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The Church of Scotland



THE LINK
HAGGS PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2012

The Church of Scotland can no longer afford a minister for every church.

In the Denny, Bonnybridge and Haggs areas of Falkirk Presbytery it is proposed that the number of ministers be reduced from five to four.

Due to our financial situation at Haggs we are **£18,829** a year short of fully paying the stipend of **£39,895** for our minister. This cost does not include upkeep of our church buildings, energy costs and other running expenses. We are being supported by other congregations.

Your Kirk Session and Congregational Board now appeal to every member to seriously consider their giving. To have the best chance of retaining the church at Haggs with our own full time minister we need **EVERYONE** who declares themselves to be a member of Haggs Parish Church to give financial support. We do recognise that money is tight but we really do urgently need **YOUR** help.

UK tax payers can increase their giving by 25% at no extra cost simply by signing up to Gift Aid. A form is included with this magazine. A bank standing order is also included so that you may continue to contribute to your church even if you are unable to attend regularly.

Please contact our Treasurer Marion Campbell, Tel 01324 840002 or Murray McCheyne, Gift Aid Convenor, Tel: 01324 840137 for further details.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH TODAY AND IN THE YEARS TO COME. THANK YOU.

Hi Folks

We have reached the time for the Summer Magazine once more and believe it or not the sun is shining outside my study window as I compose this letter.

But unfortunately I am not thinking of holidays and long sunny days, in our last magazine we included a letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly concerning stewardship and the front cover of this magazine draws your attention to the need for us to consider our commitment to our church here in Haggs.

Recently as part of my address I read an article from a local church bulletin headed 'No excuse Sunday' a copy of which is produced after this letter. A bit of fun but with a serious message, we all took vows of commitment to share in the worship and service of the church.

This year in June we are having a Stewardship Season where we will celebrate the gifts that God has given to us especially the gift of his Son our Lord Jesus Christ . We will also consider what we give in return whether of our time, our talents or in monetary terms.

As part of the season there will be a Gift Day in the Church on Saturday 16 June between 10am and 2pm with refreshments in the MacLean Hall. On the Sunday 17th June we are holding an early morning service at 9.30am in the Community Wing of Bankier Primary School. Finally there will be a Thanksgiving Service in Haggs Parish Church at 11am on Sunday 24th June.

Please come and support your church with your presence and please continue to support us in your prayers.

God bless you all

Helen F Christie

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowlers meet on Wednesday afternoons in the Church Hall. In most cases the bowling is improving but the laughter and companionship is the main benefit of this activity.

Tea time gives time for a chat and adds to the enjoyment of the afternoon. Our outing this year is on 16th May to St Andrews and from there on to Anstruther for tea.

New members are always welcome to come along and join in the fun.

Elam Findlay

The Guild

We had a very interesting talk from Mr Kinvig of Kilsyth about “Cine City” Picture Houses as they used to be.

The Beetle Drive, as usual, was a rousing success with much noise and laughter. This was held in aid of Driving Force and we were very pleased to donate £155 to this very worthwhile cause.

On 8th March we had a Bible quiz. The Daffodil tea was on March 19th and was a lovely afternoon. On April 2nd we had an Easter Praise with Helen.

The A.G.M. was on April 16th and Jack and Elizabeth Dunn attended as our Elders. Jack remarked that they were impressed with what we had attained with a small membership and wishes us continued success.

We disbursed our funds to three charitable causes - £200 to each – The Church, Mission Aviation Fellowship Madagascar and World Mission Council (Israel/Palestine) The last two were our projects for this year.

Maisie and Bea were re-elected unanimously as Convenor and Treasurer. Instead of a bus drive this year again we shall hold a lunch, probably at the Railway Inn.

Again I would like to thank all who help us and support and attend the events we hold. Without you we would not manage to do so well.

Thanks again to Bea and Maisie.

If you would like to join us we resume later in the year at 2 p.m. every second Monday in the Church Hall.

Elma Findlay

SOMETHING SPECIAL

I am sure you will have noticed the change to the usual front page of this issue of the magazine and you will have realised that we urgently need your financial support.

You will have read the Moderator's letter issued with the last magazine where we are all encouraged to review our monetary giving to our church. In response and recognising our own financial situation your Kirk Session and Congregational Board have decided that, rather than have an extended financial campaign, we will have a "Stewardship Season" which will be the month of June this year.

As referred to in the Minister's letter, during the month there will be services and events in support of our monetary appeal.

Saturday 16th June will be our Gift Day when the Church will be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm and our Minister will be pleased to receive your gift envelope which is enclosed with this magazine. Light refreshments will be served in the MacLean hall.

On Sunday 17th June, for one day only, an early service will be held from 9.30 to 10.15 am in the **community wing of Bankier School** to which all are invited, but especially invited are those people who find it difficult to come to the church in Haggs at 11.00 am. Doors will be open from 9.00am when continental breakfast will be available. Note that 17th June is father's day so a special invite is extended to Dads (and Mums) to come along. The 11.00 am service at Haggs will be held as usual.

A service of thanksgiving will be held in Haggs Church on Sunday 24th June, which also marks the close of the Sunday Club session.

Please do come along to support our events and, along with regular giving, help give us the best chance to ensure a secure future for your church at Haggs. Completion of a standing order will enable you to contribute even if you cannot come to Church every Sunday and remember, if you are a UK tax payer giving through Gift Aid increases your contribution by 25% at no cost to yourself. Please forward your completed forms to Marion Campbell, Church Treasurer.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (Pro tem)

I also have to thank the parents who encourage the boys to come along every week, the members of the Congregation who support us, and the boys, who sometimes frustrate us no end, but never let us down when it matters.

Hope you all have a wonderful Summer, wherever you go.

Morag Wales
Officer-in-charge, 1st Haggs Junior Section.

The Sunday Club

We have been busy over the past months making a banner to brighten the McLean Hall walls. Everyone has taken part, some designing it and others cutting out and sticking on. We hope you like it and we plan to present it to our Church at Pentecost.

We are looking forward to the summer outing and are hoping to go to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

A big thank you goes to all our leaders and helpers.

Shona Laird, Leader Sunday Club.

How to Find Happiness

Happiness is something you create in your mind,
Not something you search for but can't seem to find,
Not something that's purchased with silver or gold,
Not something that force can capture and hold,
It's just waking up and beginning each day
By counting your blessings and kneeling to pray,
It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent
And accepting what comes as a gift heaven-sent.
It's giving up wishing for things you have not
And making the best of whatever you've got,
It's knowing that life is determined and planned
And God holds the world in the palm of His hand,
And it's by completing what God gives you to do
That you find contentment and happiness, too.

Helen Steiner Rice.

“Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.”

Psalm 119: Verse 1

Submitted by Nan Ure

Praise Band

At the moment the praise band is rehearsing for an appearance at Pentecost.

Our last event in Church was on “Mothering Sunday” and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Our rehearsals are very happy times and Winnie and Arthur are to be thanked for the amount of work they do.

If you feel you would like to sing or if you play a musical instrument Please come and join us. Any member of the group will give you information re times etc.

Elma Findlay

'No excuse Sunday' : *Will I or won't I go to Church ?*

Time was when that question would be out of the question! It was unthinkable to miss Church through your own fault. Faith supported it; the Sunday tradition supported it; history supported it. But now the question is: Will I bother? So why do people not go? Well there are all kinds of reasons/excuses. Indeed there are so many that one parish decided to hold a "No excuse Sunday." This is what they put in their bulletin the previous Sunday, we are going to make it very special.

A bed will be provided for those who say 'Sunday is my only day of sleep in.'

We will have helmets for those who say 'The roof will cave in if I come to Church.'

Blankets will be provided for those who think the Church is too cold and fans for those who say it is not too hot.

Score cards will be available for those who would like to list all the hypocrites present,

A selection of trees and grasses will be available for those who prefer to see God in nature.

A putting green will be provided for those who say 'Sunday is my golf day.'

Dinners will be provided for those who can't go to Church and cook dinner as well.

And finally the Sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who wouldn't recognise the Church without them.

Editorial

We are once again almost at the end of another session of church activities. Leaders and helpers of organisation are taking a well-deserved break. Some will be recharging their batteries for a new session in the Autumn. Others, like Morag Wales will be having a very well earned rest after years of leading our Junior Boys Brigade. Our thanks and gratitude goes to Morag for her splendid work with the boys over the years, entering and winning so many competitions and helping them to grow into well adjusted adults, some of whom are now helping to staff the BB as officers.

Jean McCheyne.

Standing Order

To:.....Bank

Sort Code

Account No

Name on Account

Please pay £..... On the of each month
to the following:

Bank – Lloyds TSB plc

Branch – Falkirk

Sort Code – 87-79-01

Account No – 06398412

Name on Account – Hags Parish Church

Signature

Date

**GIFT AID DECLARATION
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Name of Congregation : Haggs Parish Church of Scotland (SC014536)
.....

Donor's Full Name in CAPITALS :

Donor's Title : Mr/Miss/Mrs/Ms/Rev/.....

Donor's Address in CAPITALS :

.....

.....

.....**Postcode**.....

I want the Congregation to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this Declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature of Donor :

Date of Signing :

Notes:

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the Congregation.
 2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Congregation reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).
 3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Congregation reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
 4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
 5. Please notify the Congregation if you change your name or address.
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1st Haggs Junior Section

Considering that we have had only 12 or 13 boys attending each week, we have managed to fit in lots of badge work, go to the cinema at Christmas, attend TurnaBBout, which had a Christian rock band, have games, football and swimming and do really well in all the Battalion competitions.

We won the Alan Douglas Trophy and the 5 A Sides. We took second places in the Figure Marching , Swimming Gala and Chess and were 3rd in the Spiritual Trophy. We still have to compete in the Sports competition which is at the end of April.

Our Annual week-end camp to Girvan is set for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd June, and this year, because of the timing of the camp, we will have a Jubilee theme, as Her Majesty the Queen is the Boys' Brigade Patron.

At present we are practicing for our Annual Parents' evening and Display which takes place on the 12th May and to which you are all invited.

As I am retiring as an officer in the Company this year, my special thanks must go to my good friends and fellow officers in the Junior Section, Ernie, John, George and Sandra. I have really enjoyed working in our "team" as well as sharing lots of week-end camps, nights out and family occasions over the years. Our three young male helpers Chris, David and Daryll originally came to help us for one year towards their Queen's badges, but continued to come back every year since. The energy and enthusiasm of these young men was invaluable to the section. We look forward to seeing Chris back next year, hopefully to do his officer training. Daryll leaves to work off-shore and David, our chess champ., goes off to University in Edinburgh. The boys will really miss them. We wish them well in all they do and hope they will return to visit the Company when they are home and perhaps in the future will return as Officers at 1st. Haggs. Sharon Fenney will also join the team in the new session

Christian Aid Week 13-19th May 2012

Some exciting news has been announced in April. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to match the first £5 million raised by supporters, pound for pound, this Christian Aid Week. The DFID are a department of the British Government who deliver UK aid around the world through partner organisations like Christian Aid.

This means that the first £5 million donated to Christian Aid Week will be matched by the Government, pound for pound, so that we can help more people in communities like Gbap, in Sierra Leone, to work their way out of poverty. Christian Aid provides urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

This year the 40th anniversary of the Forth Bridge Cross walk for Christian Aid took place on Saturday 28th April. As the group from Hags Church walked they were reminded of the story of Jesus on the road to Damascus. We felt that Jesus was walking beside us, guiding us and our thoughts. We took this inspiration with us as we took part in our sponsored walk, walking with Jesus in our hearts.

Christian Aid week will begin with a 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch on Sunday 13th May in the Church Hall following the morning service. Everyone is encouraged to come along to give our door-to-door collectors a blessing and the confidence to know that all the church members are supporting them in this valuable outreach work in the parish during Christian Aid Week, even if unable to participate in the collecting yourselves.

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. So please give generously this year as the 'matched' funding means that your donations will go even further and help more people around the world. Thanks for your continued support,
Sue Storrar & Jean McCheyne