

# Denny Old

Linked with

# Haggs



Winter 2024

## **Good news!**

*I am bringing you good news of great joy that is for all people: today a Saviour has been born to you in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10, 11)*

What sort of stories makes it into the news? Just occasionally an inspiring event or heart – warming action may hit the headlines, but ninety-nine times out of a hundred the latest reports are dominated by doom and gloom: another conflict, another rise in unemployment, another political scandal, another grim set of economic figures, another famine, another natural disaster, and so on.

We grow so used to bad news that we come to expect it, life being seen as intrinsically negative.

Compare that with the announcement of the birth of Jesus. It wasn't simply news; it was good news, the best there could be, glad tidings of great joy for all people!

Why? Because it has changed everything for ever.

Yes, bad news still continues, just as real and bleak as it has always been, frequently hard to bear and testing us to the limit, but it will not be allowed to have the final word.

Light will replace darkness, love will conquer hatred, good will triumph over evil, life will defeat death.

**That's what the gospel is all about; that's what the birth of Jesus is for: not any demands that God puts upon us, still less warnings of judgement and punishment if we fail to toes the line, but the glorious message of his in Christ from which nothing on earth or in heaven will ever be able to separate us.**

**So, friends, on Christmas we have something to celebrate and something to share, good news to make known to all. The story of Christmas is a good news not just for the believers but for everyone.**

**Let us share the love and story of the incarnation of Jesus with all those around us and remember to pray and support all those in our communities and across the borders who don't have enough to celebrate the joy of the birth of Jesus.**

**Through this magazine, I wish you all a very happy Christmas. God bless you.**

**Rev. Raheel Arif**

**Minister: Denny Old & Higgs**



## Message from The Denny Old Session Clerk

A few years ago, I was at a Girls' Brigade fundraiser and I bought a book by the author Barbara Johnson. (I recognised the name from a fridge magnet I was given "A balanced diet is a cookie in both hands"). I read the book cover to cover – the daily messages written by a woman that had faced hardship, loss and tragedy but she overcame them all with God at her side and a smile on her face. She went on to tour the USA giving talks and I wish that I could have listened to her, but I still have the book.

Sometimes things don't go to plan. Our Christmas may not be what we imagine in our heads or the bus is late or you didn't get that present that you wanted time or .....

Barbara found that trusting God gave her the strength to cope so I leave you with these words:

"We can trust God with all our problems, all our heartaches, and especially with all our long-term anxieties. Every morning as we wake ourselves up with a splash of joy we can say, "WHATEVER, LORD!"

Blessings,

Marion Reid

## Message from The Haggs Session Clerk

We all feel as if we need the joy and love that generates around us at Christmas time when families and friends spend more time together and the dark nights are lit up with Christmas lights.

Many people in this secular society now fail to link this expansion of love and joy to the birth of Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago. As Christians it is our task to spread the Good News of Christ's birth out into our communities through the love we show and the joy we can bring into the lives of others who are lonely or struggling during this festive season.

I wish you all much joy this Christmas time and may you feel the love of Christ in your lives.

Sue Storrar

(Session Clerk at Haggs Parish Church)

## The Best Christmas Jokes?



Why shouldn't you lend money to elves?

**They're always short.**

Did you hear about the ski trip?

**It started off fine, but went downhill fast.**

Why do snowmen live at the North Pole?

**Because it's cool.**

Why shouldn't you trust snowmen?

**They're always up to snow good.**

What did the ocean say when Santa flew over?

**Nothing. It just waved.**

Which of Santa's reindeer has the best moves?

**Dancer.**

What did one snowman say to the other?

**You smell carrots, too?**

Did you hear about the snowman prom?

**It was a snowball.**

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

**Frosted flakes.**

Where does Santa store his suit?

**In his Claus-et.**

Did you hear about the angry snowman?

**It had a meltdown.**

Why do reindeer wear bells?

**Their horns don't work.**

What did one of Santa's helpers say to the other?

**Let's take an elfie.**

What did Santa and Mrs. Claus name their daughter?

**Mary Christmas.**

Did you hear about Rudolph's rollercoaster ride?

**He held on for deer life.**

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm for Busy People**

The Lord is my Pace-Setter, I shall not rush  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals  
He provides me with images of stillness which restores  
my serenity  
He leads me in ways of efficiency; thro' calmness of  
mind And His guidance is peace  
Even tho' I have a great many things to accomplish  
each day,  
I will not fret for His Presence is here  
His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in  
balance He prepares refreshment and renewal in the  
midst of my activity  
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity  
My cup of joyous energy overflows  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of  
my hours  
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord and dwell in  
His House forever.

By Tolsi Mingashina  
A Japanese woman

Lorna Duncan

# Denny Old Guild



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of our first session already, how the time has flown by.

We have again enjoyed a wide variety of topics from different speakers, ranging from *Glasgow Cathedral*, *Cycling Without Age*, *Jacob's Vision* and *Social Bite* - the amazing work being done to help end homelessness.

We will also be having our Christmas Shoppers' Lunch on Saturday 7th December - a date for your diary.

We will finish our first session with our Business Meeting on 10th December when we look forward to enjoying some music and song courtesy of the Rev. Philip Hacking.

We will begin our second session on 14th January with a speaker from *Marie Curie*, while other topics will include a Burns Afternoon, a concert with the Renaissance Choir and much more besides.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and our meetings are in the afternoon at 2.00pm.

We extend a warm invitation to you to come along and join with us for a time of fellowship and friendship, you will be made most welcome.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Regards,  
May Thomson



# Snowman Box



Cut all around the design. Fold along the dotted lines to form the box.

Carefully cut the slits in each snowman's arms.

Link them together and fill with candy.

# The Driving Force



The Driving Force is a charity which takes anyone who has cancer and is registered with a GP in Banknock, Bonnybridge or Denny to hospital appointments for free.

Local volunteers work together to fundraise, co-ordinate and drive cancer patients to and from hospital appointments and treatment sessions. Kidney dialysis patients also benefit from this service.

There are three types of volunteers – drivers, co-ordinators and fundraisers.

Drivers can volunteer to give as much time as they wish. While some drivers offer their car and services 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, many offer to drive 2 days or some 1 day.

Co-ordinators volunteer on a rota system and arrange a driver for each patient's journey and contact the patient with their driver's details. They contact the GP surgery daily to pick up the messages left by the patients.

Fundraisers are very important to help with raising funds through coffee mornings, prize bingo, etc.

Haggs Church supports the Driving Force regularly with proceeds from Soup and Sandwich lunches etc. being donated to the charity. Three members of our congregation volunteer as drivers and 1 volunteer as a co-ordinator. If you, or someone you know requires the services of the Driving Force please contact your GP surgery and leave your name and phone number and the on-call co-ordinator will contact you for your requirements. The Facebook page, The Driving Force, is a good way to find out more about the charity.

Volunteers would be delighted to come and speak to groups of people about the service and to raise awareness of this worthwhile charity.

There will be a "Grand Raffle" prior to Christmas with fantastic prizes to be won. Please support this if you can.

(Jean Proffit)

## **Diary Dates (Haggs)**

- December 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Churches Service in Haggs 10.30am
- December 8<sup>th</sup> Communion in Haggs with Denny Old  
10.30am
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Haggs Church 11.15am Gift Service  
(Gifts will go to Homestart)
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Service at Haggs 11.15 at Haggs
- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Watchnight Service  
(Last Christmas Eve service here – Teas/  
Coffees 10.30 pm Service will start  
thereafter)
- December 29<sup>th</sup> Lessons and Carols Service at Haggs  
11.15am

All services in the new year at Haggs Church start at 11.15am unless otherwise announced.

## **Diary Dates (Denny)**

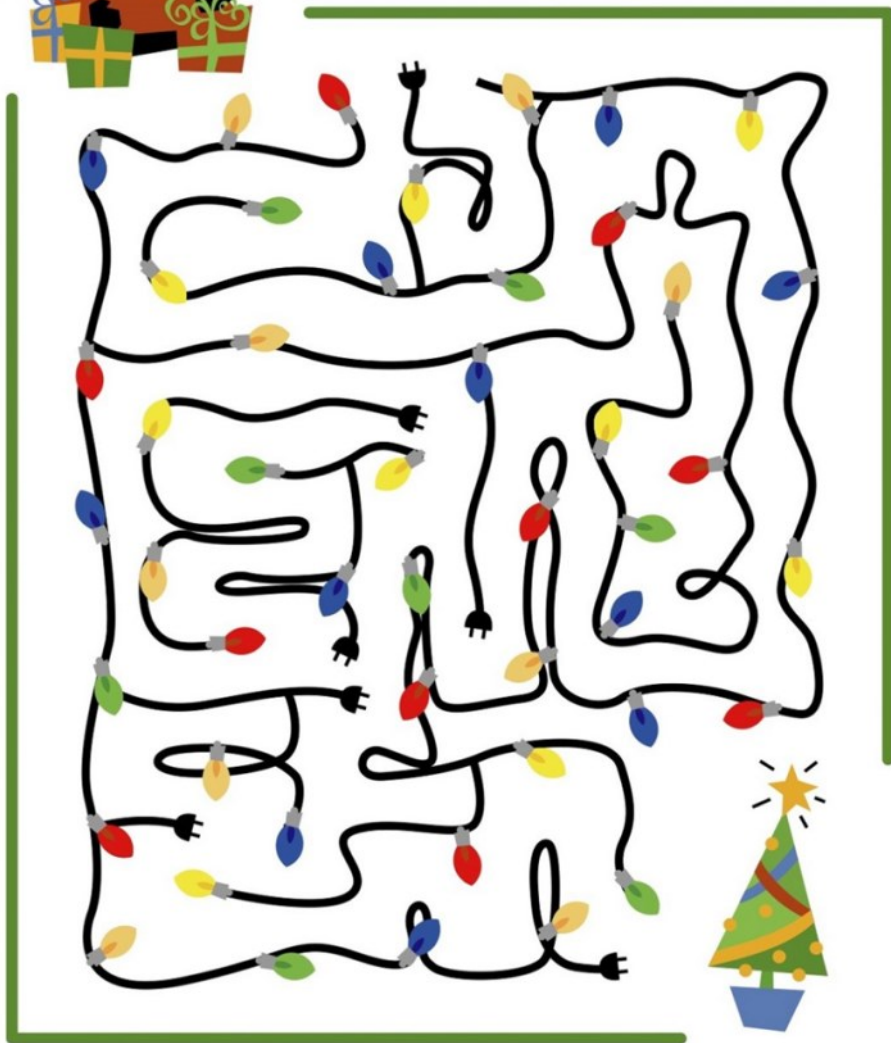
- December 1st 5 Churches Service in Haggs 10.30am
- December 8th Joint Communion in Haggs 10.30am
- December 15th All-Age Nativity Service 9.45am
- December 22nd Denny Old 9.45am
- December 24th Watch Night Service 11.30pm
- December 29th Denny Old 9.45am

All services in January start at 10.30 in Denny Old

All services in February start at 10.30 in Haggs



**Make Santa's Christmas merry and bright  
By helping him through this maze of lights!**



# How the Fairy Got on Top of the Christmas Tree.

By [ricardodaintino](#)

Many years ago when Santa was just starting up his gift distribution business, he wasn't quite the efficient, finely tuned icon we have come to love today.

In fact he was awful at his job. One Christmas was particularly worst then the others though. His reindeers where badly trained and where yet to even learn how to fly in a straight line, and Santa couldn't teach them because he couldn't even walk in a straight line due to all the sherry he had drank to calm his nerves!

Nothing Santa did seemed to go right, and to make matters worst Mary Christmas' mother was in town to see the magic of Christmas first hand.

She was a fairy, of old stature. One of the first Christmas fairies of Lapland, and like all woman of stature, she was moody. She pointed out all the things Santa had done wrong, she would run her fingers across every surface looking for dust and she would kick the elves on their bottoms if they got in her way. This wasn't the worst of it though. One thing she insisted on doing really boiled Santa's Blood.

Every time Santa was within earshot of Mary and her Fairy mom, she would insist on telling Mary that she should of married the Easter bunny or at least dated cupid for awhile before settling down with Santa. God he hated that damn rabbit.

Eventually Santa managed to escape the ever-scowling look of the mother in-law and found himself alone in his cottage. Just as he was about to sit back and enjoy a mince pie and some sherry the doorbell rang. Santa cursed on his way to the door and flung it open angrily. And who was at the door? Why his mother in-law, that's who. She had a great big Christmas tree beside her and her trademark scowl set on her face. "Santa, you haven't even put up the tree yet. I suppose I'll have to do it for you if I want it doing properly. Where would you like to put it?"

And that, my friend, is how the fairy came to be on top of the Christmas tree...

## 1<sup>st</sup> Haggs Boys' Bridge and Girls' Association

Thanks to everyone for their support over the session. Despite our small number we have participated in our Opening Service, Remembrance Sunday and managed to provide six shoe boxes for the Blytheswood Appeal. We also recently had sponsored a Monopoly Fitness event in the Church hall to raise some funds for the work of the company and the upkeep of our minibus.



We continue to meet on Tuesday (6-7pm) for the Anchors (Primaries 1,2 and 3) and Friday (6.30pm - 8.30pm) for Juniors (Primaries 4,5 and 6) and Company (Primary 7 and up) in the Church Hall. All new members are welcome.

Best wishes for Christmas from all the children and Officers.

### UNICEF Jar of Grace.

During the season of advent, we are asking you again to make any donations, however small, to the work of UNICEF in the Sudan, Haiti and in the Middle East. UNICEF delivers clean water, medicines and life-saving therapeutic food, as well as providing mental health support for children in these war-torn regions.

Please put money into a jar during the advent season and bring your donations along at the beginning of January.

THANKYOU FOR HELPING UNICEF SUPPORT CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES IN CONFLICT.

(Sue Storrar at Haggs Church)

unicef   
for every child

## Haggs Parish Church

The Parish Church at Haggs is closing as we unite with the congregation at Denny Old Parish church. Consequently, the Christmas Eve Watchnight service will be the last one held in the Haggs Kirk building. On Christmas Eve there will be teas, coffees and festive baking served in the Maclean Hall at 10.30pm, prior to the service in the church starting about 11.30pm. There could be some communal carol singing 10 minutes or so before the actual service starts. Since our minister Rev Raheel Arif is conducting the Watchnight Service in Denny Old church, I will be conducting the service in Haggs. The congregation and elders join with me in inviting you, your family and friends to this nostalgic service. The service will finish just after midnight on Christmas Morning.

Best wishes to you all.

Lorna Duncan

(Church of Scotland Reader.)



## CrossReach

Through the sale of cards and calendars from CrossReach, in excess of £600 was raised for this Church of Scotland Charity.

Many thanks indeed to all who contributed.

(Maisie Mortimer)



Please help local people in crisis  
by buying items from the list  
below and giving them to  
Falkirk Foodbank

- \* Milk (UHT or powdered)
- \* Sugar (500 g)
- \* Fruit Juice (carton)
- \* Soup
- \* Pasta Sauces
- \* Sponge Pudding (tinned)
- \* Tomatoes (tinned)
- \* Cereal incl. variety pack
- \* Vegetables (tinned)
- \* Rice Pudding (tinned)
- \* Custard (tinned)
- \* Tea Bags 40 & 80
- \* Instant Mash Potato
- \* Rice/Pasta
- \* Meat (tinned)
- \* Fish (tinned)
- \* Tinned Fruit
- \* Jam
- \* Biscuits
- \* Snacks



Centre:  
Unit 1  
Tamfourhill Industrial Estate,  
Tamfourhill, Falkirk FK1 4RT  
e. mail: [info@falkirk.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@falkirk.foodbank.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. SC043763



Falkirk Foodbank sends a huge thank you to all the folk at Denny Old for the continued support of their work. Week by week members of the church donate, and donations at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September amounted to 96.40kg plus £140 cash. These wonderful donations are greatly appreciated.

Sadly, the work of the Foodbank must continue and the demand for help is increasing. There is always a need for non-perishable items, especially tinned potatoes, tomatoes and pasta sauce. Incorporated is a "shopping list" of other suggested items. In 10 years of volunteering at the Foodbank I have never seen so many empty shelves. Please, if you can, continue to donate.

"Wellbeing" packs are also delivered with an ongoing need for toiletries, i.e. shower and bath gel, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap powder, baby supplies and cleaning materials.

The boxes for donations to the Foodbank are at the church front door and in the hall, near the kitchen. Donations can be dropped off at Janet's home on a Monday for taking to the Foodbank on Tuesday. Please phone the number below for the address.

The distribution centre delivers to all parts of the Falkirk Local Authority area, including Grangemouth, and deliveries are made in Denny and Dunipace.

If you would like more information about the Foodbank please contact Janet Rhodes on 824721.



## DENNY OLD SUNDAY CLUB and BIBLE CLASS



This session, we have had a few Sundays when the young people have been busy but we are ready to welcome them back for some fun time. We know that they are busy on Sunday mornings and the early service is difficult so please let us know if you would like youth events in the evening or something more flexible that would suit families.

We aim to make each week interesting and enjoyable with games (my latest favourite of balloon volleyball), snacks, stories, crafts and lots of time to chat together.

We will be having our Nativity service on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** to which all members of the congregation are invited to. Some of you may be willing to take part and it is great fun. This year will be slightly different with many people having non-speaking parts. Afterwards, there will be some food provided in the hall so please join us for some Christmas fellowship.

Roz Bird, Eoin Bird and Marion Reid

### Thank you

Thank you to the members who read the lessons and Reflection on a Sunday morning. I would also like to thank the folk who donate money for the flowers which adorn the Chancel on a Sunday morning. Your help and generosity is much appreciated.

Jean Proffit

A big thank you also to those who set up and provide sustenance to us all after our Sunday morning services.

Carol Richmond

# Denny Old Parish Church

## Legacy Policy

At Denny Old Parish Church, we welcome all gifts in Wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Our legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether mission, staff, equipment or buildings.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your Will for the general purposes of the congregation rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

We will acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or his/her executors feel most appropriate. If preferred, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact:

Minister: **Rev Raheel Arif** Tel: 01324 819149

You can also speak to your **District Elder** who will help you to progress your donation.

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate way to remember a loved one.

# Gift Aid It



## What is Gift Aid?

This is a government scheme which allows the congregation (as a registered charity) to reclaim the tax **you** have already paid on the money you give in your offering.

## How does the church benefit?

While the basic rate of Income Tax is 20%, the congregation can recover the tax at the rate of 25%- e.g. £4 becomes £5

£20 becomes £25

£40 becomes £50

## Who can give through Gift Aid?

Anyone who pays **Income Tax** or Capital Gains Tax which is annually at least equal to the tax which the congregation and other charities to which you make Gift Aid donations will reclaim on your gifts for that year.

## What is Required?

Sign a Gift Aid Declaration- this is printed in the church magazine- ready for you to complete. Hand this to your elder or anyone on door duty on a Sunday or you can call Jean Duff, Gift Aid Convenor, on 01324 824768 and she will come and collect the completed form.

Give your offering using Offering Envelopes or by Bank Standing Order or by Cheque - to provide the Church with the necessary records of your giving.

## You Do Not Need:

- To Promise to give a particular amount
- To promise to give for a specific period

# Gift Aid Declaration

## The Church of Scotland

### Please complete this declaration in CAPITALS

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed from the government by charities from the tax you pay for the relevant tax year. Your congregation can reclaim Gift Aid on your offerings if you pay sufficient income tax and you provide a signed Gift Aid Declaration (*below*). In order to Gift Aid your donations, please complete the form and hand it to your treasurer.

**I want to Gift Aid all monetary donations I have made in the past four years and those I make from today onwards to:**

Name of congregation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation's charity no: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.**

Please tick:

### My details:

First name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the Church Treasurer/Gift Aid Convener if you:

- wish to cancel this declaration
- change your name or address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

### PRIVACY NOTICE

You are giving your personal data to *(insert name of congregation)* ..... as the Data Controller.

**Your Personal Data:** You are being asked to supply your name, address, postcode and signature.

**Purpose:** The purpose of processing the personal data we ask for is to complete a Gift Aid declaration. The legal basis for this processing is the Legitimate Activities of the Church as a not-for-profit organisation. Your personal data will not be used for another purpose without your consent.

If you do not provide the personal data requested, we cannot complete the declaration.

**Data Subjects:** Individuals making a monetary offering or donation to this congregation.

**Sharing Your Personal Data:** Your personal data will only be shared with HMRC as an independent data controller. This sharing is solely for the purpose of administering Gift Aid declarations.

### Your Rights:

You have rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information visit the website at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/using-our-site/privacy-centre](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/using-our-site/privacy-centre)

## DENNY OLD CHRISTIAN AID



**Kelpies Canter:** On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, members of Denny Old and Haggs, in collaboration with other local churches, came together for the Kelpies Canter at The Helix, Falkirk. Between Denny Old and Haggs we were able to raise £1620 in sponsorship. It was a bit damp, but we all survived and enjoyed our walk round The Helix.

**Christmas Appeal 2024:** *This Christmas we follow the story of Shede, who is bravely rebuilding her and her family's life after they were forced to flee war-torn Sudan. It's not an easy story to hear - Shede's journey has been a painful one - but it's a story of courage and hope.*

*Shede is from the city of El-Daein in Darfur, Sudan. She's married with three daughters. The youngest, Saida, is six years old. Her eldest daughter also has a six-year-old daughter, Mariem.*

*Before the war, Shede worked in a restaurant and enjoyed tending her organic farm. But on 15 April 2023, everything changed. As conflict tore through Sudan, Shede's family was torn apart. Shede's brothers were killed, and she made the courageous decision to travel to South Sudan to protect the lives of her children and grandchild. Her husband stayed behind, but with no means to contact him, they haven't spoken since.*

*Shede .../*

*Shede now lives in the shelter provided by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Christian Aid works in partnership with Smile Again Africa Development Organisation to offer financial support to Shede and thousands like her. For Shede, Saia and Mariem there is little room for comfort and joy.*

This Christmas, will you support someone like Shede to buy food and supplies that will protect their family from hunger and malnutrition? Donate today at:

[caid.org.uk/ChristmasDonation](https://caid.org.uk/ChristmasDonation)

**Christian Aid Noticeboard:** In the hall you can read more about the Appeal for Christmas 2024. There is also a recipe card for "Festivi-tea". It only takes 10 minutes to make and sounds very tasty.

*Janet Rhodes, CA Contact*

Tel: 01324 824721

## **Snowdrop Café (Haggs)**

This is a happy place to be at on a Monday afternoon from 1-3pm.

There is a good feeling of fellowship, reminiscing and laughter as well as informative afternoons with visiting participants. This year everyone contributed magnificently to the churches shoebox appeal at Christmas time. Many thanks indeed. Come along if you have a few hours to spare and are looking for company.



## ***Christmas Greetings:***

Wishing all my friends a Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2025. Jean Proffit

Best wishes to all at Haggs and Denny Old Churches, have a great Christmas and happy New Year. Jean McCheyne

Maisie Mortimer wishes everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year Haggs Parish Church

A very merry Christmas and a good New Year to all our friend in Haggs Church. Jim, Anne Bell and family.

Nan and Allan Young wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Heeps family  
Wishing everyone Christmas blessings and a Happy New Year from Lynne and Morag

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Elma Findlay  
Marion Dickson wishes a Merry Christmas to everyone

Marion and Archie Campbell wish all the best for a happy healthy Christmas and New Year

Kenny Halliday is wishing everyone Happy Christmas and good New Year

Lorna and David Duncan wish every blessing for Christmas and New Year to everyone. eeps

Alan, Shirley-Anne, Stuart and Caitlin wish to thank everyone for their words of support over the past years and best wishes to all.



## Denny Old Girls' Brigade



Festive season already! The year has been flying by at GB on a Monday night.

The Explorers have been learning about water with a mixture of old and new stories, crafts and games. The girls this year have enjoyed the craft things most with lots of drawing and creativity.

The Juniors (Primary 4 to 7) have been recently working on first aid along with the Brigaders (Secondary) which has been fun going by the laughter and the pictures. Some girls have gone home to practice bandaging and recovery position on parents. Prior to that the Brigaders were finishing off their puppets and the Juniors spent weeks practicing their sweet treats for the Halloween party. The party was another success with lots of food and games.

In our last note to you, we were organising a sponsored walk. We had a great day walking from Bonnybridge to the Falkirk Wheel and back, raising over £400 for our funds. This will really help with costs this year.



Thank you to the officers and girls who attended the Remembrance parade. The Denny wreath was laid by Lilly Rennie and Hannah Brown while our officer Shona Laird and Lucy May Brannan laid a wreath at Longcroft Cenotaph on behalf in recognition of the areas covered by the Company.

Thank you to Beth for organising another great Blythswood shoebox appeal which mean that 56 shoeboxes and over £165 were sent away in November. The girls helped pack shoeboxes up and really enjoyed it. They are enthusiastic about helping people that they won't meet and can imagine the joy when someone opens the box. A fantastic effort from everyone.

After a recruitment drive, we have welcomed seven more girls from Denny Primary school but there is still room for more girls to join the fun and mayhem on Monday nights. We have also been joined by two more girls from Denny High School who are combining the time with their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Kind Regards,  
Marion Reid, Captain



# Great Wall of China Walk.



We did it – team Strathcarron Hospice climbed over 40 miles of the The Great Wall of China which was mostly stairs up or down. The stairs are not all the same, so they range from a few inches high up to 2 feet. Yes, we had to use our hands sometimes, and I am grateful I had walking poles with me.

There were 36 people on the trip, walking for different reasons – some for adventure/ challenge but most were raising money for different charities. It wasn't easy but the organisation by Global Adventures, the comradery and the support from home kept us going. There were many funny moments (mistaken identity), some not funny moments (toilets and um what is that we are eating!), some emotional moments (the encouraging cards from the Hospice hand delivered on the Wall) and great memories made.

The Great Wall is an incredible structure which amazed us that it was created.

At the time the picture above was taken, we had raised over £32 000 but I think that has risen considerably so that the 7 of us have raised over £40 000. I personally have raised over £5000 including gift aid. Thank you to you all for donating – I could not have done it without you.

Marion xx



# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

SANTA

GIFT

EVE

CHRISTMAS

MISTLETOE

MERRY

CHEERS

MIRACLE

NOEL

POINSETTIA

FRUITCAKE

EGGNOG

SNOWBALL

DOLLS

NUTCRACKER

GRINCH

CARDS

CANDYCANE

SLEIGH

SCROOGE

BELLS

CANDLES

CAROL

SNOWBALL

NORTHPOLE

COOKIES

TREE

PEACE

JACKFROST

DECEMBER

ANGEL

HOLIDAY



## DENNY OLD FLOWER GUILD

Song of Solomon 2:12 (NIV)

*Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing  
has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.*



The Flower Guild delivers flowers from the church to people who are unwell, celebrating a special event or feeling sad. If you know anyone who could benefit from the gift of flowers, please let me know.

The Flower Calendar for next year is being prepared. Should you wish to change the week you donate or be added please let me know. Those donating will receive a phone call to make arrangements the week before your donation date. Unfortunately, due to joint services, etc, there may be a week, or month, when we have to miss your "Sunday" as there is no service in Denny Old. We do apologise. Perhaps you could choose an alternative date near your special date.

Donations of flowers can be made through the Flower Calendar, or you can donate using the boxes located in the Church.

If you think you could help with flower arranging, from time to time, please get in touch.

*Sending warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas and a Very Happy 2025.*

*Janet Rhodes, Flower Convener*

*Tel: 01324 824721*

## The Old Church

Close the heavy wooden door  
and leave the world behind  
let the quiet enfold you  
and suspend you out of time

Feel your fears dissolving  
feel your tensions leave  
feel the peace descending  
now there's room to breath

Let the stillness soothe you  
let it calm your fears  
lay aside your burdens  
for all are welcome here

There' s wisdom in the silence  
there's comfort in the air  
surrounded and supported  
by four hundred years of prayer.

## Christmas is Coming.....

I returned from a holiday in India in the middle of October and on my first visit to the supermarket to restock the bare cupboards I was bombarded by Christmas produce ..... gifts, food and even a decorated Christmas tree!

I felt this was all too soon and I complained about the early commercialization of Christmas, which had arrived even before Halloween!

However, when I thought a little more, I considered that maybe people are bringing forward Christmas as they are so depressed about all the media talk about austerity and are finding all the conflicts around the world very depressing.

## Denny Contact Information

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### Denny Old Parish Church

Charity No SCO16255

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Scottish Charity Number: SCO14536



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