

The Church
of Scotland



The Link
The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Autumn 2016

Dear Friends

The summer is drawing to a close and already some of the trees have begun to display their autumn scarlets and golds. At the end of this month we will celebrate our harvest thanksgiving. How reassuring it was to see our fields filled to overflowing with corn and barley, oats and wheat. I understand it was a poor year for the rapeseed because of the rain, but in spite of the weather, we have reaped once more a bountiful harvest, for which we truly give God thanks.

As we thank God for our plenty our hearts and minds turn to those for whom once more harvest has been a disaster - in Sudan where the government daily bomb their own people who live in the Nuba Mountains - why? - because they're Christians, and there are many others where, thanks to climate change, they are on the verge of starvation. One Church of Scotland minister who serves on the World Mission Council, visited one of these lands and was mightily embarrassed when he was asked when was Britain's 'hungry season.' That's the season when the people only eat on every second day.

There are plenty in our own land who find it difficult to feed their families. For some their own fecklessness plays a part, but for most it comes down to sheer lack of resources. That's why it's good to know that the gifts we give this Harvest Thanksgiving are going to the Foodbank where they'll be used to bring relief to those in need in our own area.

I read an article which is truly horrifying - one of the world's pre-eminent thinkers/writers forecasts that in around thirty years there will be billions of people around the world devoid of any economic or political value - he calls them the "useless

class" - and what started with the working class will spread to the middle class because these are the jobs that are easiest to replace, and doctors are included in his thesis. Technology will have taken over, and large numbers will be left jobless and thus with no resources to maintain themselves and their families. Our problems today will be totally overshadowed by the world-wide need then.

He further states that there is no meaning to life - what's important is "knowing the truth about yourself, so that you are no longer enslaved by illusions, myths and your body's biochemical cravings." Included in the foregoing of course are religion and belief in God, even in the existence of a soul.

It left a bad taste in my mouth until I turned to God's Word which assures us that not only does God love us, not only is each one of us infinitely precious in His sight - He actually has our names engraved on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49:15-16), and it's in response to that love that we reach out in prayer, in love and in practical giving to our needy brothers and sisters, both here at home and overseas.

We don't know what the future holds, but as someone has wisely said - "We know who holds the future" and our faith and trust are in our loving Father. May each one of us rest secure in the confidence that He holds all who love Him in His hands, and the hands that were stretched out for us on Calvary, will never let us go.

Blessings to you all

Sandra Mathers
Locum

Christian Aid

Approximately 60 people from Churches across Falkirk took part in the first "Kelpies Canter" walk at the Helix Park on Saturday 27th August.

Participants enjoyed the flat walk in good weather conditions and it is hoped this event will be repeated next year.

Thanks to the group from Haggs Church who helped to organise and steward this event. Hopefully next year we will have some walkers from this Church participating too. Even with no-one actually walking from Haggs we have raised £133.25. Thanks to those who have given donations to this Christian Aid Appeal.

Sue Storrar

Blythswood Care – Shoe Box Appeal 2016.

Give hope to someone in need this Christmas.

For those who are interested in filling a box for this good cause please uplift an instruction leaflet from the front of the Church.

We have been advised that the **20th November** is the collection date for these boxes but in the past this has been brought forward, so please if you can have the boxes in church by **1st week in November** just in case it is earlier.

We shall announce over the pulpit if this arrangement has changed. Thank you in anticipation for your participation.

Jean McCheyne

MacMillan Coffee Morning Appeal

Proceeds from teas and coffees after church on 25th September will be donated to this worthy cause. Again many thanks in anticipation.

Sue Storrar

Sunday Club

Over the summer holidays, there have always been activities for the younger members of our church family, puzzles, games stories and fun. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to keep the young people amused.

The Sunday Club resumes on 11th September when all young people are encouraged to come along and find out about Jesus. A new programme has been prepared and it is hoped that the youngsters will enjoy this. We look forward to a competition, writing our own prayers and pegging them up around the church. Keep us in your prayers as we undertake this in His name.

Please note: Summer issue of magazine – Bible Quiz.
What are the last words of the bible.

Depending on which version you are reading – King James: *Amen.* Good News: *May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with everyone.*

Thank you to all who pointed this out to me. It shows you do read the magazine!

Moira Martin

Life in the 'Fast Lane'

Last year when I was travelling in the beautiful, but underdeveloped, country of Bhutan I experienced many uneven and dangerous roads. Often our driver had to manoeuvre around rubble and rocks that had plummeted down the mountain side onto the road during the rainy season, or to drive very slowly and carefully on rutted mud tracks to avoid the deep ravines dropping away to the valley hundreds of feet below in the foothills of the Himalayas.

It was therefore a relief when we travelled along a decent tarmac road leading into the capital, Thimpu, and our mini-bus could pick up speed on the smooth surface. However, to our amusement, every few hundred yards along the route were large billboards encouraging drivers to go slowly and take care.

Here are a few examples of the advice offered:-

“Alert today – alive tomorrow.”

“Eager to last, so why fast?”

”Life is a journey, complete it.”

“Speed thrills but kills.”

This advice reminds me of our church's journey at the moment; as our Nominating Committee are trying to negotiate the best course for the future for Haggis as we are linked to Denny Old Parish, with all the obstacles that this entails. We are all eager for the Committee to draw up plans quickly so we can go forward towards calling a new minister for the linked churches. However sometimes it is wise to be cautious and take the time to achieve the best result.

It is important that our representatives feel well supported in this work by the whole of Hagsgs congregation and that we can be patient and trust their judgement to set us on the right road – **“Haggs is eager to last, so why fast?”**

Sue Storrar

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowling group has started again on a Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Come and join us for some fun, chat and of course a welcome cuppa.

Elma Findlay

Deaths

‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

June 2016	Alastair McLanachan	Camelon
July 2016	Robert Miller Walter Wilson	Haggs Allandale
August 2016	Mrs Grace Mochrie John Graham	Allandale Banknock

Baptisms

“Suffer little children to come unto me”

June Chloe McLay

September Zara Susan Ruth Gallacher

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