

OUR VISION

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



**HOLYTOWN PARISH CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND**

SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Friends,

Usually the summer months, while the schools are closed and everyone is away on holiday, are meant to be a quieter time for ministers - a time for reflection and reading allegedly!

Well, while that may be the case for some ministers I have to say I certainly have not found that to be so this summer!

Life has been busy - but then I suppose you would all say that keeps me out of mischief and planning all sorts of new things for you!!

However, I have to admit I still have had a little time to clear out my study - just a bit! - and to plan forward - a little! - for the rest of the year - which certainly always gives me a good feeling!

I have also taken a little time on each of my days off to try and sort out a few of the boxes which are still lying around the manse and in cupboards since we moved in six years ago!

In many of those boxes it was wonderful to discover photographs - and not just photographs which Graham and I had taken over the years but also photographs which had come from our parents' homes, belonging to them, and which were yet to be 'sorted out', shared among family or sadly just disposed of; for often it was the case that no-one could recall or knew the people or places in the photographs - no memories were stirred.

It was actually a very time-consuming project - which has yet to be completed - for as you can imagine as each box was

opened and each photograph viewed our minds were just flooded with memories, emotions stirred and wonderful stories shared - all from just viewing that one moment captured in time!

It struck me that it is wonderful how one moment captured in such a way can just send you right back to that time when the photograph was taken and suddenly it's a case of 'remember this and remember that' - and the whole back story comes flooding out of you as you are transported back there once more!

Snapshots in time - but wonderful stories evoked by them arousing a whole range of emotions!

As we come to start our new session you will have heard me say in church that we are going to be moving from the Revised Common Lectionary to the Narrative Lectionary - a Lectionary which starts in September and has a four year cycle rather than a three year cycle.

This is a new Lectionary, having just completed its first cycle and as its name suggests it focuses on story and retelling the broad sweep of the Biblical Narrative each year which gives us a good perspective each year and also doesn't miss too much out.

Now, I don't know about you but when I hear the 'big stories' of the Bible it's rather like I feel when looking at a photograph - for they too are like snapshots in time and immediately I am swept back to a place and a time and have a story to tell.

I can recall the first time I heard that story - I can picture

myself in the place where I heard it - I can even remember some of the people around me who were also listening to that story, sometimes even the activities we did surrounding the story and I can always remember how I felt when I first heard the stories of the Bible.

I have to also say that in later years I can even remember my feelings as I sat exams on many of these Biblical Narratives at University!

As we begin our new session and move over to this new Narrative Lectionary it is my hope that as we listen together once more to these great stories of the Bible that you too will be transported back in time, that wonderful stories will be evoked by these snapshot stories and that a whole range of emotions will be aroused by them causing a deepening of your spiritual life!

When you think about it these stories really shaped your own stories of faith and I hope as we listen to them once more in this time and space that you will be equally enthused and enlivened by hearing them anew!

Blessings
Caryl

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast!*

James Montgomery

FLOWER LIST

September	7	Betty Meechan
	14	Janet Hutcheson
	21	M & W McIlroy
	28	June Bell
October	5	Isobel McNally

ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

Notice anything different around the church recently?

Donations from the Colportage Society and the Gillan family have been put to good use.

We now have a lovely landscaped area at the exit to the Church car park, beside the Hall as a permanent reminder of their generosity to us. Please take time to go and see the difference! *(Have a look at the centre pages of the magazine!)*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Mrs Agnes Taylor wishes to thank everyone for the cards and flowers she received at the time of the passing of her husband, John. She was most appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

MANY THANKS

Marlene, Lynn and Alexandra Milton would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, beautiful flowers and the

support they received at the sudden passing of Alex.

Grateful thanks to Caryl for her support and the beautiful service in the Church and at the Crematorium. It was all very much appreciated.

THE GUILD

The new Session of the Guild begins on Wednesday 1st October at 7.15 pm in the Michael Sherry Facility, Main Street, Holytown. Please note that in this new session there will only be two meetings each month - on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Wednesday 1st October will be an Open Night. On Wednesday 15th October the Re-Dedication Service will be conducted by the minister, the Rev Caryl Kyle.

Mr Murray Blair's topic on Wednesday 5th November is "The Washing Green".

All will be made welcome at these meetings.

AS IT USED TO BE . . .

Sometimes when we look around us in the village of Holytown we begin to reminisce on how things were in the past and how certain items were described.

The first which came to mind for me was talking about "Going round the tunnel". Nowadays no one seems to speak about "going round the tunnel". This was the usual expression when someone was going from the Main Street just above the co-

operative to Sunnyside Crescent. Today the name is not quite so colourful - we just use the wee lane.

Why the tunnel? When the pits were working there was a tunnel there. This was used by pug engines going under the road to the opposite side just up from the betting shop.

Another little corner has changed a lot. Today we have the General Motors Club. Formerly Willie Young (the gentleman who gifted the money for the stained glass windows in the chancel) had greenhouses where he grew tomatoes, blackcurrants, raspberries and chrysanthemums. The tomatoes he grew were not all red in colour when ripe. He also gave us as schoolchildren little yellow tomatoes. These are much sweeter than the red ones!

FILL YOUR HEART WITH THANKSGIVING

Take nothing for granted,
for whenever you do
The 'joy of enjoying'
is lessened for you -
For we rob our own lives
much more than we know
When we fail to respond
or in any way show
Our thanks for the blessings
that daily are ours . . .
The warmth of the sun,
the fragrance of flowers,
The beauty of twilight,
the freshness of dawn,
The coolness of dew

on a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds
so thoughtfully done,
The favours of friends
and the love that someone
Unselfishly give us
in a myriad of ways,
Expecting no payment
and no words of praise =
Oh, great is our loss
when we no longer find
A thankful response
to things of this kind,
For the **joy of enjoying**
and the **fullness of living**
Are found in the heart
that is filled with **thanksgiving**.

Helen Steiner Rice

SUMMER OF SPORT

It really has been a summer of sport and a summer of better than average weather. Even the first week of the Glasgow Fair Holiday was an absolute scorcher so whether you liked or disliked the amount of sport on offer, there was always an alternative.

World Cup - Bit of a shame England getting put out in the first phase of the competition. Bit of a shame when the magic we expect from Brazil didn't quite materialise. Nevertheless, a fantastic tournament was enjoyed by millions all over the world and Germany was a worthy winner.

Wimbledon - Maybe next year, Andy!

Open Golf - Nice to see a wee unassuming guy from Northern Ireland showing the rest how it's done and the Ryder cup is still to come.

Commonwealth Games - I honestly wasn't looking forward to this too much but, once it started, I was smitten and it was compulsory viewing for the duration. When watching the events in Strathclyde Park, the aerial views in particular made it look so beautiful. The Scottish medal wins were fantastic and who among us wasn't touched when the winners stood on the podium and a great version of 'Flower of Scotland' rang out as the Cross of St Andrew was raised on the centre flagpole? We will all have our own special memories of these games. Another one of mine was witnessing the fastest man on earth going round Hampden shaking hands with adults and children, taking his time, posing for photographs and generally providing a whole lot of folks with a special memory that will stay with them in the years to come.

I thought it was great to see many of the winners at the Commonwealth Games and the scorers in the world cup taking the time to give thanks and recognition to the Lord while enjoying their moment of glory and fame.

A FAMILIAR STORY

The following is a true story. A friend that stays not a million miles from Holytown was walking from his house towards Bellshill. A few hundred yards in front of him he spied something on the pavement but couldn't quite make out what it was. From the time he first saw it, around ten or eleven





people passed this object without stopping. When he got closer, he was horrified to see it was a young man in his early twenties. He knelt down next to the man who was bloodstained and barely conscious and was told he had been beaten up and his wallet taken. Fortunately (you would have thought), one of the local surgeries was very close so he explained to the victim where he was going and made him as comfortable as possible. On arriving at the surgery reception, he explained the situation to the staff at the front counter but their responses left him speechless. They basically said 'what do you expect us to do?' and he's probably not even registered at this practice'. They displayed not one iota of willingness to help and were a total disgrace to their role in the caring profession. When my friend insisted on seeing a doctor, they just said 'go through that door there and you can ask a doctor directly'. The first doctor approached responded without hesitation and within a minute or so was kneeling beside the victim deploying the skills she had been trained in and even asked my friend to use his personal call phone to call an ambulance.

Now the friend I mention in this story is a young man in his twenties. He has lots of tattoos, a few piercing and if you were asked to pick the person most likely to stop and help out from a group of strangers, it is most unlikely that he would be your first choice. You would have been more likely to select someone that looked more like the people at that surgery reception or the ten or eleven people that just ignored the victim lying on the pavement as they walked past him.

When this was related to me, the familiarity with another story that I had been hearing about since I was a young boy struck me.

What conclusions can be drawn? Maybe it shows that parables told in the Bible are timeless. Maybe it shows that the same unacceptable behaviour of Jesus' time still happens today and is still unacceptable. Maybe it shows that we shouldn't form judgements based on appearances. Maybe we should question what made my friend behave in a considerate manner and what made the others behave in the ways they did.

REFERENDUM

Please don't worry, I'm not going to try and influence your decision in the upcoming referendum. It's an important part of our history and will have a major influence on the future of this proud little country that we all love. Politics is not something that normally bothers me but I have to admit to being fascinated by the build up to this election. I'm just going to share a few observations.

- The way things are reported whether they are true or not can have a massive effect on the ways people think.
- How can two politicians be diametrically opposed to each other in a debate and yet both insist they are right?
- I witnessed the 'better together' campaign in Motherwell on a Friday at lunchtime and film of this was available to watch on face book minutes after it had finished thus demonstrating the capability of social media.
- I've witnessed points scoring between the main contestants where even the race to our ice cold water over themselves turned into a contest.
- Some people in powerful political positions make convincing statements in regard to what you can and cannot do, what is true and what is untrue. Other

professional people completely disprove these statements therefore the information we are being given cannot always be true.

- There seems to be more interest in this election than in any that have gone before.
- A turnout of 80% is being predicted.
- One of the main strategies appears to be rubbishing claims by the opposition rather than positive commitments.

Someone told me a joke a long time ago (not a great joke) but it went like this.

Q - How can you tell a politician's lying?

A - You'll see his lips move.

Now this view is a bit extreme but some politicians must distort the truth in order to arrive at their desired outcome. In the trial of our Lord all those years ago it makes me wonder what happened to change the 'hosanna' crowd into the 'crucify him' crowd. We can't blame social media, radio or television but there must have been a lot of time and effort put in communicating the misinformation that made people condemn a sinless man to appalling torture and execution. What drives someone to be a purveyor of misinformation, particularly when the consequences can be severe?

TATTOO

For the second year running, we had a very well attended and successful evening at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. I think there were only two spare seats in the 53 seater bus that ferried us there and back ably piloted by Alison (so if you're

reading Alison, many thanks to you once again).

The sky was very dark and threatening when we set off but the rain was still staying away when we arrived in our parking space just off the Grassmarket. The show didn't start until 9 pm so there was around an hour and a half to kill prior to the show starting. I think most went for something to eat followed by a 'coffee' (in all its various formats")

Those who were seated early got a wee bit wet when there was a heavy shower around 8.35 pm. Those who left it to the last kick to get into the castle missed this shower with the only inconvenience of having to dry their seats before sitting down. For the remainder of the evening, not a drop of rain fell. After morning worship on the Sunday following our trip, folks were telling me they had friends that had gone to the 9 pm show on the night after our visit. It had remained dry for the first 10 minutes and thereafter had bucketed down for the remainder of the performance. A quote from one who had attended the Friday show was 'the only bit of me that was dry was my socks'.

The show itself was a real aural and visual spectacle, as ever. If you've never been, I would seriously commend it to you. I don't intend to do a critique of each of the items but a special mention for the Shetland fiddlers who I'm advised have a different bowing action from traditional fiddlers. I also enjoyed a version of the theme from Local Hero but the highlight as ever was the massed pipes and drums followed by the lone piper playing a lament on the castle battlements.

This event was organised to provide an opportunity for fellowship away from Church environs and not as a fund

raiser. The only financial aspiration was to achieve a break-even situation. Well we more than achieved this aim and after everything was paid, we were left with a small profit that we will ensure is put to good use.

A fair amount of organising went into this event so thanks once again must also go to David Paterson, Glen Baillie, Jim Smith, Susan Reid and May Lovell for their various and important contributions.

THE LEGEND OF THE SPIDER AND THE SILKEN STRAND HELD IN GOD'S HAND

There's an old Danish Legend with a lesson for us all
Of an ambitious spider and his rise and his fall,
Who wove his sheer web with intricate care
As it hung suspended somewhere in midair,
Then in soft, idle luxury he feasted each day
On the small, foolish insects he enticed as his prey,
Growing ever more arrogant and smug all the while
He lived like a 'king' in self-satisfied style -
And gazing one day at the sheer strand suspended,
He said, 'I don't need this,' so he recklessly rended
The strand that had held his web in its place
And with sudden swiftness the web crumpled in space -
And that was the end of the spider who grew
So arrogantly proud that he no longer knew
That it was the strand that reached down from above
Like the cord of God's grace and His infinite love
That links our lives to the great unknown,
For man cannot live or exist on his own -
And this old legend with simplicity told
Is a moral as true as the legend is old -

Don't sever the 'lifeline' that links you to
The Father in heaven who cares for you.

Helen Steiner Rice

THE PAST - IS IT IMPORTANT?

Have you every thought about how the Christian Church developed? Today is very far removed from the days of Jesus' disciples who sailed on the Sea of Galilee. The church has spread all over the now-known world from a small country in the Middle East. How did the church change? Why did the church change? To attempt to answer this we are going back to the early 16th century and Martin Luther.

As a young man Martin Luther studied law but much to the displeasure of his father he became a monk. This, he believed, would enable him to study scripture much better. However, he was only too aware of the shortcomings of the church. This was heightened by the introduction of the "Sale of Indulgences" which people were told would hasten deceased relatives' arrival in heaven but in reality was merely a means of raising money.

This is the principal reason Martin Luther, nearly 500 years ago, posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg. Luther had studied the Bible and was aware that all was far from well in the church of his day. This act took courage and would have given Luther much about which to think. The consequences for him were dire: his life was in danger. How dared he criticise the church of which he was part? Luther believed it was right that the statements on the thesis should be there for all to read.

Luther was not the first to realise that the church had strayed from its roots. Much earlier John Wycliffe and his helpers called Lollards in England and Jan Hus in Czechoslovakia were aware of the need for reform. Both Wycliffe and Hus were put to death.

In his lifetime Luther attended various church meetings. On his way home from one of them he was captured not by someone who was intent on harming him but by a friend. He was taken to the Wartburg - a fortified castle - for his safety. It is recorded that, in disguise, he made a few trips while he was there. The most important outcome of his captivity was his translation of the New Testament into the language of his people. Together with others the Old Testament was also later translated into German. It is said that the translation standardised the language of the country. Germany, as we know it, didn't exist as an entity until late in the 19th century. The Bible in the language of the people became an important goal in many other lands.

Have you ever noticed how a number of seemingly unconnected events are in fact part of a whole? Johannes Gutenberg had made tremendous headway with the printing press. This meant that books were much more available. It is said that at one time a book cost as much as a house.

Luther was forever producing reading material. Thanks to improvements in printing they were available to a much wider group. Luther had endless energy and zeal.
(To be continued)

The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.
William James

Financial Statement as at 31st August 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
FWO	14,109.55	14,581.40
Plate	4,865.22	4,193.42
Standing Orders	<u>4,232.00</u>	<u>4,264.00</u>
	<u>£23,206.77</u>	<u>£23,038.82</u>
Average per Sunday	£663.51	£677.61
No of Sundays	35	34

Fabric Fund

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
January - May	298.41	324.61
June - August	141.50	149 16
Total to date	439.91	473.77

The value of time; the success of perseverance; the pleasure of working; the dignity of simplicity; the worth of character; the power of kindness; the influence of examples; the obligation of duty; the wisdom of economy; the virtue of patience; the sound of laughter; the joy of originating and the thrill of seeing it through.
(Anonymous)

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**Church Services are at 10.00 am and on last Sunday of the month
and Communion Sundays at 6.30 pm.**

Our Website is: www.holytownparishchurch.org.uk