

The Church  
of Scotland



## The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Spring 2016



Here we are into March with signs of spring all around us after what has been a long wet winter – officially the wettest since records began in 1910.

Now we see new life around us in snowdrops, crocuses, lambs and even the grass starting to grow as the days are getting longer.

Our church life is also growing anew as we enter the next chapter of our journey of faith. From 1<sup>st</sup> February our linkage with Denny Old Parish Church was officially ratified by the Church of Scotland. The Kirk sessions of Haggs and Denny Old are shortly to start joint discussions, guided by Presbytery, on the procedures to be followed to seek a new minister for the linked charge. We all hope that the process will not be too lengthy and that before too long we will find a minister for our churches. Meantime we are pleased to have Rev. Sandra Mathers leading our worship and meeting the pastoral needs of our membership and our communities.

It is heartening to see that attendance at Sunday worship has not noticeably fallen during our vacancy – even with our 09.45 am starting time. We do need your support for your church and if you haven't been for a while please do come along. We'll be delighted to see you and you will be made most welcome.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (ProTem)

### Editorial Note

“Count your blessings name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done” This Easter time thank the Lord for all we have and the personal freedom in our daily living which we take for granted.

Jean McCheyne

## Haggs Praise Group

I would like to thank all members of Haggs' Church Praise Group for their hard work, patience, commitment and laughter but - after almost nine years, it is time to retire. (Aw!)

Special thanks to - Elma Finlay (secretary), Jean McCheyne, Maisie Mortimer, Bea Miller, Georgie Thomson, Carolyn Meek, Helen & Drew Christie and Jack & Elizabeth Dunn.

The group has had many hilarious nights trying to learn new songs and we thank the congregation for also trying them out with us in the services.

I'm sure if there are some enthusiastic folk out there, they can form a new praise group and continue to bring new music to the church congregation.

God bless, Arthur and Winnie MacMillan.

## Six Questions:

1. What four books tell about Jesus life on earth?
2. What is the longest book in the Bible?
3. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
4. How many tribes did ancient Israel have?
5. How many disciples did Jesus choose?
6. Which NT book has Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*?

Answers can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Moira Martin

## 1<sup>st</sup> Haggs Boys Brigade

### The Anchor Boys

We attended Combat City in December along with the Junior Section and the Battalion Fun Day in January. Activities on a Tuesday evening begin with a short game, Bible Stories and craftwork for the nine boys who attend. The helpers this session are Bobby Kelly, Fiona Reid, Kate Duncan and two boys doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### The Junior Section

We have had a busy session taking part in Battalion competitions – Alan Douglas Trophy, five-a-side football and swimming (which we won for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running). We still have to do the Maze Marching and Sports competitions. We went to the Science Centre in November and we will be going to Girvan for our week end camp. The activities on a Tuesday evening are the opening service, maze marching, games, tuck shop, craftwork and tumbling. The officers and helpers are two boys, Mr & Mrs John Fenney, Bobby Kelly and Grant Kirkwood who is attending King George VI course at Carronvale House, Larbert.

### Company Section

We have had a mixed session with the number of boys down to 9 so we did not participate in some of the competitions. We did take part in the National Table Tennis and reached the quarter final. In the Battalion Pulpit Falls we came in fifth and the swimming and chess have still to take place. We are looking for help also on a Friday evening.

Captain Ernest Firth

## Many Thanks

Many thanks to all who have given me flowers, cards, visits and best wishes during my recent time of incapacity. They have been much appreciated.

Maisie Mortimer

## 1st Hags Company The Girls' Brigade

We have had three Explorers regularly attending over the session. The Explorers' have been working on the Celebrations. They have made a few collages while learning all about the different celebrations that are carried out throughout the year whilst making posters and carrying out other craft evenings.

This session we have had five Juniors regularly attending each week. The Juniors are again working on their badge work. We have covered 'God's Heroes' where the girls learned about people such as Mother Theresa, Florence Nightingale, and David Livingstone. We have also covered 'Head to Toe' which covered hair care, skin care, and nail care. Currently we are working on 'You are what you eat' and 'Keep Fit'. The girls have been learning about good foods and bad foods as well as learning some traditional Scottish dances all for their badge work.

We have two Brigaders attending this year, Rachel and Heather. The Brigaders this year 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. This year, Rachel is working hard to complete her badge work Brigader Brooch.

Our next event is our Parent's Night on Tuesday 10th May from 6:15pm-7:45pm.

Thank you for your continued support  
Shirley-Anne Hobbs  
Captain

## Christian Aid 2015

In 2015 Hags Parish Church donated the tremendous sum of £2,715.87 to support the work of Christian Aid. Our community responded to life-shattering disasters; following the earthquake in Nepal and the war in Syria, which left thousands of people dead, injured or homeless. We also sent donations from the door-to-door collection, the Bridge Walk and a Christian Aid lunch to support the on-going work which is going on in the numerous projects throughout the world part-funded by Christian Aid, working in collaboration with their local aid agencies.

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

### Christian Aid donations 2015:-

Lunch.....	£127.81
Nepal Appeal.....	£348.92
Syria Appeal.....	£256.42
Door-to-door collection.....	£1,369.72
Forth Bridge Walk.....	£613.00
TOTAL.....	£2,715.87

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

The Bridge Walk is on 23<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Christian Aid Lunch on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

House- to-House collection during Christian Aid week from 15<sup>th</sup>- 21st May 2016

(More information from Sue Storrar or Jean McCheyne.

### Count your Blessings

During 2015 the congregation at Haggs Parish Church again ‘Counted their Blessings’ and prayed, acted and gave generously to those less fortunate than themselves.

We donated to the following charities during 2015:-

Bible Society.....	£71.22
Borderline (Homeless).....	£233.06
Blythwood Care.....	Shoeboxes at Christmas
Christian Aid.....	£2,715.87
Falkirk Foodbank.....	FOOD + £ 132.20
Gideon’s Society.....	£77.45
MacMillan Cancer Care.....	£340.25
Poppy Sunday.....	£72.54
Sea Sunday.....	£66.00
Strathcarron Hospice (Snowdrop Appeal).....	£26.79
UNICEF Jar of Grace.....	£250.00
TOTAL DONATIONS.....	£3,985.38

Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Carpet Bowls**

The carpet bowls are still enjoyed by those who attend. It is held on a Wednesday afternoon at 12.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Come along for an enjoyable game, a chat and a welcome cup of tea or coffee. You will be made most welcome.

Elma Findlay

### **Sunday Club**

The numbers of young people are still low with three regular attendees and four to six who come occasionally. A monthly theme is decided and material taken from the Searchlights resource books adapted to suit the age group attending and the church calendar.

A story, perhaps a game then something to draw or make is arranged. The young people seem to like the routine and format.

At Christmas a cheque for one hundred pounds was sent to the ‘Vine Trust’ from the Haggs Sunday Club members.

The leaders realise that if we lose our young people we are losing the hope of a healthy church of the future. Young people need to know they are welcome in our church. They need guidance as we all do in our journey of discovery and faith.

Over the year we have taken themes e.g. LIGHT and DARK.

GROWING: in years and size as well as in faith. (We will plant bulbs and watch them grow and talk about our snowdrops in our church garden)

Thanks to all who step in when the need arises and to the leaders.

Shona, Moira and Libby.

### Six Questions Answers:

1. Matthew, Mark Luke and John
2. Psalms
3. 3 John
4. 12
5. 12
6. Matthew

Well done if you got them all right – sorry no prizes given!

### Holy Week Services – evening services at 7.30 p.m.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Denny Westpark Church**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Bonnybridge St Helen's Church**

**Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Dunipace Parish Church**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Denny Baptist Church**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Haggs Parish Church**

**Easter Sunday early morning service – 8.30 a.m. –**

**Denny Old, including breakfast thereafter.**

**Easter Sunday – Haggs Parish Church at 9.45 a.m.**

### Deaths

*'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'*

December 2015	Jimmy Stewart	Longcroft
January	Mrs Nan Shaw Mrs E. Lyons	Bonnybridge Allandale
February	Gary Ure	Banknock

**Locum Minister:** Rev. Sandra Mathers  
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### Session Clerks Pro-Tem:

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