merry Christmas.XX"
- "I got one too - thank you."



The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, is today sending a letter out to all Kirk congregations inviting them to take part in this year's Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative. Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement which will run from Ascension Day on 21 May to Pentecost Sunday on 31 May. Below, we are sharing his letter in full.



Dear All,

Thy Kingdom Come is a global, ecumenical prayer movement which takes place each year from Ascension to Pentecost. Christians are encouraged to pray for more people to come to faith during these 11 days of prayer. This will be its fifth year.

From Bangladesh to Brazil, Australia to Austria, and South Africa to the Solomon Islands, more than two million Christians, across 65 different denominations and traditions, in 90% of countries worldwide have participated.

Ruth and I had the privilege of attending and participating in the 2019 Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Event in Trafalgar Square. The square was packed and we found it very moving that three Archbishops (Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox) could stand side by side and pray for our country. Senior leaders from the emergency services also shared items for prayer.

In 2019 the app was downloaded thousands of times in almost 100 countries worldwide – more than twice as many as in 2018.

In their annual feedback survey, the organisers found that:

- 92% of those taking part were praying for friends and family members to come to know Jesus – with nearly two thirds (62%) of this group planning to follow up or talk to the people they were praying for;
- 70% of those who took part felt more encouraged to share their faith;
- 40% of respondents took part for the first time this year – which shows this is still very much a growing movement;
- 99% want to be involved again in 2020, the same figure as last year – demonstrating growth and value.

The Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church are both officially involved with Thy Kingdom Come. Resources were distributed widely and a prayer diary was translated into Gaelic.

HRH The Queen praised Thy Kingdom Come as an example of the close working together of the Church of England and Church of Scotland.

It also enables local congregations to share in a global Kingdom-focused initiative.

This year Thy Kingdom Come will begin in the week of the General Assembly and we hope it will be marked in some suitable way.

You can sign up to the Pledge by visiting the Church of Scotland website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please do consider how you might be involved where you are.

Wishing you every blessing,

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair,

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Moderator of the General Assembly has spent the week visiting British Army bases across Scotland.

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair met service personnel in Stirling, Glasgow, Leuchars in Fife and Kinloss in Moray to learn more about their work.

He said it was a “huge privilege” to be given an insight into their world and he and his wife Ruth now have a fresh appreciation for the role they play for Queen and country.

Church of Scotland ministers serve as military chaplains in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

They provide spiritual support, pastoral care, and moral guidance to personnel and their families irrespective of religion or belief.

Rev Duncan MacPherson, Senior Chaplain Scotland who accompanied Mr Sinclair, said it is a privilege to be a military chaplain and described it as the “best job in the world”.

He said: “When you ask a chaplain to the Forces what is at the heart of her or his work, invariably the first reply, almost without any need to think, is the wonderful people we are privileged to minister to and with.

“The folk that make up the British Armed Forces are very special people.

“Not because of their background, their celebrity or even the corner of Scotland or other nations that they come from.

“The folk military chaplains find in their care are remarkable, genuine, committed, curious, forthright and sometimes challenging people.

(Picture – The Rev Duncan MacPherson addresses the Scottish Parliament)

“They are bound together by a common experience and purpose to serve our communities and nation in defence.



“Sometimes against an enemy or the elements or to help a neighbour in our global community – they act always for people.

“As chaplains we have the opportunity to live alongside our people, on ships, in the air or even holes in the

ground, sharing rations, a corner of a vehicle and earning the privilege of sharing the love of God.

“One of our heroes is a World War One Padre called ‘Woodbine Willie’ because he shared his cigarettes with the soldiers he met as that meant they shared a few words as they shared a light and a puff.

“He used to say ‘pray with your soldiers sometimes, pray for them always’.

“We are allowed to share our soldiers danger, living under their protection and accompanying them unarmed to places where they would not go without a weapon.

“It is the most precious of bonds of trust - they care for us as we minister the love of God to them in the darkness as well as the light.”



Rev Shuna Dicks of Cults Parish Church in Aberdeen has been a padre for seven years.

Aberdeen ministers, Rev Shuna Dicks and Rev Keith Blackwood, serve as padres in the 2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force which is made up of youngsters from across the north-east.

They said it was an honour and a key part of their ministries.

Christian presence

Mrs Dicks, minister of Cults Parish Church, said: “The 2nd Battalion Highlanders covers all the

units in the north-east of Scotland from Buckie in the west to Peterhead in the east and south as far as Stonehaven and out to Aboyne.

“The main commitment is attending the Battalion’s annual camp in July which is being held at Garelochhead near Faslane this year.

“Around 180 cadets, boys and girls aged 12-17, and 50 adult volunteers head off for 10-14 days of activities.

“Keith and I are there as an important part of the welfare team and support the youngsters and the adults when needed.

“On a practical level we run the camp bank – looking after the spending money cadets bring with them – and sometimes a tuck shop which provides an ideal opportunity to get to know them.

“We also take part in some of the activities and last summer we took part in a padres’ race up the climbing wall and had a go at paddle boarding.

“One of my favourite activities is spending a night or two ‘in the field’ with the cadets and sleeping under a basher and surviving on ration packs.

“Our battalion now has a tradition of each cadet building a church for us when out in the field.

“You might wonder what the cadets and volunteers think of having a Christian presence at camp.

“We know from what people have shared with us that our presence is greatly appreciated and the relationships that are built is one of the biggest plusses of this ministry.

“I am grateful that the Church of Scotland recognises this as part of my ministry for the last seven years and releases both of us from our parishes to attend camp each year.”



Rt Rev Colin Sinclair said it was a "huge privilege" to spend time with the 39 Engineer Regiment Royal Engineers in Kinloss, Moray to learn more about their work.

Mr Blackwood said: “Although steeped in the Boys Brigade as boy and officer, I had absolutely no experience, or knowledge, of the Army Cadet Force.

“I thought then it would be no different to other types of chaplaincy that ministers and others undertake in schools, hospitals and to different organisations.

“A ministry of availability, support and presence.

“Eleven years on as a padre, my sense of the role back when I started has proven to be very close to the mark.

“Take out the uniform, the rank (Major), the military language and terminology, it is clear that when I turn up to undertake my responsibilities at the camp my role is one very much of availability, support and presence.

“It is a role of supporting the welfare of others and the practical care and listening ear we offer to the battalion predictably takes very many different forms.

“Sometimes people ask about what it means to be a minister and someone might ask about God.

“Yet whether there is a reference to such things or not, I see my chaplaincy as one of a calling to ministry.

“I am ‘called’ to minister to the people of my parish, to take the values, presence and love of God to the people with whom I spend precious time.

“For the two weeks of camp, the cadets and adults make-up my parish.

“Being a padre is a privilege and extremely fulfilling and it is great spending time with young people and adults away from the context of my local congregation.

“In many ways I feel re-tuned and re-booted after annual camp.”



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?

Mothering Sunday - Sunday 22nd March 2020



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.



A typical food parcel includes:

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tea/coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice

We are a Christian Charity based in Lanarkshire. Charity No: SC042625

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.

Social Committee /Friends of Holytown / What's on!

A big thank you to all who attended our 'Burns Night' on Friday 24th January 2020. Special thank you to our entertainment, Peter Gardner, Stewart McNeil & Jim Hillen. Our recitals from Ian Houston & Cameron McCartney. Grateful thanks also to the John Collins School of Highland Dancing (Coatbridge). Fine Choice Catering once again provided a wonderful three-course meal.



Friends of Holytown Cont/....

As you know we are raising money for our Church projects mainly to help towards funding of a disabled toilet within the Church. We do require your support. Please don't assume that someone else will go along and support these events. Friends of Holytown is where you will get your family and friends involved. You may have a family member who has moved away from Holytown or

attends another Church. Where possible, please try and bring them along. Our Church needs your support! We are most grateful for your fellowship and contribution.



Whisky Tasting Evening

Friday 27th March 2020,
The Masonic Hall, New Stevenston
(downstairs lounge) @ 7.30 pm.



*Church Spring Fayre

(Church Hall & Grounds)

Saturday 16th May

11:00 - 14:00

**Quiz Sheets (£1), tea tickets (£4) will be available for sale shortly from any Elder. Donations welcomed for our green stall and unwanted new gifts. Donations also required for our bottle stall, silent auction and lucky dip gift bags. On the day, donations of home baking would be gratefully received.*

Thank you, Spring Fayre Committee.



Taylor Fashion Show

(Wed or Thurs 27th or 28th May
2020) - date to be finalised.

7 pm - Holytown Church Hall

Entry £5.00



Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Friday 28th August @ 9 pm

Tickets have been purchased for those who were interested and who added their name to the list.

Balance @ November 2019	£7,790
Paid in December	£260.00
Paid in 29 th January	£280.00
Paid in 29 July	£130.00
Total at time of print	£8,330



Did you know a smartie tube can hold £27.00

of pound coins & £12.00 of 20p pieces.

Why don't you give it a try.

Hall Lets - Meeting Conference Venue

Holytown Parish Church Hall is available to hire! For any general enquiries on hall lets, please contact Alice Smith:-
 alicsmith51@gmail.com Tel: 01698 833190

<p>Facilities available to hire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Large Hall ☐ Small Hall ☐ Break out Room ☐ Kitchen ☐ Extensive parking space with overspill to rear ☐ Projector and Screen available ☐ WiFi ☐ Disabled facilities 	<p>Let times available</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 - 1pm - 2pm</p> <p>Sunday - 1 pm - 10 pm</p>
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Story of the Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.



The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell.

"Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven.

But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals.

The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail on an ocean, or even a river; instead, she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard.

“What happened?” the once tall tree wondered. “All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God...”

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox.

“I wish I could make a cradle for him,” her husband whispered.

The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. “This manger is beautiful,” she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, “Peace.” The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man’s hands to her.

She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth tremble with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

(Source unknown)

Financial report as at 31st January 2020

General Income

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Freewill offering	1001.00	1024.00
Plate	408.95	594.13
Standing Orders	860.00	845.00
Hall lets	180.00	168.00
Funerals/Weddings	200.00	285.00
Donations	0.00	230.00
Magazines	0.00	0.00
Wrangholm Linkage	0.00	0.00
Spring Fayre	0.00	0.00
Christian Aid	0.00	0.00
Poppyscotland	0.00	0.00
Retiring offering	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
Investors Trust transfer	0.00	0.00
Day of Giving	0.00	100.00
Total General income	£ 2649.95	£ 3246.13

<u>Fabric Fund</u>	£ 40.00	£ 20.00
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Total Income **£ 2689.95** **£ 3266.13**

General Expenditure

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Ministries & Mission	0.00	0.00
Presbytery dues	0.00	0.00
Insurance	361.33	350.12
Minister's expenses	0.00	0.00
Pulpit supply	0.00	0.00
Electricity	108.13	121.60
Gas	300.00	358.30
Telephone	0.00	0.00
Broadband	6.00	239.28
Council Tax	178.00	173.00
Organ maintenance	0.00	0.00
Paper/Toner/Copier Maintenance	41.04	0.00
Photocopier	0.00	0.00
Life & Work Magazines	0.00	0.00
Spill the beans	0.00	0.00
Planner	0.00	0.00
Garden maintenance	0.00	0.00
Baptism Certificates	0.00	5.99
Audit fee	0.00	0.00
Remembrance Day wreath	0.00	0.00
Blue Christmas postage	0.00	0.00
Advent candles	0.00	0.00
Freewill Offering envelopes	0.00	0.00
<u>Total General expenditure</u>	<u>£ 994.50</u>	<u>£ 1248.29</u>

Fabric Fund

Fire Extinguisher service	0.00	0.00
Fire extinguisher replacements	0.00	0.00
Fire Alarm/Smoke Detector service	0.00	0.00
Asbestos survey	0.00	0.00

Roof/gutters/downpipe repairs	120.00	80.00
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Total Fabric expenditure	£ 120.00	£ 80.00
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Total Expenditure	£ 1114.50	£ 1328.29
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Investors Trust Funds

Balances as at November 2019 are as follows:

General Fund £13076.70

Reserve Fund £8306.75

Legacy Fund £835.76

Sunday School £439.83

Boys Brigade £1089.31

General Bank Account

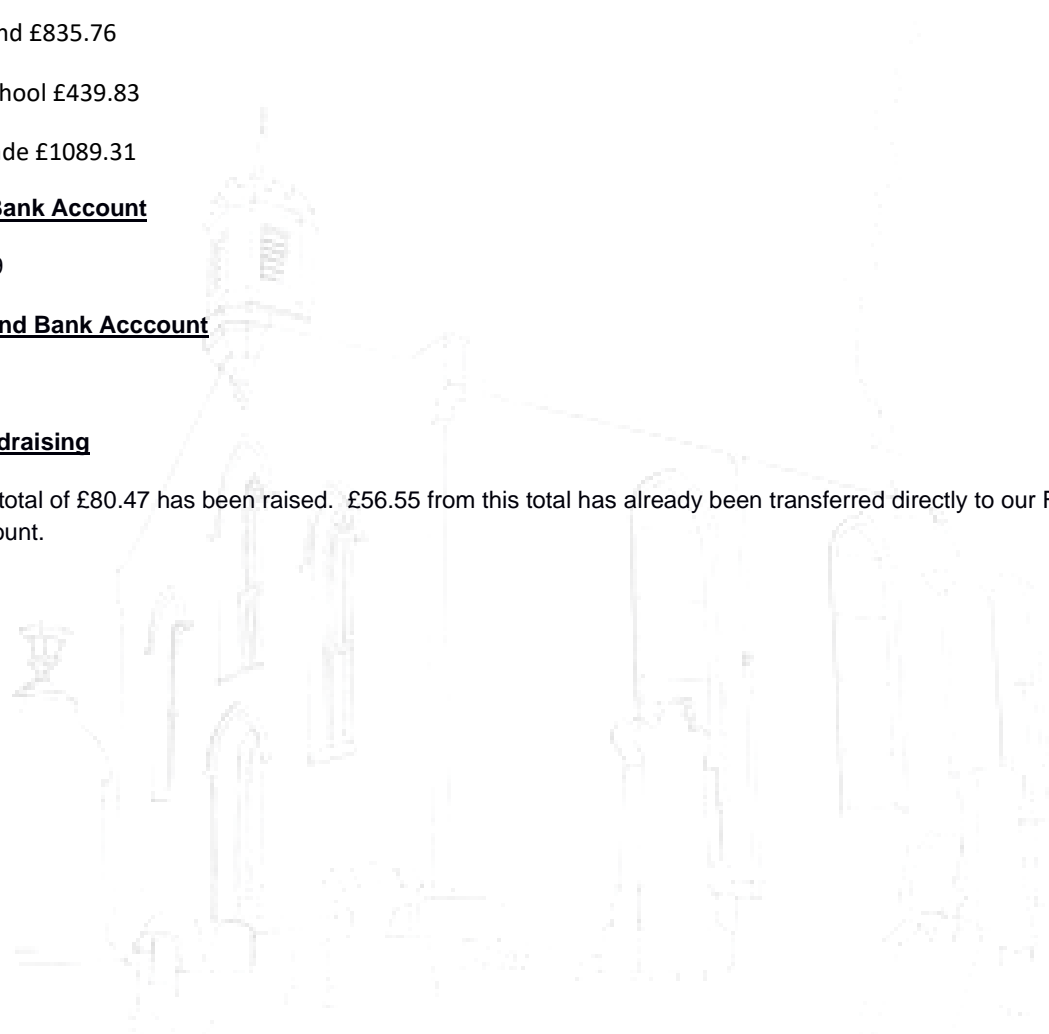
£13429.99

Fabric Fund Bank Account

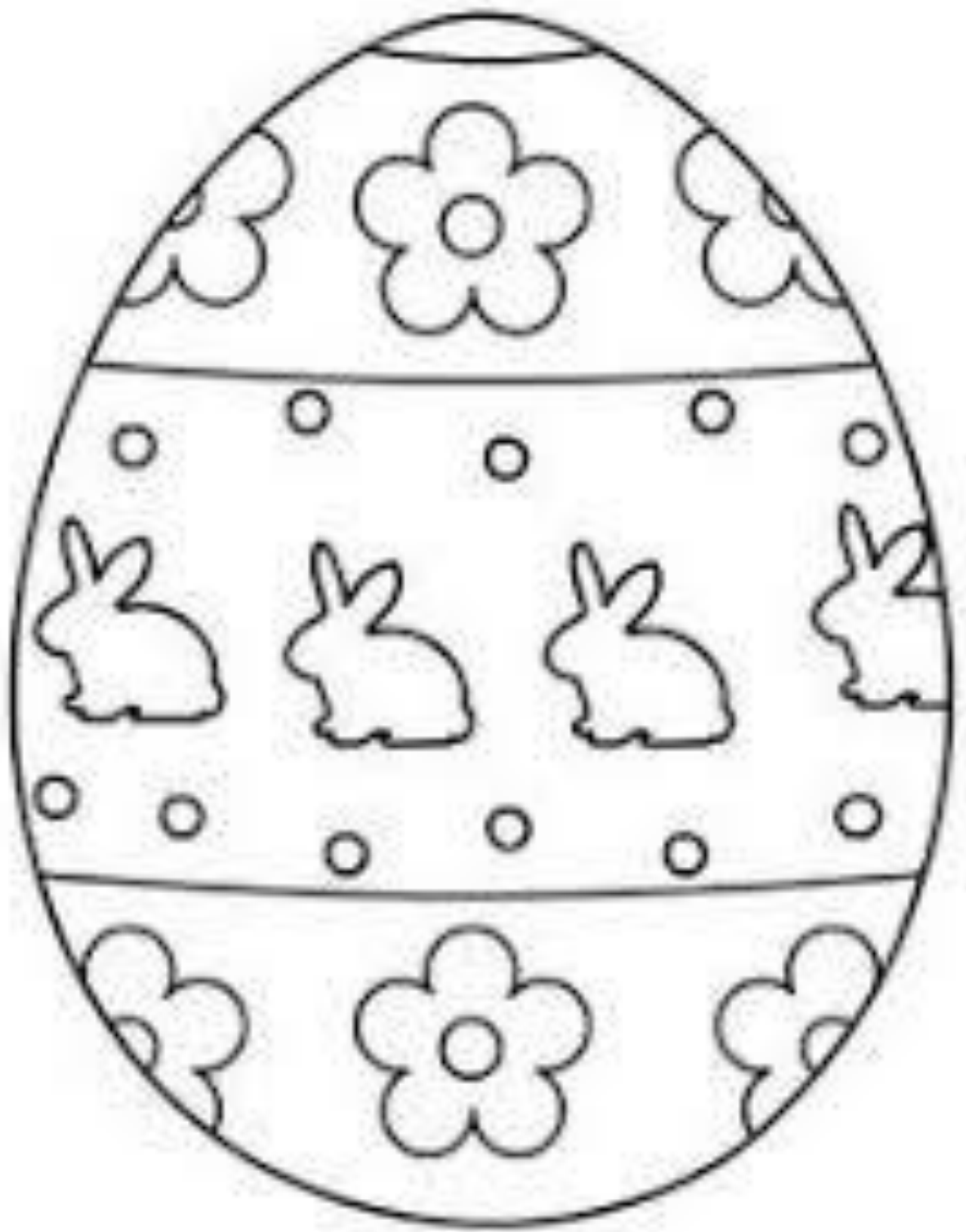
£1468.40

Easy Fundraising

To date a total of £80.47 has been raised. £56.55 from this total has already been transferred directly to our Fabric Bank Account.









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)

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