



The Church of Scotland



Hope, Joy, Love & Peace

Advent: *The period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world.*

*'Our
Kirk
Matters'*

**HOLYTOWN
PARISH
CHURCH**

*November
2021*

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)

The countdown starts as Advent begins on Sunday 28 November running until Friday 24 December. This year, contributors across the length and breadth of the Church of Scotland are joining together to shine a 'Light in the Darkness' through this year's Advent calendar.



Meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', Advent is a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of God's Son. It is also a time when we look outwards to the needs of others, spreading joy with friends, families, local communities and further afield.

As with last year, things will feel very different to previous years, as Covid-19 restrictions continue across Scotland. However, we hope that our Advent calendar will help spread a little hope and joy during these dark days.

Light in the Darkness

Light in the Darkness is the theme of the Church of Scotland's 2021 Advent calendar, inspired by John 1:5 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it':

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

On Sunday 28 November we will get things underway with an introductory video on our website from the Moderator, Lord Wallace, followed by daily offerings through the next four weeks. The first window in the calendar will open on

Wednesday 1 December. We invite you to [sign up for a daily email or visit our online Advent Calendar for some daily inspiration](#).

Throughout the season we'll bring you stories that highlight how church members around the country and further afield are planning to celebrate the birth of Jesus and sharing their faith, joy and love.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Lord Wallace, invites everyone to join us in this year's Advent:

"Counting down the days to Christmas can be both exciting and energising as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth. Emmanuel — God with us.

"Due to the pandemic, many people still experience anxiety or still feel the pains of loss or illness or uncertainty. But we have the assurance that the darkness can never extinguish the light.

"Can I therefore encourage people to sign up to this Advent calendar and reflect each day on the hope which the Light of the World brings into our world."

This year for our daily Advent offerings we have collected moving, thought-provoking and encouraging stories sourced from our Church of Scotland congregations. They will include:

- **Videos** — Lord Wallace will introduce Advent, followed by a few extra surprises throughout the season.
- **Inspiring stories and reflections** — of creative events and personal experiences from individuals and groups across the Kirk.
- **Prayers** — a selection of prayers on this year's theme from people from across the Church.

Sign up for your daily reminder

You can sign up for a daily reminder email straight into your inbox with a link to that day's Advent window, starting from Wednesday 1 December. Sign up details below:-

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/kirks-advent-calendar-shines-a-light-in-the-darkness>

Church of Scotland Website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk

From our Interim Moderator, Ms Elaine McKinnon



Hello everybody

This is the first magazine that has been published since I became your Interim Moderator so I thought I would take the opportunity to say hello to you all and tell you a little about myself. I am the minister of your neighbouring Parish Newarthill and Carfin. While you don't have a minister of your own, Presbytery has asked me to help look after you. It was a bit awkward taking over during lockdown as I was unable to meet you all in person, as much as I would have liked to. I hope over the next few months to see more of you.

I have met some of you at Communion in September, and I look forward to seeing you at our next Communion service on 28 November. I also want to say that if any of you went to see me for any reason, I am very happy to meet you. I append my contact details to the end of this letter.

I would also want to take this opportunity, to thank all the elders for their support and help. And I would ask you to give them all your support, I am trying to work across three parishes, so I really can't do as much as I would like so I rely heavily on the elders. I also want to thank Bill Hastings our locum for all his good work over the last few months.

Finally, I just want to end by reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas. It is the time when we celebrate the biggest sign of God's love for us, we remember how he came into this world as a helpless baby, to show us the way back to him, the way of love and service, a way which he himself followed.

This has been a very difficult two years for all of us, some have suffered much more than others. But through it all God has been with us. Sometimes we could not see him, sometimes we felt really alone,

but the very fact that we got through those trying times proves God was, and still is, with us. He really does live up to the name we seem to only remember at Christmas, Immanuel which is Hebrew for God is with us.

So let us give thanks to Immanuel for all the times he really has been with us, the times when we needed him the most.

I really hope to be able to say it in person later on, but I still in this letter want to wish you all A Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Every blessing to you all.
Elaine

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INVITATION
You are invited to share
in Communion
on Sunday 28th November 2021 at 10 am



From our Locum, Mr William (Bill) Hastings

Dear Friends,

I have been asked to write in the newsletter, for the folk who do not know me my name is Bill Hastings. I have been a reader (Lay Preacher) for over thirty years and I will keep preaching till I get it right. (that was a wee joke). I use lots of jokes and stories in my preaching because I believe the Good Lord wants us to be a happy crowd and each of the congregations of Holytown & Wrangholm are a happy crowd, I often think Jesus had a good sense of humour, remember he spoke about a camel going through an eye of a needle (Mark 10 Verse 25). My policy is tell folk how good they are while they can hear you and most of all keep your faith simple. When Jesus died for us we have our own faith to believe that some day we will all get together and walk and talk with Him as it says in the Glasgow Gospel "*When things are ready, ah'll come back for ye an we'll aw be thegither wance mair*".

I thank you all for your continued support since I became your locum. The church (121) have laid down a rule that all locums contracts will be reviewed every six months.

At both session meetings, I was asked to stay and I am very glad to be here. Let's keep each other in our prayers.

As communion is on the 28th November, I will be exchanging pulpits with Newarthill Parish Church. I thought I would leave you with a wee story about 'The Moosie's Prayer'.

Take care and keep safe,
May God Bless you and yours.

Bill

Wm. Hastings

wphastings@hotmail.co.uk

(Home) 01355 904521 / (Mobile) 07954167158

The Moosie's Prayer

A pair wee kirk moose a' forlorn
Its furry coat fair sairly worn
Sank doon upon its bony knees
and prayed - for just a wee bit
cheese.

The tears ran doon its wee thin
cheeks
But nane could hear the saddest
squeaks
That drifted oan the cauld nicht
air
Till whiles it couldnae pray nae
mair.

Syne daylight cam, the kirk bells
rang
The doors swung open wi' a bang
Communion day had come oan by
Wi' wine and plates o' breid held
high.

The wee moose lay as still as daith
And watched it a' wi bated braith
Then thocht - if I keep awfu'
quate
A bit nicht jist fa' aff a plate.

And so it gazed as roond they
went
Then jist as tho twas heaven sent
Whit landed richt upon its heid
Bit twa lumps o' communion breid.

The staff o' life lay oan the flair
-

Then, bounteous answer to his
prayer
Jist as he thocht, 'It looks fell
dry'.
Ae body couped some wine
forbye.

Wee moosie stoated up the aisle
Wearin sic a boozy smile
The folk stopped singin', fair
aghastr
Tae see a drunken moose walk
past.

The organist fell aff his chair,
The meenister could only stare
Tae see this drunken, sinfu'
moose

Cavortin' in his sacred hoose.
At last it staggered up the nave
Then turned and gied a happy
wave

"I ken noo when its time to pray
I'll do it oan communion day".



Holytown Parish Church

*Sunday Readers required
for 2022*



It is always good to see others reading from our Holy scriptures on a Sunday morning. The invitation is open to all to put your name on the sheet in the vestibule of the church or simply contact Ian Houston should you wish to be included. Plenty of notice is always given in order for you to prepare in advance.

email: ianh1950@gmail.com / Tel: 01698 832576





Parish Register 2021

Funerals

July

Agnes Ferguson

September

Ann Blower



Weddings

August

Alison Baillie & Ross Adamson

November

Alexandra Milton & Brian McGhee

Baptisms

July

Heidi Arthur

FLOWER LIST - 2022

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

NOVEMBER	7	Christine Duns
	14	Irene Gilchrist
	21	Betty McKenzie
	28	Billy McIlroy
December	5	Freda Marshall
	12	Nancy McPherson
	19	D. Paterson
	26	Cynthia Boyd

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 locum to visit, please contact Mr Bill Hastings 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.



COP26 and the Church of Scotland

How the Church of Scotland is getting involved in the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

By the time this magazine goes to print, Glasgow will have hosted [COP26 - the United Nations Climate Change Conference](#).



This was the biggest international summit ever held in the UK, with delegates, diplomats and heads of state and government coming from around the globe - as well as scientists, campaigners, activists, businesses, human rights organisations and development NGOs. COP26 will be the most important gathering to discuss the climate emergency since the 2015 Paris Agreement. This will be an important opportunity for countries to set out plans as to how to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

With COP26 taking place here in Scotland, the Church is especially interested in what is happening and engaging with the preparations and the opportunities to share our belief in the importance of safeguarding the integrity of God's creation.

The Church is supporting strands of work around hospitality, worship and advocacy. We are also developing our own plans to move to be a Net Zero carbon emissions organisation, with the target of reaching this by 2030 set by the General Assembly.

Advocacy

With Christians around the world we join with the voices of those who are suffering most because of global heating, sea-level rise and

more extreme weather. Often it is those who contributed least to carbon emissions who are harmed the most and are least able to adapt or mitigate the changes that are happening. This is an issue of justice, and so our concern for the integrity of creation is matched by a concern for fairness for fellow human beings around the world.

We are working with ecumenical partners to call on governments to:

- Show courageous leadership, putting the wellbeing of future generations and the planet above short-term considerations
- Ensure that the voices of people and communities on the climate frontline are heard and respected
- Work together in a co-ordinated and joined-up way through agreements at the COP
- Make more ambitious commitments to carbon emissions reductions to limit warming to no more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels
- Stop subsidising fossil fuel production
- Establish new sources of financing for climate related loss and damage to help people already suffering the consequences. This will require richer countries putting aside funds to assist poorer countries.

Professor Jason Leitch - why face coverings are still necessary in church



Scotland's national clinical director has thanked faith communities for their efforts to suppress COVID-19 and urged people to continue taking precautions to reduce the spread.

Professor Jason Leitch said the virus is still causing harm and people should wear face coverings inside church buildings, get the vaccine and booster jab, if appropriate, and follow the hygiene advice - hand washing and wiping down hard surfaces.

In a recent YouTube video Professor Leitch thanked all of us involved with faith communities for all the work that we have done to-date in trying to keep people safe. Following some presentation slides, Professor Leitch confirmed that we must continue to be cautious particularly as winter approaches. He urges us all to:-

Make ourselves covid safe

vaccinations, nasal swabs (*if required*), continuing hygiene rules

Unfortunately, Churches, like theatres and cinemas do have to continue to wear face-masks inside church buildings.

(End)

On behalf of our locum, Mr Bill Hastings and our Church Elders, we respect all those who do not feel comfortable attending morning worship at this time. Do please remember that you are in our thoughts and prayers and we hope that we can all join together in worship once more as a Church family soon.

Thank you to the Paterson Family
Holytown war memorial refurbished
to mark its 100th anniversary

The work to clean the statue and the area surrounding the memorial was carried out on a voluntary basis by local company the Paterson Group.



The Paterson Family with local Councillor Jim Reddin (right)

An improvement project has been completed at Holytown war memorial during its centenary year.

The work to clean the statue and the area surrounding the memorial was carried out on a voluntary basis by local company the Paterson Group.

Jamie Paterson, managing director of the Paterson Group, who is the great, great, grandson of the founder, said: "The statue was originally erected by J Paterson and Sons, Builders in 1921.

"The business was started by James Paterson in 1870 and the family have continued to operate in the building industry to this day.

"This year marks 150 year since that original business was founded and it was the wish of my family, and the current business, to mark that in some way.

"We came up with the idea of restoring the memorial and we felt it was important to mark its 100th anniversary since it was erected.

"These memorials serve as a focal point for communities and now more than ever that can be much needed."



Holytown war memorial on the date it was unveiled

The memorial commemorates the men of Holytown district who fell in the great wars and the Korean War.

It features a kilted soldier on a tapering plinth and stepped base, constructed in Killembreck granite by Glasgow firm Messer Scott & Rae sculptures and built by local building firm James Paterson and Son in 1921.

Local councillor Jim Reddin added: "This is a wonderful gesture by the Paterson family, which will last for years to come.

"The refurbishment has been done to a high standard and it's looking really good."

Re-cap on General Assembly 2021

The Church of Scotland General Assembly for 2021 was held online for a second year. It opened on Saturday 22 May and once again was facilitated via Zoom and the "Assembly Hub".

This year, more than 700 participants joined together remotely from across Scotland and around the world for the GA. This included 671 Commissioners, along with Overseas and Ecumenical Delegates, Corresponding Members, and Youth Reps.

Her Majesty The Queen appointed Prince William, The Duke of Cambridge and Earl of Strathearn, as the Lord High Commissioner to the 2021 General Assembly. His Royal Highness was supposed to serve in the role at the 2020 General Assembly, but this was cancelled due to COVID-19.

You can catch up on everything that happened at the GA on the [General Assembly 2021 page](#). This includes [video highlights](#), [a photo gallery](#), and all of this



year's [reports](#) and [speeches](#). The full Volume of Reports (the Blue Book) is available on our [Publications page](#) of the CoS website.

The Assembly does not shy away from discussing the big political topics of the day. In recent years the Assembly has received national and international attention for debating Brexit, same-sex relationships, the war in Syria, and fossil fuel divestment.



The **2022** General Assembly will take place from Saturday 21 May until Friday 27 May.



1st Holytown Boys' Brigade

Unfortunately, we have no start date planned for the Boy's Brigade at present as we are still monitoring the current Covid numbers. At present we have only 2 officers able to attend.

We are looking to have a DVD/chippie night at the start of December to get an indication of numbers willing to restart when and if at all possible. In the meantime, we hope you all keep safe and well.



*Glen Baillie
Captain.*

1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

The officers of the Girls' Brigade are delighted to let you all know that we re-opened in September after a long closure due to Covid. We were thrilled to welcome back familiar faces but also to have new girls enrol. We are enjoying our Wednesday nights together again.

The sections are as follows:-

Rosebuds - age 3 - nursery

Explorers - P1-P3

Junior 1 - P4 and P5

Junior 2 - P6 and P7

Brigaders - S1 and onwards



All sections meet within the Church Hall each Wednesday evening from 6.30 to 7.30 pm. It would be great to see you all join us! For further information please add us on **facebook** - **Holytown Gb**

Emma Baillie

On behalf of all the officers, Holytown GB



THE GUILD

Unfortunately, due to COVID and everything surrounding it, we are not starting The Guild at this present time.

We do hope, in the near future to perhaps hold our meetings within the Church Hall. I will keep you all posted. In the meantime, do keep safe.

Christine Duns, President

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer, action and fellowship.

Whilst Guild branches are currently closed we are still providing support, information and ideas through our weekly newsletter and on our Facebook page. For more information please contact Karen Gillon at kgillon@churchofscotland.org.uk or call the Guild office on 0131 240 2217.

With around 15,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisation. Although women make up the bulk of our membership, increasingly, men are becoming members and taking active roles at local and national levels.

The Guild's motto, which is taken from Acts 27, verse 23: "Whose we are and Whom we serve."

We welcome attendance at our Sunday School each Sunday morning, meeting at the front middle pews 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! For further information, do please contact [Janie Shaw, Sunday School Superintendent](#).



The Fellowship Group

Unfortunately, due to the current situation with the pandemic, the Fellowship group have not yet resumed at present.

Bill Jenkins



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 and all of this is at no extra cost to you.

What could be easier?

FRIENDS OF HOLYTOWN

Please do remember that despite the pandemic, we are still accepting contributions for Holytown Parish Church through 'Friends of Holytown'. Unfortunately, we have not had many social functions, due to the current situation but any donations would be most welcome. The funds are to assist with disabled access/toilet to the Church building. God willing, we can hopefully resurrect our social programme for 2022.

Balance @ October 2021

£11,970

HALL LETS- 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

Alternatively, please visit our website (Hall Lets) and complete the application form and e-mail bookings@holytownparishchurch.org.uk

Christmas Gift Donation 2021

Can you assist?

We wish to continue to support Love 'n' Light who are looking for gifts for babies, 4children and young adults up to the age of 18 years.



You have 2 options for donations:-

Option (1): Christmas Gift service @ Holytown Parish Church on Sunday 12th December 2021 at 10 am.

Option (2): Holytown Church Hall drop-off on Saturday 11th December 2021 between 10 & 11 am.

About Love N Light

Love N Light is an organisation that helps the collective family unit to recover from drug, alcohol and mental health issues. They are run by community members with lived experience of addiction and Mental Health Issues. Their main aim is to be run by the community in the community with the community. Cafe opens each Sunday from 11.30 am-2.30 pm. They offer:

- Therapeutic roads to recovery,
- Motivational speakers,
- 12 steps participation,
- Conversational café,
- Fun hub,
- Long Term Recovery Tools,
- Women's group,
- Empowering Families,
- Tools for Change,
- Arts & Crafts for Children,
- Respite Retreats for Families along with much much more.



Contact Details

Phone Number :

Jane 07875 634701 / Alternate Phone Number :

Karen 07951031152 email : loveandlight.org@gmail.com

Financial report as at 1ST November 2021

General Account

Balance held in Bank Account as at 01/11 /21 **£ 17,472.17**

Since the last Financial Statement was issued to the Congregation, our Hall Lets have resumed. We are pleased to have NHS Keep Fit Classes and Friends4U using our facilities one again, and welcome the revenue they provide.

A decision will be taken mid December regarding transferring some of the funds from this account back to the Investors Trust Reserve Fund. Last year we transferred £5,000 to the General Fund and £1,000 to the Fabric Fund from the Investors Trust Reserve Fund to ensure that we could meet all our financial commitments whilst the Church buildings were closed.

Thanks to the generous support of our Congregation we are in a position to consider this.

Fabric Account

Balance held in Bank Account as at 25/10/21 £ 688.41

The income from the Manse Let is now being transferred into this account in order to increase the funds in this account and also provide for any repairs that may be required.

Investors Trust Accounts

Balances held as at 1st May 2021

General Purposes Fund	£ 13,177.23	Interest added	£11.84
Reserve Fund	£ 2,360.32	Interest added	£ 2.12
Boys Brigade	£ 1,097.68	Interest added	£ 0.98
Legacy Fund	£ 842.17	Interest added	£ 0.75
Sunday School	£ 443.20	Interest added	£ 0.40

These accounts will be updated during November with any additional interest accrued.

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

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