



The Link

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Linked with Denny Old Parish Church**

Summer 2017

Dear Friends

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place” Jesus said “and get some rest.”

Summer has arrived in all its glory – isn’t it wonderful to see our gardens and park areas ablaze with colour and the abundance that summer brings. We’ve enjoyed some lovely weather – thankfully not the extremely high temperatures they’ve been getting down south – but hopefully we’ll go on to enjoy a lot more real summer weather.

Summer of course means that for many their thoughts turn to holidays and for some that means jetting off to the continent or perhaps more exotic destinations, all with the hope of getting some very necessary rest and relaxation in places where it’s expected that plenty of sunshine and warmth will be the order of the day – every day. My husband and I are off on holiday next week for a few days at Bournemouth, and we’re looking forward to that, even though the forecast is Rain!

We all need rest and relaxation – our minds and bodies demand it. Young people can keep going at full tilt burning the candle at both ends but even for them there comes that point when the body says “Whoa – stop – slow down.”

I read a story recently which made me smile – it’s about an ant and a grasshopper. Apparently to encourage the children in her class to always work hard a teacher explained to them that during the summertime the grasshopper just played and played and never stored anything up for the wintertime, whereas the ant worked diligently day and night. When the winter came the ant had enough to eat and he survived the winter but in contrast, the grasshopper died as soon as winter came. Nine times out of ten this encouraged the youngsters to work hard throughout the school year, that is until the day one of

them, on hearing the story, put up his hand and said “But isn’t it true that the ant also died, and he died without having lived at all.”

We have the saying that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” and it seems that Jesus agreed with that saying and with the youngster who questioned the teacher’s logic, because in Mark’s Gospel (*chapter 6:30ff*) we learn that Jesus and His disciples were rushed off their feet by the never ending demands of the crowds of people who constantly surrounded Jesus, so much so that they didn’t even have time to eat. To make matters worse the disciples had just returned from a preaching and healing mission which although it had been exhilarating for them, it had also taken its physical and mental toll. Jesus was not unmindful of that and we find Him saying to them in verse 31 – “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Isn’t it good to know that Jesus is not just interested in our spiritual health – although of course He’s very interested in that – He’s also concerned about our whole person, our physical, mental and emotional needs as well. He knows that there comes the time when we have to recharge the batteries, get some rest to enable us to cope with the demands of everyday life as well as our service for Him.

I trust that each and every one of you will enjoy the summer, take a break from the everyday routine and do something different, however small and simple that may be. For all who are going off on holiday whether to Rothesay or Rimini, Malta or Morecambe, Honolulu or that perennial favourite – Hame’ldaeme, I wish you a relaxing, restful and rewarding summer and look forward to hearing about your exploits on your return.

Sandra Mathers

Session Clerk’s Report

In the absence of Murray McCheyne, who hopefully is enjoying a well earned break away with Jean in warmer climes, I have been asked to submit the Session Clerk’s report for the summer edition of the church magazine.

It is my pleasure to announce that Haggs and Denny Old churches have jointly purchased a new manse at Singer’s Place, Dennyloanhead. We hope that this will offer an attractive new home to our next minister that will be economical to run and maintain. Unfortunately we still have not found a candidate for our shared vacancy, although the nominating committee has been working hard on our behalf to find suitable contenders to consider for the post.

Let us pray that we find an inspirational minister in the near future.

We are grateful to the Rev. Sandra Mathers, our locum minister and David Nicholson, our interim moderator, who continue to give of their time to keep the work of the church at Haggs moving forward. Also other Kirk Elders and Board members who have taken on extra duties to support the work involved in organising weekly worship and in administering to the needs of the parish. A special thanks to Jean Proffit who attended the Church of Scotland Assembly in Edinburgh for a week in May representing Haggs Parish Church.

The life of the church slows down during the summer months with youth organisations taking a break to give the leaders time to recharge their batteries. The work these folk undertake, and the dedication they show on a weekly basis, is commended as the young people are the future of the church.

At this time of political uncertainty and sadness following the recent terrorist attacks and dreadful tower block fire in London we should take the time to look forward to better times in the future and to pray for universal peace in Haggs, our country and the wider world:

O God,
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.
Amen. (*Based on an invocation in Sanskrit*)

God Bless you all – Sue Storrar (*Acting Session Clerk Pro-Tem.*)

Haggs Church Knitters

Thank you so much for the amazing response to the request in the last magazine for knitted clothes for children in Africa.

We had a colourful display in the church foyer on Easter Sunday with a sample of the brightly coloured garments knitted with so much care and love – over 200 woollen jumpers, cardigans and hats in total!

All of your wonderful knitting has been boxed and delivered to Dundee before being loaded into a container and shipped all the way to the hospital in Livingstonia, Malawi which will distribute them through their orphan programme.

Thank you so much for all your work – this simple giving by people like you really does bring help and hope to some of the poorest families in the world.

This year has been particularly tough for Malawians because poor rains have had a big impact on the crops at harvest time and there has not been enough food to feed everyone. Thankfully, in Livingstonia, the Orphan Care programme is able to provide emergency food supplies to children as well as the clothes you have knitted.

Keep up the good work! We will collect knitting in again in the Autumn to send to this charity.

Thanks again – Sue Storrar

Teas and Coffee

During the course of the last year we have enjoyed the fellowship of teas and coffees after the church. I would like to thank everyone who helped provide these and also everyone who came along for a few minutes of friendship and fellowship.

We will be restarting at the beginning of September and look forward to seeing you then.

Elizabeth Dunn

Carpet Bowling

The Carpet Bowling has stopped for the summer. It will be announced later when we will resume.

It is an enjoyable afternoon of fun and fellowship

Elma Findlay

Christian Aid 2017

Christian Aid was founded 70 years ago in response to the wave of refugees displaced from their homes following World War 2.

Today more than 65 million people are displaced worldwide. The often dehumanising portrayal of refugees in the media and by politicians can mean they remain strangers.

As Christians we are called upon in the Bible to connect hunger and poverty with injustice and oppression. Christian Aid continues, 70 years on, to not only give practical help to those in desperate need, but also to lobby politicians to try to change the way we treat 'strangers'.

This year, in Haggs Parish, people responded with generosity and compassion to our efforts to collect on behalf of Christian Aid. Every year the small band of door-to-door collectors wonder if they can achieve anything to raise money for this essential work, but yet again the total we received has been tremendous.

So far we have sent a total of **£1,370.71** to Christian Aid from the 'Soup & Sandwich' lunch, Bridge Walk, Door-to-Door collection and further donations from church members.

We will also be participating in the Kelpie Canter Sponsored walk on 30th September – so keep this date free in your diaries!

Thanks again for all your support.

Haggs 'Christian Aid' Working Group

Iona: 'a thin place – just a piece of tissue paper between things spiritual and material'

I began my long association with the small Western Isle of Iona over 16 years ago when we went on a millennium trip from Haggs Church, organised by Jean McCheyne. Some of you will also remember setting off from Haggs early in the morning and travelling up to Oban by coach before embarking on the ferry to Mull, then down to Fionnphort for the short crossing to Iona.

It was an amazing trip which was filled with hope at the start of a new millennium and for a new beginning for Haggs church with our new minister – Rev. Helen Christie. We had a memorable day culminating with a beautiful candlelit service in ancient Iona Abbey, conducted by Helen. The spirituality surrounded us as well as the tranquil peaceful environment.

I have been drawn back to Iona many times over the years and I never fail to have the same feeling of 'coming home' as the ferry moves across the Sound of Iona and the white sands of Martyr's Bay come into view. Most years I have visited for a day or maybe two but I had always intended to return at sometime for a longer stay – this time staying within the Iona Community and immersing myself in the slow, spiritual life around the Abbey.

This year seemed to be the right time to make the trip so I spend the week after Easter staying in the MacLeod Centre, which is part of the Iona Community accommodation. The week was called 'Gathering Space' and gave me the opportunity to live in an ecumenical Christian community, with people of all ages and from many different countries, working, reflecting and praying for justice, peace and for the conservation of the natural world.

Each day involved serving others – (my duties included setting out, serving and clearing away breakfast for the group and the preparation of vegetables for all of the daily meals), worshipping at the Abbey morning and evening and enjoying walking, as well as conservation and craft activities around these daily commitments. All the activities were optional but participating was a joy as I was surrounded by lots of laughter, singing and lively conversation.

The highlights for me were the communion services in the Abbey – served without pomp or austerity, but with humility and a real sense of being part of the family of God, and the Pilgrimage Walk around the island. The weather for the walk was wild and windy but this just added to the power of the walk – 7kms off road across bogs and climbing up craggy hills. There were frequent stops for reflection, a Bible reading, a prayer and sometimes a song. It felt a true privilege to be walking in the steps of St. Columba and all the pilgrims who have trodden the paths over the island for the past 2000 years.

My time on Iona passed too quickly and it was soon time to attend the Friday early morning leaving service in the Abbey before walking down to the jetty with my new friends to board the ferry back home. It had been an amazing experience – had I 'got Iona out of my system?' Definitely not - I hope to return for many years to come!

Sue Storrar

1st Haggis Girls Brigade

What a year 2016/2017 has been! We started off with Captain Shirley-Ann Hobbs, who sadly had to leave us due to family commitments therefore, Julie a Lieutenant stepped in as Acting Captain, and will remain with us until the end of this session. Julie is leaving us to move to 2nd Grangemouth GB Company, as there is no Captain there and they were looking at closing. We have Lieutenant Shona Laird who intends to become our new Captain in the new session for 2017/2018, with Lieutenant Alan Hobbs remaining and Lieutenant Shirley-Anne perhaps re-joining us. Sarah Laird is returning to commence her training to become an officer, we also had Chloe Currie re-join us while she is working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Award. **I am hoping to also recruit another helper soon if anyone is interested in helping out on a Tuesday night please contact me.**

We have had a busy year with the Explorers numbers settling at 3, and the Juniors at 7 regularly attending, unfortunately we had no Brigaders this year.

The Explorers have been busy and just looking though some of the pictures it's great to see how much they have done, from baking, making friendship bracelets, learning new games, Christmas party, Easter egg hunt to name but a few, they even had a guide dog for the blind (puppy) visit us. The Juniors have been just a busy, entering the annual GB competitions, (it was amazing what they made out of scrap material), and they've learned 'new' traditional games. This is just a snapshot of some of the stuff the girls have done. All church services have been attend by the girls and we are thankful to the parents for all their encouragement and support.

We look forward to the next session that will start on **Enrolment night 29th August 2017 @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm** and then from **5th September 2017 6.30pm to 7.45pm**. God bless and we hope you all have a truly wonderful summer.

I would like to thank all officers and helpers alike, without you this group would not be possible.

Shona

Anchor Boy Report

This session we started the year with good numbers which are still continuing to grow even at this late stage in the year. All the boys have great attendance and come along each week full of enthusiasm, they are always willing to try new activities that are suggested to them which is encouraging and rewarding for Captain and the officers.

This year we have had several outings which have included a Halloween treat to Zoo Lab in Larbert, all of the boys enjoyed getting to see and hold a lot of different creepy crawlies and trying to scare Miss Duncan with them, TurnaBBout at Falkirk Town Hall where some of boys even got to go on stage and take part in a song and dance, our Christmas outing was to Adventure Planet in Cumbernauld. All of these have been enjoyed by both the boys and the officers.

Each week we vary the games and crafts focusing on various occasions throughout the calendar year. This we do in an attempt to provide the boys with the necessary life skills and confidence which we hope the boys can develop and take in their adult lives.

A special thanks to the officers and everyone else who contributes their time for the benefits of the boys however all this cannot be accomplished without the help of the parents who bring their boys along making the Boys Brigade the organisation and enjoyed place for the boys to attend.

Company Section Report

The Company Section has had a very mixed year starting with 6 boys but now we are down to 3. Despite this we have tried to maintain an effective programme.

The normal night would consist of opening parade with short talk followed by inspection. We would then move to Drill, tuck-shop, classes, and games.

The attendance at church parades this year include harvest and the Christmas gift service and the battalion night at Falkirk Town Hall which was a mix of Christian Music, sing along, and Magic acts.

Despite our small number we have one boy gaining his Presidents Badge and one boy gaining his Queen's Badge.

Thanks is due to all the parents and the officers.

Alan Hobbs,

Junior Section Report

2016/2017 has been an unbelievably successful year for the junior section with a considerable increase in the number of boys continuously attending throughout the year and especially with our new time slot on Friday evenings, however our new night remains the same filled with fun, games, stories and chat and also the dreaded marching.

During the year we have covered so much entering most of the battalion competitions doing well in some and not so well in others.

We have been out and about going swimming, to the Jungle room in Larbert and to air space trampolining in East Kilbride and to this year's turnabout at Falkirk town hall ,our session will conclude with the annual weekend camp to Girvan in June.

All the officers would like to thank the parents and friends of the company for their continued support and especially the boys for attending and putting the effort in throughout the year.

Captain's Report

It is with regret this is my last session with the Boys' Brigade. I have enjoyed my time with the 1st Haggs, working with the Boys and all the officers and helpers who have served the company. I have had many happy and funny memories with the company, at camp, parade nights and competitions the length and breadth of Scotland also a trip to Northern Ireland for the national final for chess. Canvas camps was the highlight of the Company Section going to Morecambe, Hawick, North Berwick and Irvine.

I would like to give a big thanks to all the officers and helpers throughout the years they served the company, parents who have helped in the Stedfast Association who have supplied us with various equipment for camping, Duke of Edinburgh, table tennis tables and football gear.

The Haggs Parish Church have also been very supportive to the company.

Finally, I would like to thank the present officers and helpers Katy, Bobby, Fiona, John, Sharon, Alan and Grant. Katy, Bobby, and Sharon did their basic training this year, Grant is doing a course at Carronvale lasting 2 weeks over 2 years.

I wish and pray for the Company in the coming years as they start to build the company up again.

Ernie Firth.

Boys' Brigade Update

We all went to the Battalion annual Turnabout service at the Falkirk town hall on Friday 3rd of March all the boys and officers had a good time. We had a sponsored walk on Saturday 27th of May, 13 boys, 4 Officers, 5 parents and 2 dogs took part the weather was good and we all had a good time raising money for company funds. The anchor boys and company sections finish on the end of May and the junior section finished with the weekend camp to Girvan on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th June Everyone enjoyed themselves and behaved very well and all went home exhausted on Sunday evening.

Thank you to all the Officers, helpers and Parents for all their help and support this year.

As your Know Ernie Firth is retiring this year we thank him for all the work he has done in the company for the past 30 plus years and we wish him well in the future.

All section start back after the school summer holidays -

Anchor boys (P1 – P3) starts back on Tuesday 29th of August at 6.30pm – 7.45pm

Junior Section (P4 – P6) starts back on Friday 1st of September at 6.30pm – 8pm

Company Section (P7 – S6) Starts back on Friday 1st of September at 7.45pm – 9.30pm

If you know of any boys in these age groups could you please encourage them to come along and try the Boys' Brigade.

John Fenney (Company Correspondent)

Sunday Club.

The attendance remains at seven young people each week with another three or four visiting occasionally.

The story of Zacchaeus was the theme for two weeks in March.

Gifts for Mother's day were completed to be handed out after the service.

Palm Sunday we used our own prayers about using our hands to work and play and to thank God afterwards.

Easter Day we rolled our boiled decorated eggs down the grass at the side of the church. Yellow crosses were handed out to members of the congregation.

We had 13 young people that day.

We look forward to spring, when we will plant flowers and seeds and watch them grow.

Advance notice. We are having an outing to the Safari Park, on Saturday 17th June.

The prize giving will be in June.

Thanks once again to our helpers, Session and Minister and to the congregation for their support.

Remember that over the summer holidays you are welcome to church. There are books and puzzles just for you.

Moirra Martin

Bible Questions (*answers on next page*)

1. How many sons did Noah have?
2. Who baptised Jesus?
3. Who was the first man on earth?
4. Who was the first female?

From the Interim Moderator

During the past few weeks I have been reading the book of Jonah and reflecting on him.

It seems that Jonah was a great servant of God and a prophet and was doing well ministering to his people. However God clearly wanted Jonah somewhere different and so he calls Jonah to go to a new place and a new country where he wasn't known and they probably spoke a different language. Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh is understandable since the people had turned away from God and there is no doubt it was a seriously scary place to be.

Sometimes God calls us to be in a place where if we are not afraid we can be a little reluctant to be there but God never fails to assure us of his companionship as he journeys with us where ever he calls us to be.

As we are approaching "summer" and things are supposed to get a little quieter I hope and pray that you will have time to stop and reflect and allow the Holy Spirit to recharge your batteries for the coming season.

I pray that God will richly bless you all.

David

NAN URE – 4th Feb 1925 to 20th May 2017

Annie Balloch Ure (*nee Henderson*) was born in Bonnybridge on 4th Feb 1925. She married Bill Ure in 1946 moving to Banknock some years later with son George and daughter Glynis. In 1964 Garry completed the family – sadly Garry died from lung cancer in February 2016. Blessed with 3 Grandsons and 1 Granddaughter Nan was never more ‘chuffed’ than when she became a Great Gran to 3 boys and 2 girls.

Nan was a well kent face not only here in Haggs Church but in the community and beyond. Renowned for her ‘readings’ Nan could always be relied on to do a turn. Here in Haggs Parish Church Nan was an Elder, a member of the Congregation Board, a member of the Choir & The Guild, a helper when the Welcome In Café was running and an always present figure at concerts or coffee mornings waiting to collect your ticket or relieve you of the entrance cost! We will miss her Easter Bonnet on Easter Sunday.

Nan moved into Carrondale Nursing Home at the end of 2015, settling in well and continuing to display the wicked sense of humour which not everyone knew she had. She maintained her interest in her Church and its people right up to the last few weeks when she developed pneumonia but even that didn’t stop her surprising daughter Glynis with a rendering of ‘The Lambeth Walk’ – 2 verses – word perfect! Nan passed away quietly and peacefully at 4.15 am on Sat. 20th May 2017.

Always referring to herself as ‘A quiet wee wumman’, Nan was not always as quiet as she may have thought and will certainly leave a loud void in lots of places.

Answers to Bible quiz.

1. Noah had 3 sons. (Ham, Shem and Japeth.) Genesis 1 v 26
2. John known as John the Baptist (Matthew 3 v 13-17)
3. Adam (and so it is written, the first man, Adam became a living being) Cor.15 v 45
4. Eve (see Genesis 2 v 20)

A Message from your Treasurer

On behalf of the Congregational Board may I thank you for your continued support to Haggs Parish Church. During the current vacancy it is important that we keep our finances in order and we need **you** to allow us to do this. Can I just remind you of the different ways in which you can make your offering?

- 1) By Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes. Please see the Treasurer Marion Campbell if you wish to have envelopes or ask your elder.
- 2) If you pay Income Tax please Gift Aid your offering – this allows Haggs Church to claim back the tax which you have already paid (approx. 20% more – at no extra cost to you). Please see Murray McCheyne or Marion Campbell for a form to complete (this does not tie you to a fixed amount or a fixed term but allows the Church to claim back tax on however much you give) or again ask your elder. On average over the last few years we have recovered between £5000.00 and £6000.00 per year from Gift Aid. Without this money would not have been able to pay all our bills.....so please – the more we can claim in Gift Aid the more money we can get back.
- 3) Either of the above methods can be made by Standing Order directly from your bank account to the Church’s bank account. Saves the number of WFO envelopes we have to buy and saves you remembering to make up the Sundays you have missed for whatever reason. It is really important to Haggs Church that you do make up the weeks you have not managed to get to Church so that we have a more accurate assessment of what monies are coming in to be able to budget for the expenditure.
- 4) We are most grateful for your generosity to all the charities we support – for a small congregation you do give very willingly to others – so thank you.

Having an old Grade 2 listed building means large maintenance bills sometimes and as you will be aware the front section of the organ side of the Church is at present closed off because the cornice is in a dangerous condition and in need of replacement which of course means a large cost so please be your usual supportive selves when we are fundraising.

Thanks for all your loyalty and support and PLEASEdon’t change!

Marion

Baptism:

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

June 4: Carmen Christina McLauren.

Marriage:

'Whom God has joined together'

Deaths:

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

April: Isabella McQue Bankview Nursing Home.
Kathleen Dalrymple Longcroft.
Robert Muirhead Camelon

May: George Fleming Haggs
Nan Ure Banknock

Locum Minister: Rev. Sandra Mathers
01324 872253

Session Clerks Pro-Tem:

Mr R. M. McCheyne
36 Hazel Road
Banknock
FK4 1LQ
Tel: 01324 840137

Mrs Sue Storrar
2 Cumbernauld Road
Longcroft
FK4 1QJ
Tel: 01324 840757

Clerks to the Congregational Board:

Mr. J Dunn
12 Almond Dr.
Banknock
Tel: 01324 840763

Mr B. Richmond
1 Hazel Rd.
Banknock
Tel: 01324 840761

Beadle: Mr E Martin
39 Cruikshank's Court
Denny
FK6 5DU
Tel: 01324 820736

Web site: www.haggschurch.org.uk
email: haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk
Magazine Editor: Mrs Jean McCheyne
email: mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SCO14536