

Holytown Parish Church

260 Edinburgh Road, Holytown, ML1 5RU : 01698 832622

A Note from the Minister...

Caryl Kyle

The wind has never been one of my favourite weather conditions and I think my dislike of the wind all stems back to when I was a child and one particular Sunday morning when I was walking to church down the Station Brae in Shotts.

It was indeed a very windy day and the Station Brae can be windy at the best of times - but this particular day as I walked down it I was blown right into the road and right into the path of an approaching 56 bus!!

Thankfully the double decker bus with back opening was going slower that day because of the wind and managed to avoid me - but that moment has stayed with me these last fifty odd years!

I am now a bit more accepting of windy days and of the power and strength of the wind and actually I have come to realise that it is a really necessary part of our climate. Indeed a real realisation that sometimes it is not all bad when the wind comes for sometimes there is great beauty associated with the wind too.

Just think of all the 'white horses' on the sea on a windy day or the way dry autumn leaves seem to dance and frolic in the wind or the way the clouds scurry across the sky on windy days or the wonderful carpets of blossom we see created in spring by the wind or indeed the rosy cheeks we all get by walking in the wind.

It does seem that the wind always bring change of some sort - sometimes for the good and sometimes perhaps for the not so good!

At this time in the life of our Church of Scotland denomination there is a great wind of change blowing and it would be remiss of me as your minister not to bring it to your notice, for we as a congregation seriously need to take notice of that wind of change because at the end of the day it is really up to us, as people who love their Lord, as to whether or not that wind blows for the good.

We cannot fail to notice that gone are the days of huge congregations, congregations which could support both the National Church, local church and struggling churches financially; we cannot fail to notice that our numbers are in the main in decline across the whole denomination;

we cannot fail to notice that our members are getting older and are less able to take leadership roles and so the administration of church business becomes difficult or fail to notice that we just don't seem so relevant to young people today.

The church national is finding it difficult to identify new ministers and there are so many ministers due to retire over the next five years, myself included, that as a result many parishes will be vacant for longer periods - not just months but perhaps years - remember one Church of Scotland up north has been in vacancy for over fifteen years now!

So we are being asked by the national church to be realistic about this situation, not to just think 'oh my church will see me out' and forget about the growing of God's Kingdom here on earth - which is what we should be about.

We are being called to give greater consideration to finding creative ways forward for the church AS A WHOLE - not just our congregation.

However, it seems to me that one of the greatest barriers to us actually beginning to move forward as a national church, and revive ourselves as a national church, is that we have all become much more congregational in our outlook - not Presbyterian.

We are much more concerned with ensuring 'our' church, 'our' buildings, 'our way of doing things' remains the same and even of thinking that our brothers and sisters in Christ up or down the road can just get on with their own thing, can look after themselves as we are doing, rather than thinking is this what God wants, is this growing God's Kingdom, is this showing the gospel! This attitude is often to the detriment of the whole church!

So can good come from this wind of change? Of course it can! As Christians we never give up hope!

Our National Church is trying to formulate a radical action plan but I feel that that plan has to start with churches themselves realising that they are interdependent - not congregational. As the Very Reverend Albert Bogle said recently in 'Life and Work' - 'We need to respond as congregations to each other in a more positive and creative way' for 'it is our unity and love for each other that makes the gospel believable to the outsider.'

Friends, we do realistically need to be aware of how this wind of change is going to affect us as we try to serve these communities in the future - and part of that is asking ourselves - will we be here in five/ten/twenty years' time - is our mission clear?

Realistically then making it a wind of change for good has to begin with acceptance of the coming situation, with us beginning to truly get to know the people in our linkage better, the churches around us better and in looking outside ourselves as congregations and realising that we must not be congregational or we will not thrive - we are Presbyterian - and we are interdependent - we are about showing God's love to the world and building his Kingdom here on

earth - and if we can truly get that into our heads then perhaps the creativity of ministry and mission for the future can truly start.

Blessings
Caryl

You are invited to share in Communion
on Sunday 3rd March 2019
Holytown Parish Church at 10am



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Holy Week begins with our Palm Sunday Services on Sunday 14th April and then continues from Monday 15th April to Friday 19th April in Holytown 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 5.45am in the Garden at Holytown Church Hall on Sunday 21st April.

This Service will be followed by an Easter Breakfast held at the Holytown Church hall, followed by worship. 10am at Holytown and 11:30am at Wrangholm Kirk.





Spring Fayre

This year's Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 27th April between 11am and 2pm in Holytown Church hall – please put the date in your diary!

We will be having a cake and candy stall this year, alongside the other stalls. We are appealing to those of you who are able to bring out the mixers and baking tins to do some baking for the tea room and the cake and candy stall. The baking last year was amazing!

Our colour themed stall is pink this year. The other stalls include a silent auction, lucky dips, unwanted NEW gifts, fancy goods, jewellery, burgers, games and the ever popular tea room and cake and candy stalls.

Quiz sheets costing £1 and tea tickets costing £3 can be bought from any committee member.

The hall will be opened at 6pm on Friday night to allow stall holders to set up their stall and will open again at 9.30 am on the morning of the fayre.

If you are willing to help, please offer your assistance as it is greatly appreciated.

(Committee members ; L Baillie, K Bell, I Hinshelwood, I Houston, B Jenkins, M McNeil, S Reid, T Stewart, S McCartney – treasurer).

1st Holytown Girls' Brigade

Linda Baillie

The girls have had a busy start to the session. The rosebuds and explorers enjoyed a mini Burns' supper where they tasted haggis, neeps and tatties, shortbread and Irn Bru. The older sections enjoyed participating in some well-known Scottish dances. In February, we competed in the annual Motherwell division competitions. The explorer team won the teddy bear olympics and came second in the singing competition. The Junior 1 section placed first in the craft competition where we only had one girl in our team so a huge well done to her. Finally the Junior 2 section were runners up in the potted sports. Huge well done to all girls!

CrossReach @150

This year CrossReach celebrates 150 years of providing social care in Scotland. Watch out for more details over the coming weeks as preparations are made to launch celebrations in May 2019.

Read the feature on the work of CrossReach in the January edition of Life and Work. Visit: www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/current-issue

Your Magazine Needs You!

This magazine relies your contributions and feedback. Please let me know what you would like to see here and let me know if you are interested in contributing on a one-off or more regular basis. Day of Giving

Thank You!

This is your space in the magazine to send a special thank you!

"The family of Morag Bell would like to thank members of the congregation for their prayers, thoughts, cards and flowers since her passing on 5th February. Your support means a great deal to us." ~ Kenneth Bell



"My family and I would like to thank most sincerely everyone who sent cards, flowers and gave support to us at a very difficult time. We appreciate it very much." ~ Billy McIlroy

"Thank you to everyone for their flowers, cards and support given to me during my recent stay in hospital". ~ Christine Bell

"Just wanted to say 'THANK YOU' to you all for your thoughts and prayers, kind wishes, cards and flowers during my recent illness – they were a great delight to me when feeling so low and I really appreciate your kindness and love!

Blessings to you all

Caryl"

Happy Birthday Jean Henderson!

Jean recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

To mark the occasion she was presented with a garden plant and a card on behalf of the Church.

Jean's maiden name was Watson and, together with her family and her brothers Harry and Jimmy they began attending Holytown Church. Jean was 6 years old at the time (1935).

One of their neighbours in New Stevenston, a Mrs Kirkwood first introduced Jean's mother to Holytown Church and that was the start of her lifelong association with our Church.

During that period there have been eight Ministers, excluding Interim Moderators, leading worship.

The pew Jean occupies in Church was allocated to the family by the Rev John Dykes. The cost was half a crown (2/6) per annum, 12.5p today.

Jean became a Member of the Church at age 18.

On the 17th of July 1959 Jean was married to George Henderson who hailed from Carfin. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev Dr James Richmond.

Following their marriage they both continued to worship regularly at Holytown.

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They had a shared interest in music and in gardening. George tended to the Manse gardens for a considerable time and also carried out odd jobs in and around the property. Jean was also involved and delivered the monthly magazine to the Church members living in New Stevenston.

Sadly George passed away on the 3rd of December 1993. He was affectionately known as Papa George by Calum, the son of the Rev Dr James Salmond.

Jean has many happy memories of the years past and can recall the Sunday walk to Church along the 'old pit line' come rain, hail or shine.

Finally Jean would like to thank everyone for the plant, the flowers, cards and good wishes she received.

I am sure we all pray that Jean will continue to join us in Sunday worship for many years to come.

Vision Group Update

Syd McCartney

Just over a year ago the Vision Group was formed with the objective of improving the facilities within the Church.

We decided the best way forward was to seek professional advice and so we employed an architect to carry out a feasibility study.

The drawings he prepared are displayed on the notice board in the vestibule.

At the November Session meeting it was decided we submit an application to Hamilton Presbytery requesting permission to carry out the works indicated on the drawings.

Budget costs were also included with the submission.

The application was also forwarded to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland for their approval.

Both parties have now approved the proposals following a visit to the Church to view the premises and the impact the alterations would have.

A further visit from CARTA is to take place probably late February or early March and hopefully will prove to be a formality.

Our next step is to formally appoint our design team comprising Quantity Surveyor, Architect and Engineer to discuss the way forward, obtain realistic time scales and to apply for a Building Warrant.

We also require a pro-active approach to raising the necessary funding.

Phase 1 will comprise of the accessible toilet to replace the existing facility, altering the entrance platform, raising the floor level in the Vestry, adding a landing and ramp outside the rear fire escape and creating a landing at the top of the access stairs to the upper level of the Sanctuary.

Phase 2 will be re-wiring the Church, new lighting and decoration.

Updates on our progress will appear in future magazines.

Leading Worship Course

Stewart McNeil

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the encouragement and support I received when leading worship during Caryl's absence in January and I'm pleased to report that I've met the requirements of the course and received pass marks.

I found this course which was run by Hamilton Presbytery to be challenging, interesting, well thought out, well delivered and most of all, enjoyable.

It involved attending training at the new presbytery offices across from Hamilton race course for 3 Saturdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm along with 14 folks from other congregations.

We were given some homework in the form of 7 separate assignments covering the various course topics.

Finally, we were all to be assessed leading worship in a full service.

One of the things I really enjoyed was meeting other like-minded Christian folks from other Churches, getting to know them and finding out the differences and similarities in worship.

It also opened my eyes to the amount of work that goes into preparing a service, something we probably all take for granted.

It is possible that some who read this article may think that this is something that would be of interest to them. To this end I have decided to show the main subject areas covered by the course and hopefully it may make one or more of you decide that this is something you might wish to do.

If you are even a little bit interested, please speak to Caryl or myself. A date has not been set for the next course. Presbytery are only taking expressions of interest at this stage.

Module One The service of the Word – the fundamentals of leading worship.

Aims

To help participants to appreciate how their own preferences in worship are shaped by:

- ° Their personal taste
- ° Their custom
- ° Their understanding of worship

To enable participants to use this awareness to provide relevant worship experiences for others

To explore the structure of a worship service

Module Two The Word of God – leading and reading

Aims

To emphasise the centrality of the Bible in our services of worship

To give:

- ° An appreciation of the different versions of the Bible that are available
- ° An understanding of how they might be used effectively in worship

To give some guidelines on introducing, announcing and reading the Bible in worship

Module Three The Word in reflection: Sermon and Drama

Aims

- To increase skills in reading aloud and speaking in public
- To encourage honest reflection on participants' presentation
- To show the value of honest feedback
- To highlight the essentials of preparing a talk
- To consider guidelines for delivering the talk

Module Four The Word in response: public prayer

Aims

- To consider why we pray in worship
- To consider the different types of prayer used in worship
- To explore differing structures of prayer
- To consider different ways of praying

Module Five The Word for all ages and stages

Aims

To familiarise participants with:

- The theology of childhood
- Child development theories
- Faith development

- To consider and share practical ideas for all age worship
- To develop story-telling skills

Module Six The Word in song: music and hymnody

Aims

- To consider the value of music in worship
- To give some understanding of the different musical traditions in hymns and songs for worship today
- To heighten awareness of the need for a balanced approach in choosing music for worship
- To give some ideas of how variety in singing might be achieved

Module Seven The Word and the words: putting it all together

Aims

- To discuss the content of the prepared services
- To share the thinking behind the selection of items
- To consider the shape and flow of a worship service.



Parish Register

Funerals

2018
November

Jean Shaw

December

Mary McIlroy
Gary More
Alexander Hay

2019
January

James Logue
Anne Reilly
Margaret McWhinnie
Scott Ferguson
John Stevenson

February

Mary Todd
Morag Bell

Baptisms

December

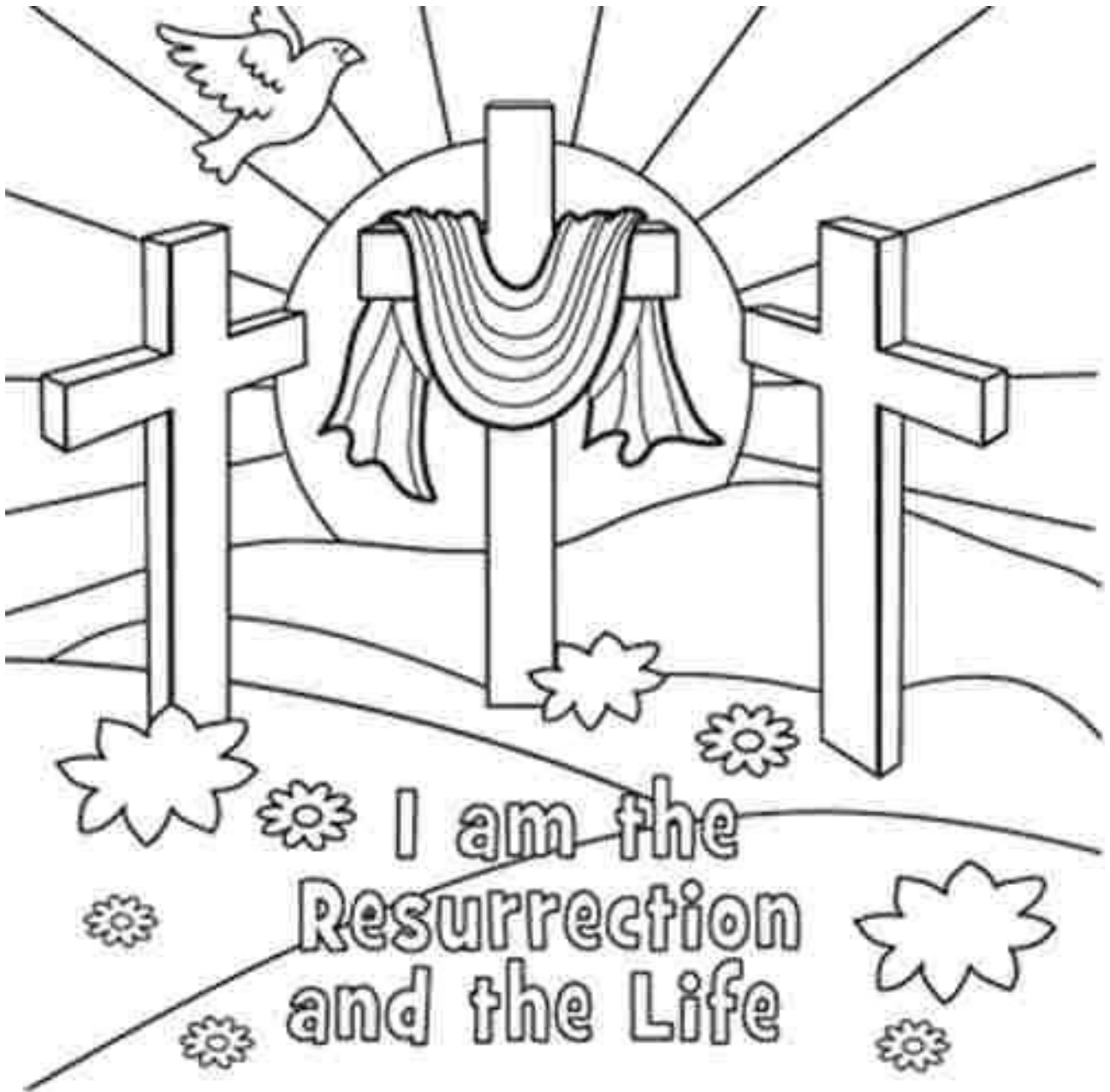
Ollie Arthur

2019
January

Duke Taylor Paterson
Sophie Margaret Keir Loving



Children's Corner



Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
 CROWN
 LAMB
 PRAYER
 RESURRECTION
 SON

CHURCH
 FAITH
 MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RISEN
 SUNDAY

CROSS
 JESUS
 MIRACLE
 REJOICE
 SAVIOR
 TOMB

