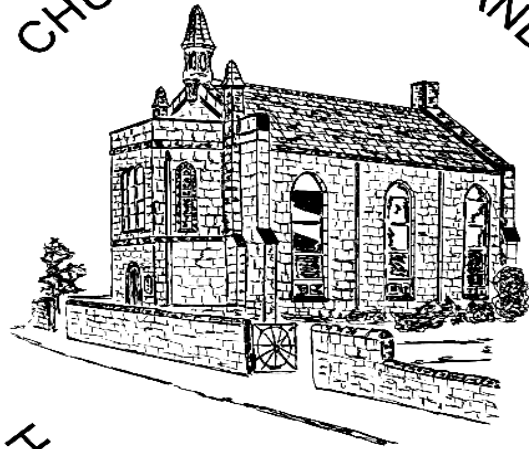


CHURCH of SCOTLAND



HAGGS PARISH CHURCH

The Link

The Magazine of Hags Parish Church

Winter 2014



Hags Manse
Winter 2014

Hi Folks,

*Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love;
and the greatest of these is love 1 Cor.13:1*

As I write this letter we are approaching the Season on Advent once more, the beginning of the church year and the approach of Christmas.

For yourselves at Hags Church it is the year you will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its foundation and also a time of change with the move towards a linkage on the horizon. My hopes and prayers go with you into the future.

Advent is a time for reflection, when we give thanks for what has been achieved in the past and can remember and give thanks for the efforts of those who have gone before us. It is also a time of preparation for the future, a time for making plans and moving forward.

Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love to us, is a time to reflect on love and forgiveness. There will be many gifts given and received but I believe that the best gift that we can give is to follow the commandment that Jesus gave us, to love one another. In that love we can share our faith and hope for a better future for each other, for the Church and for the world.

May the spirit of peace that comes at Christmas surround and infill you and walk with you through the coming year.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.
God bless you all.
Helen F. Christie

Editorial Comment

Another year has slipped away - almost! Time does not stand still and we have not to let it. Our community has been very busy helping raise money throughout the year for Christian Aid, the Vine Trust and Bible Society to name but a few charities. Well done to all and keep up the good work.

Merry Christmas.

Jean McCheyne

Sunday morning Tea and Coffee

At this Christmas time we would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to provide the teas and coffees that we enjoy on a Sunday morning after Church. This gives us the opportunity to share a time of Christian and social fellowship together and have become a regular part of our Church life.

In order for them to continue in 2015 we will once again need your help and support. If you have helped before and would like to do so again, or if you would like to do so for the first time, please contact Elizabeth Dunn. She will gladly add your name to her list and explain to you what is involved.

As you are aware 2015 is the 175th anniversary of the formation of Hags Church and we would like to ensure that Sunday morning Teas and Coffees are part of our celebrations.

Christmas greetings to all.

E Dunn

Hags Parish Church '175' Celebrations

Commemorative items will soon be available for sale – Pens £1.00, Bone China mugs £5.00 and ceramic goblets from the Barbara Davidson pottery (boxed) at £10.00. These will be available to purchase after church during the teas and coffee in the hall

Enclosed with this edition of your Church Magazine is a booklet giving an outline history of Hags Parish Church since being founded in 1840. To celebrate 175 years as the place of worship and Christian witness and service in our community events are planned to take place throughout 2015.

Dates for your diary at the beginning of our celebration year are :-

31st January Burns Supper with The Jolly Beggars to be held in the Archibald Russell Centre starting at 7 pm. Tickets £10 available from members of the Hags 175 Planning Team.

15th February Visit from the Right Reverend John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly, who will preach at morning worship.

22nd February. Dedication of our newly created Snowdrop Garden for Strathcarron Hospice.

1st March. Rev. Helen Christie's last formal Communion prior to her retirement.

13th March. Concert by Falkirk Bohemians.

You are warmly invited to come along and take part in these celebrations for your church.

Look out for details of other exciting events throughout the year.

Hags 175 Planning Team :-

Rev. Helen F Christie, Marion Campbell, Moira Martin, Maisie Mortimer, Jean McCheyne, Sue Storrar, Susan Swan, Jack Dunn, Murray McCheyne.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (Pro Tem)

Join UNICEF 'Jar of Grace' Appeal 2014-15 during Advent

'Jar of Grace' is simple. Every meal time as you say grace, or at any time that suits you, take a moment to think about the children caught up in disasters, emergencies or conflicts around the world who desperately need our help. Please put a few coins into a jar to help UNICEF's work for these children.

This year we are particularly thinking of the children in Syria and in West Africa who desperately need our help:-

- The conflict in Syria has raged on into a fourth terrible year. More than 2 million children and their families have been forced to take refuge in neighbouring countries. Many of these families are exposed to harsh conditions and, living in makeshift settlements, face increased risk of disease. With your help, UNICEF can continue to give more children and their families the life-saving services they need, including soap and hygiene items, medical treatment and safe drinking water.
- The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is the largest and deadliest the world has ever seen. Around 5,000 people have died and over 13,000 are infected across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Neighbouring countries are also at risk as the virus could spread quickly across borders. Right now children are in danger. Many have been orphaned by the disease and health facilities for pregnant women are closing and vital immunisation programmes are being halted because of the emergency. UNICEF is already on the ground, leading humanitarian efforts to control this dreadful disease. But it's a race against time to contain the outbreak and there is not enough funding to reach every child and community in danger.

What can we do to help?

Luke 3:10-11 says: 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

UNICEF goes the extra mile to protect children in all parts of the world. By taking part in 'Jar of Grace' you will have joined this fight. By living out your gospel imperative to protect children, you can help UNICEF achieve its' mission.

So please, if you are able, take a UNICEF collection box or an empty jar and put in some coins during the Advent season. You could also think about sending less Christmas cards and donating the money saved to this appeal, as I will be doing this year. You too can help to protect the world's children.

Sue Storrar

More information can be obtained from Sue or from www.unicef.org.uk

Snowdrop Garden

Bulbs have been planted and hopefully in the New Year we shall have carpet of snowdrops in our Church garden.

Thank you to everyone who participated raising the sum of £263 which has been given to Strathcarron Hospice for their work in our community.

Thanks also to Andy Gilmour for his help in preparing the ground for the snowdrops.

A representative from Strathcarron Hospice will be joining us to dedicate the garden on Sunday 22nd February 2015.

Jean McCheyne

Crossreach Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who bought cards and calendars in support of Crossreach Church of Scotland Charity. We sold over £600 worth, so well done!

Maisie Mortimer

Service

23rd November Informal Communion and memorial service

30th November Advent 1 Lorna Duncan

7th December Advent 2 Lorna Duncan

14th December Advent 3 Baptism and Gift Service

18th December Bankier School service

19th December Bankview Christmas service at 2 pm.

21st December Advent 4 service with the Praise Band

24th December & pm at Archie Russell Centre and 11.30pm
atHaggs

25th December 11am Christmas day service

28th December Lessons and Carols.

Carpet Bowls

The Carpet Bowls are held in the Church Hall on a Wednesday at 12.30 p.m. It is enjoyed by all who attend.

The Christmas lunch is at the Castlecary Hotel on 15th December and we are joining with the Guild for this event.

On behalf of the bowlers we wish you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2015.

Elma Findlay

Praise Band

The Praise Band joined with the congregation on 27th September for the Harvest Festival.

Rehearsals are now under way for Christmas when the Praise Band will be musically leading the last Sunday service in Advent on 21st December.

Thanks to Winnie and Arthur for all the work they do. From the Praise band we wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and may 2015 be a prosperous year for you.

Elma Findlay

The Guild

Four members of the Guild attended the Guild Rally in Dundee on 6th September and it was a very uplifting experience. The Guild commenced on 6th October and the dedication took place in the Church on 19th October and then on 20th October the Minister was our speaker. On 3rd November we had a Hallowe'en party. The Christmas lunch is on 15th December at the Castlecary Hotel – joined with the carpet bowl ladies.

Thanks to Maisie and Bea for all the work they do and on behalf of the Guild members we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2015.

Elma Findlay

The Gate of the Year

I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown”. And he replied – “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!”

So I went forth and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

Christmas Greetings

May you and your families enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Sue Storrar

A Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from Maisie Mortimer to everyone.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Ernest and Moira Martin.

Christmas greetings to everyone from Marion and Tom Dickson and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Moira Dalziel would like to wish all at Haggs Parish Church a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Best wishes for a happy Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year from Nan and Allan Young and family.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year from Fiona Schuit

Seasons greetings from Jean and Murray McCheyne and may 2015 be a happy and healthy year for everyone.

Elizabeth and Jack Dunn wish everyone a very Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful & Happy New Year.



May God bless you at this Christmas time and all good wishes for 2015 from Elma Findlay.

Gwen Hamilton and family wish all friends a Merry Christmas and good health for the year ahead.

Nan and Gary Ure wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Marion and Archie Campbell and family wish everyone a Merry Christmas and good New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from Evelyn Goble.

Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Sept. Mr Charles Dickson Banknock

Nov. Mr Michael Burt Bankview

1st Hags Boys Brigade

The Anchor Boys meet at Bankier School on a Tuesday evening from 6 – 7.15 p.m. The evening starts with a short Bible story and prayer, a game to run off steam, then craftwork, word-searches, tumbling and a game to finish.

The Junior Section also meet at Bankier School on a Tuesday evening from 7.15 – 9 p.m. Their activities are opening service, inspection, maze marching, games, tumbling, tuck shop and craftwork. The boys have already taken part in two Battalion competitions, the Alan Douglas – 11th out of 14 and Spiritual – 6th out of 16. We are starting badminton on a Wednesday evening at the Sports Hall and football on a Saturday morning. The staff are John and Sharon Fenney, Bobby Kelly, Fiona Reid, Gael Breakenridge and John Anderson.

The Company Section meet at Bankier School on Friday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. Our numbers are down slightly to 10 boys. We still have our normal activities of an evening and have taken part in Battalion and National competitions. We have progressed into the second round of Chess and Masterteam at National level, Vaulting and Table Tennis at Battalion level. The staffs are Colin, Meek, Alan Hobbs, Alan Laird, Robert Carson, Gavin and Calum Wardrop and Graham Upton.

Thanks to the staff for the time they spend with the boys.

Ernie Firth, Captain.

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