



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Spring 2015

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The Manse
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Hi Folks,

“I am the Church! You are the Church!
We are the Church together!”

As I write this letter it is the evening before our March Communion Service, an important part of worship in this year of celebration for Haggs Parish Church.

In the month of February we welcomed the Right Rev. John Chalmers, Moderator of the Church of Scotland into our pulpit and as a lasting reminder of his visit he presented us with a beautiful glass dove. This dove was made by Palestinian Christians from broken glass they found on bomb sites. The glass has been changed from a sign of destruction into a symbol of peace. The Moderator is presenting these doves to all whom he visits during his year in office. After leaving Haggs he moved on to Rome and a dove now graces the Vatican. A reminder to me that whether we are Christians in Palestine, Scotland or Rome we are the Church together and we need to continue to work and pray for peace together.

The following Sunday we welcomed a representative from Strathcarron Hospice as we dedicated our Snowdrop Garden as a lasting memory of the generations who have gone before us in this holy place. We also asked for God’s blessing on the continuing care given by the staff of Strathcarron Hospice.

As I prepare to share Communion I am reminded of the first verse of the above hymn:

“The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple

The Church is not a resting place, the Church is the people!

It is as Christ’s followers, His people, that we meet together to share bread and wine in memory of Him. As we do this we are in communion with Him and all those who have worshipped before us in the sanctuary of Haggs Parish Church but also in all places where one or two have gathered together in His name.

May this Easter bring you once more the hope of the Risen Christ as we continue to worship Him in love and in action.

God bless.

Helen F Christie

Editorial

Our anniversary year is well under way now and hopefully you have been able to participate in some of our events. Commemorative merchandise is still available in the church hall after Sunday Services.

Bookmarks no charge, Pens £1, Bone china mugs £5, Pottery goblets £10.

Jean McCheyne

The Guild

On 15th December we joined with the Carpet Bowlers for lunch at Castlecary Hotel. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The Anderson Singers entertained us for a Scots night which was very well attended and members of the 37 Club were our guests.

Thanks to anyone who helped in any way to make that evening a success, we raised the sum of £250 which will help our projects. Previously we held a “bring and buy” sale and made £27.00. We have members of our Church speak – Sue Storrar spoke on “reflections of India” and Susan Swan at another meeting spoke of her time with St Andrews Ambulance and the duties she performs as a first aider.

The Bunny Drive was held on Monday 9th March in the afternoon.

Thanks to Bea and Maisie for all the work they do for the Guild.

Elma Findlay

Carpet Bowls

The lunch at Castlecary Hotel was enjoyed by all who attended with the Guild ladies also joining us.

Our numbers are small but we enjoy our bowling and would welcome anyone who would care to join us. Elma Findlay

Thinking of Mothers

As Mothering Sunday comes around again in March it gives us the opportunity to consider the relationship we have experienced with our mothers and to consider the impact they have had on our lives.

My mother was born in 1924 and had an unhappy and difficult childhood. Her parents divorced when she was three years old, due to the collapse of her father's business and marriage during the 1920's stock market crash. My mother then lived on the charity of her grand-parents and a variety of aunts during her formative years. As she grew up she had no contact or support from her father; who subsequently emigrated to Rhodesia to start a new life and family, and receiving limited love or affection from her own mother.

She was then forced to curtail her education as World War II broke out in 1939; working and volunteering during the fierce bombardment in Southern England. She lived through rationing and the 'make do and mend' austerity during and following the war years, became a teenage war bride and married a local soldier before he was posted abroad, fearing that she might not see him again.

How did these early life experiences shape her life? They made her a strong, resilient, loyal, self-reliant and fiercely independent woman but also protective and ambitious for her own daughters. She was a good mother cooking, sewing and keeping a clean house, although rarely demonstrative with her love. She has always been difficult to please and has viewed the world with caution and suspicion, although she has always been willing to give her time to family, community and charitable causes. A sharp tongue that was quick to criticise yet a good sense of humour too – a complex person of so many contrasts!

Eight years ago she had a devastating stroke that left her without the ability to swallow, speak or move the right side of her body. The fear in her eyes as this strong, independent

woman looked to others for help was extremely distressing for those who love her. She had seemed so indestructible but now needed help with the most basic tasks. Gradually some of her functions have returned but the stroke has changed her life profoundly. She now requires 24 hour care in a residential home and her life has shrunk to visits from family and the company of her TV set. Yet sparks of the old resilience and fortitude have kept her going past her 90th birthday and given her family the opportunity to return some of the love she has, in her own way, bestowed on us over the years. None of us is perfect – we can only do the best we can, often in difficult circumstances but on Mothering Sunday we should take time to thank our mothers for their loyalty and love that has shaped us into the people we are today.

“A Mother is someone who loves in us
Not a false imagining, an unreal character.
But, looking through the rubbish of our imperfections,
Loves in us the divine ideal of our nature,-
Loves, not the person that we are, but the angel
That we may be.” (ANON)

Submitted by Sue Storrar.

Praise Band

The Praise Band led the singing on 21st December with a mixture of hymns old and new for Christmas. Our thanks goes to Winnie and Arthur for the amount of work they put into the group meetings and their hospitality.

Elma Findlay

Christian Aid 2015

In 2014 Hags Parish Church donated the tremendous sum of £2,838.61 to support the work of Christian Aid. Our community's efforts towards Christian Aid Week 2014, that raised over £1.6m in Scotland, have been crucial. The situation in many of the places of conflict in the World where Christian Aid partners work demonstrates that violence is a prime agent of poverty. Tackling violence and building peace is a key priority for Christian Aid in their Partnership for Change strategy as well as offering emergency support in times of crisis.

The empowerment of women is also recognised as central to overcoming poverty in the world. Christian Aid is focussing in 2015 on one of the great injustices of our times: discrimination against women. Christian Aid is providing the practical help that isolated and abandoned women need to take back control of their lives and to provide for their families.

Please can you help again this year to support Christian Aid?

The Bridge Walk is on 25th April 2015

Christian Aid Lunch on 10th May 2015

House-to-House collection during Christian Aid week from 10th- 16th May 2015

Jesus challenges us to love our neighbour. Together this Christian Aid Week, we will answer Jesus' call, working hard to transform people's lives now and inspire lasting hope for the future.

(More information from Sue Storrar or Jean McCheyne.)

Sunday Club

The Sunday Club has at the present time eight to ten young people attending. A varied programme adapted to suit the ages of the youngsters is achieved.

We include material from the teaching literature available. In January and February of this year we based our teaching on Noah, taking each week as a separate lesson - the flood, the ark, the dove and finally the rainbow. This fitted in with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's visit to our church on 15th February as the youngsters coloured the paper doves and made a mobile to hang in the chancel. Thanks are due to all who assist us throughout the year and to the three teachers who make Sunday club fun.

Shona Laird, Moira Martin and Libby Walls.

1st Hags Company Girls Brigade

We have had one Explorer regularly attending over the session. The Explorers' have been working on the Rainforest. They have made a few collages while learning all about the different animals there are from around the world.

This session we have had five Juniors who regularly attend each week. The Juniors this year are working on the four sections of their badge work of Spiritual, Service, Physical and Education. They have been learning about the "Stories Jesus told", Helping Others, "Team Games" and "Safety Inside and Outside the Home" for their badges. This year the Junior Section shall be enjoying a competition which will be based on the television programme, "the Cube".

We have three Brigaders attending this year, Rachel, Lauren and Heather. The Brigaders have been working hard to complete all four sections of their badge work as well as being very helpful with the other sections whenever any officer has needed help. They are also taking part in a competition this year; we wish them all good luck with this.

This year we had our annual Chocolate Evening raising £103. A big thank you to all the people involved in running and supporting this event.

Our next event is our Parent's Night on Tuesday 12st May from 6 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

Shirley-Ann Hobbs, Captain.

1st Haggs Boys Brigade

The session started with numbers increased in Junior Section and Anchor Boys, with no change of numbers in the Company Section.

Anchor Boys had a busy season with Hallowe'en, Christmas Party, Ten Pin Bowling and an Anchor Boys Fun Day at Larbert Old Church. On Tuesday evenings the boys have games, craftwork, Bible stories and tumbling.

Junior Section has also been busy taking part in Battalion competitions, the Alan Douglas Trophy, Spiritual, Five-a-sides and the Swimming Gala, which we won for the first time, and maze marching on 13th March. We also had football practices and badminton in the Sports Centre. Tuesday evenings are occupied by opening service, maze marching, games, tuck shop, tumbling and potted sports.

Company Section had taken part in National competitions, getting to the second round of the Master team and quarter final of the Chess. The boys took part in cross country, pulpit fall, chess and swimming gala when we came in third of all Battalion competitions.

All sections attended the Turnabout on Friday 6th March at Falkirk Town Hall. Thanks to the Officers for their time with the boys.

Captain Ernie Firth

HAGGS 175

Our program of events to celebrate 175 years of Haggs Parish Church is now well under way.

A very successful Burns Supper was held on 31st January at the Archibald Russell Centre when, after a traditional meal of soup followed by haggis, neeps and tatties, entertainment of stories, poems and song was provided by the Jolly Beggars with Winnie MacMillan adding to the singing.

February saw the visit of the Right Reverend John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when he preached at morning service on 15th February. The service was well attended with support from our Boys and Girls Brigade and representatives from local churches.

Our Snowdrop Garden was dedicated on 22nd February when Mrs Doreen Mullen from Strathcarron Hospice took part in our service. On 1st March Rev. Helen Christie celebrated her last formal communion with us prior to her retiral later this year.

We have enjoyed an evening entertainment from the Bohemians on Friday 13th March and now look forward to an Easter breakfast in the church hall and the Easter Service with egg hunt on Sunday 5th April.

Later events will be the dinner to celebrate 175 years of Haggs Parish Church and to mark the retiral of Rev. Helen Christie which will held at the Castlecary House Hotel on Friday 19th June (Cost £15 per person) and the commemorative service on 19th July to celebrate the opening of Haggs Parish Church on the 19th July 1840.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to organise, take part in and support our celebrations up to now. If you have not been able to join in our celebrations so far then do think about attending future events when you will be made most welcome.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk Pro-tem

'Haggs 175' Calendar of celebration
events for 2015



Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

Dec. Stewart Bruce Hobbs

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

Jan. 17 Sara Tripney to Sean McEleny

Feb. 27 Nancy Hunter to Gary Porter

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Nov. Mrs Jennifer McKay Head of Muir

Dec. Mr Jack Zellman Banknock
Mrs Mary Black Allandale

Jan. Mrs Jean Mackie Bonnybridge
Mr James Russell Haggs
Mr Peter Lyons Allandale
Mrs Louisa Mortimer Dennyloanhead
Mrs Liliias Cunningham Allandale

Feb. Mrs Helen McCormack Bankview
Mr Robert Salmond Banknock
Mr Jack Ferguson Bonnybridge

<p><u>March 2015</u> 1st Communion 13th Falkirk Bohemians Concert BB & GB service with displays/info about history in Haggs</p>	<p><u>August 2015</u> 21st - 23rd Flower festival</p>
<p><u>April 2015</u> 5th Easter Sunday/ Breakfast / Informal Communion Egg hunt for children</p>	<p><u>September 2015</u> Harvest service.</p>
<p><u>May 2015</u> Christian Aid Week & lunch 24th Pentecost - service for BB & GB</p>	<p><u>October 2015</u> 4th Communion</p>
<p><u>June 2015</u> 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><u>November 2015</u> 8th Remembrance Services</p>
<p><u>July 2015</u> 12th Dedication of '175' banner 19th Celebration service for 'Haggs 175' - 'dress as you were' C1840 followed by a celebration lunch</p>	<p><u>December 2015</u> Advent celebrations Christmas</p>



The Right Reverend John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on 15th February 2015 after morning worship with Rev. Helen Christie and some of our congregation.

