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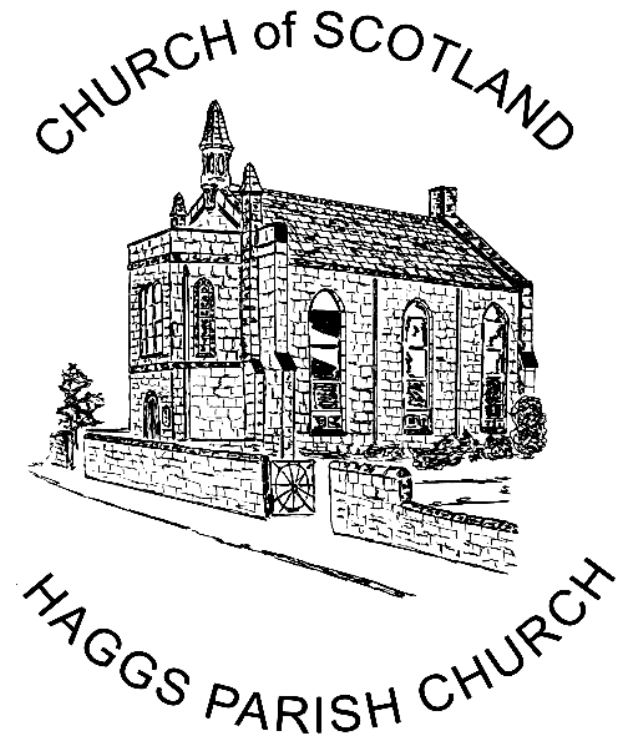
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The Church
of Scotland



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Autumn 2014

**Autumn 2014
Haggs Manse**

Hi folks

*They Shall Grow Not Old
Lest we forget*

Earlier this month I attended a Commemoration Event in Falkirk Town Hall for the one hundred year anniversary of the beginning of the First World War.

This event included music and poems from that era including a commemoration of the pipers who inspired the soldiers in the trenches at great risk to their own lives. We listened to the stirring and haunting music of a lone piper and heard again of the enormous loss of life in that war that was to end all wars, if only that had been true!

For me, the most poignant moments were when three teenagers took part, one remembering her own relative, another with a wedding dress on a stand behind her telling the tragic story of why it was never worn, then the third dressed in army uniform stood over a fallen comrade and sang "Abide with me". Three reminders of the importance of passing on to future generations, the need to remember the sacrifices made and the importance of working for peace.

In Haggs Church we are approaching our celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the foundation of this place of worship and I feel that it is important that, just as we remember those who have fallen in war to give us our freedom, we remember all who have gone before us in this place and have passed on their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. May our time of celebration be a time that we renew our mission to show the love of our Lord to our community and to pass on the faith to future generations.

I hope that you enjoyed your Summer break and are all renewed and ready to return to the different activities around the Church but most of all I look forward to sharing with you our times of worship when we remember the sacrifice made by our Lord Jesus Christ. He is with us Yesterday, Today and Forever.

God bless you all
Helen F Christie

Zumba Classes/ Pilates

In Haggs Church Hall –
Zumba every Monday 6 p.m.
Zumba every Friday morning 11 a.m. (Less energetic - for older or unconditioned adults)
Pilates every Monday 7.15 p.m. (Class full for space – contact Liz)
Pilates Tuesdays 8.15 p.m. (limited space)

In Archibald Russell Centre Head of Muir –
Zumba every Wednesday 11.30 – 12.30

For further information contact Liz on 07813857486

The Guild

The first meeting of the Guild will be 6th October and the dedication of the Guild will be in Church on 19th October. Any new members will be made welcome. Saturday 6th September was the Guild Rally in Caird Hall, Dundee when four members attended.

Elma Findlay

Carpet Bowls

This activity will be resuming shortly – date to be announced soon. Come along and join in the fun and fellowship.

Elma Findlay

Praise Band

It's nearly Harvest again and rehearsals are now underway for the Harvest Festival on 28th September.

If you like to sing or play a musical instrument we would be delighted to have you in the group, details from any member of the praise band.

Elma Findlay

Editorial Comment:

Hope you all had a good summer and are ready to take part again in the life of our Church. As stated before the 175th year of Haggs Parish Church is coming up next year and we hope we shall be here for another 175 years! at least. (Maybe not the same folks but the next generation – so come along and stand up for Jesus now!)

A calendar of planned events to celebrate 175 years of our church is enclosed with the magazine. Do note the dates for your diary so that you can take part in our celebrations.

Jean McCheyne.

‘Yoga for All’

‘Pray for love. It is a fire – feed it – fan it. Neglected it will soon die out. Stir it up by exercise every day. Self-seeking will extinguish it before you realise what has happened.’ (Catherine Bramwell-Booth)

Join in the Yoga sessions on Thursday evenings in the Church Hall from 7.00pm until 8.15pm and see whether this type of exercise can help to clear your mind, strengthen your body and help you find the spiritual essence of your being. You need to have inner strength and love yourself before you can give support and love to others.

Contact Sue Storrar (01324-840757) for more details or come along to try out a class.

Charity ‘Soup & Sandwich’ Lunches

Could you help with our ‘Soup & Sandwich’ lunches after church this year?

Throughout the winter months we have regular lunches that bring the congregation together for a meal and that also raise money for a variety of charities supported by Haggs Church – such as The Vine Trust, Christian Aid, HIV Charities and Falkirk Foodbank.

If you could help by making soup or giving of your time to serve others then please sign the sheet in the Church vestibule or contact Sue Storrar.

‘Haggs 175’ Calendar of celebration events for 2015



<p>January 2015 31st Burn’s Supper @ Archibald Russell Centre hall Updated church brochure ready for distribution</p>	<p>July 2015 12th Dedication of ‘175’ banner 19th Celebration service for ‘Haggs 175’ – ‘dress as you were’ C1840 followed by a celebration lunch</p>
<p>February 2015 15th Visit from Moderator & celebration lunch 22nd Dedication of snowdrop garden for Strathcarron Hospice in church grounds</p>	<p>August 2015 21st – 23rd Flower festival 23rd Rededication service + Gift Day</p>
<p>March 2015 1st Communion 13th Falkirk Bohemians Concert BB & GB service with displays/info about history in Haggs</p>	<p>September 2015 Cradle Roll service – inviting children baptised at Haggs over the past years. Harvest service.</p>
<p>April 2015 5th Easter Sunday/ Breakfast / Informal Communion Egg hunt for children</p>	<p>October 2015 4th Communion Services to include favourite hymns</p>
<p>May 2015 Christian Aid Week & lunch 24th Pentecost – service for BB & GB with ‘Praise Puppets’</p>	<p>November 2015 8th Remembrance Services 22nd ‘Messy Church’ especially for the youngsters</p>
<p>June 2015 11th/12th Fun Day for local school pupils – with display, competitions, games & art/craft activities in church 19th Dining Out celebration meal at Castlecary Hotel</p>	<p>December 2015 Advent celebrations Christmas</p>

‘We Will Remember Them’

2014 marks the centenary of the start of WW1 on 4th August 1914. Many programmes on the television and radio have tried to capture the horrors of war, but a visit to Belgium in August of this year really made history come to life for me.

The villages around Ypres were small agricultural communities until they were abruptly set on the world map from 1915-1917. Between 1915 and 1917 the British had tried dozens of times to force their way through the high positioned German defences on Messines ridge only to get bogged down in the mud and forced back by a constant bombardment of shells along with mustard gas.

Life in the trenches was appalling. It has been estimated that up to one third of Allied casualties on the Western Front were actually sustained in the trenches. Apart from enemy injuries, disease wrought a heavy toll.

The ‘Flanders Offensive’ in 1917 was seen as a way of breaking the stalemate and to capture the ruins of the village on the top of the ridge – Passchendaele. However, after 100 days the allies had advanced hardly eight kilometres and the human toll was enormous – 250,000 British killed, injured or missing, a quarter of the troops deployed, with German losses just a bit lower.

Scotland had a population of nearly four million in 1914. 560,000 of its men served in uniform and 148,000 died. The death rate of 26% was the highest of the major participating countries; its devastating consequences affected every Scottish village for the rest of the

century. Over 80 names of men from local families, who lost their lives during WW1, are recorded on the Longcroft Memorial.

The Tyne Cot Cemetery at Passchendaele is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. Between 1919

and 1921 specialist units brought almost 12,000 dead to Tyne Cot from the surrounding battlefields. Most of the bodies could not be identified and are marked as ‘Known to God’. The Tyne Cot Memorial continues the list of names inscribed on the Ypres Menin Gate. War memorials in towns and villages around the country became the only permanent record to many families of their young war dead.

WW1 was meant to be ‘The War to end all Wars’ – how tragic that humanity does not learn that killing others is not the way to resolve conflict. So many young men enlisted into the ranks between 1914 - 1918 searching for adventure and excitement – little did they know what awaited them in France and Belgium or that so few would return home unscathed.

On Remembrance Sunday, this special centenary year, ‘We Will Remember Them’

(If anyone from the congregation has war memorabilia for display on Remembrance Day or if you would like to find out more about a relative lost in WW1 please contact Ernest Martin or Jack Dunn)

Sue Storrar

Presbytery Plan

Following on from the information given in the summer edition of the magazine, it has now been confirmed by Falkirk Presbytery that Hagsgs Parish Church will link with Denny Old Parish Church after the retiral of our minister Rev. Helen Christie.

Meetings with Kirk Session representatives from Hagsgs and Denny Old, led by Rev. Louise McClememts, will soon be arranged to develop and agree the terms and details of the linkage.

We recognise that there will be changes to be made for both churches and we will all need to work together to reach the best solutions. We will give you further information as discussions proceed. Meantime it is “business as usual” for Hagsgs and all the associated activities. Please continue to support us as always.

R. Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (Pro tem.)

37 Club

The 37 club for gentlemen will resume on Tuesday 7th October 2014. We meet every two weeks on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm in the MacLean Hall. Gentlemen, do come along and join us for fun and fellowship. There is no annual subscription fee. We pay only £1.50 when we attend.

Murray McCheyne

Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

June 22 Michael Alexander Lyttle

Aug. 17 Kian John Brian Wright

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

July 11 Denise McBride to Barry Gorrian

Aug. 9 Iona Blackhall to Bryan McLay

“ 24 Claire Brannan to Andrew Lythgoe

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

June Mrs Betty Dawson Banknock

July Mr John Murray Head of Muir

Mr James Henderson Dennyloanhead

Mr Gordon McGregor Bonnybridge

Aug. Mr Charles MacLanachan Banknock

Mrs Elizabeth Swan Banknock

Miss Elizabeth Binnie Banknock

Haggs Parish Church

Strathcarron Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance

With your help, as part of our celebrations of Haggs Parish Church's 175 years we are creating a Snowdrop Garden, in conjunction with Strathcarron Hospice, in the grounds of the Church.

You can make a donation to purchase a snowdrop bulb which will be planted in the garden in memory or celebration of a loved one.

Your donations will be given to Strathcarron Hospice and in the New Year a "Strathcarron Hospice Snowdrop Garden plaque" will be erected in the garden where you or anyone in the local community can visit, enjoy and reflect. It provides a dignified and attractive opportunity to support the Hospice and will endure for years to come.

Please find a form in this magazine which you can complete and give to Jean or Murray McCheyne or contact Rev. Helen Christie if you wish to contribute to this project. Tel. 813786 for further information

Haggs Parish Church

Strathcarron Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance

To purchase your snowdrop:

I wish to sponsor () snowdrops

Suggested donation: £1

I enclose my donation of £_____.

Make your gift go further with Gift Aid

() (*please tick to confirm statement*) I am a U.K. taxpayer and I want Strathcarron Hospice to claim back on my gift. I pay sufficient income tax or capital gains to cover tax deducted on my donation.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel. No. _____

Please give this completed form with your donation to either Jean or Murray McCheyne or contact Rev. H. Christie tel. 813786

Scottish Charity Number SCO14536