

The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Winter 2013



Hi Folks

As I write this letter we are approaching the 15th anniversary of my Ordination and Induction into the Charge of Haggs Parish Church.

How the years have flown. I have had the privilege of sharing in your glad times and your sad times and of sharing with you the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the parts of the Induction Service that I remember was when Rev G Blount reminded everyone that I was not just a present for Christmas.

A reminder to us all as we approach the festive season once more that our Lord Jesus Christ was not just a gift for Christmas but for all year round. A reminder that the baby in the manger grew into the man who preached and healed and taught of God's love and forgiveness.

The Son of God who died on the cross for us, that our sins might be forgiven.

Jesus gave his disciples the commandment that we should love one another as he has loved us. This year we have shown that love by supporting different causes and in the month of December we will continue with our Gift Service for local needs and our collections for Christian Aid to support our neighbours further afield.

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

"Jesus is the reason for this season"

This Christmas take time to put Christ back into Christmas. With all the suffering and wars, poverty and starvation let us pray for those less fortunate than ourselves. Give generously when you can and come and worship during this special season when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace into the world. A world that more than ever needs his message of peace and justice for all.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Jean McChevne



Christmas Greetings:

Archie and Marion Campbell wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Happy Christmas to everyone and a peaceful, healthy year ahead from Jean and Murray McCheyne.

Elizabeth and Jack Dunn wish everyone at Haggs a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mrs Gwen Hamilton and family wish all their friends a very Happy Christmas and health and happiness for 2014.

Seasons Greeting from Ernie and Moira Martin.

Christmas Greetings from Elma Findlay and best wishes for 2014.

Mrs Maisie Mortimer wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Hoping you all have a peaceful and loving Christmas with family and friends. Sue Storrar (Instead of sending local Christmas cards this year I am supporting families in Kenya to train in new farming techniques to improve their crops so their families can flourish)

37 Club

The 37 Club for gentlemen has resumed for the winter session. We meet every two weeks on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in the MacLean Hall where 5 or 6 of us get together. Gentlemen, do come along and join us for fun and fellowship. There is no annual subscription fee. We only pay £1.50 when we attend. Our first meeting in 2014 will be on Tuesday 7th January.

This is the Saviour of the World

Some regard the Christmas Story as something beautiful to hear a lovely Christmas custom that we celebrate each year But it's more than just a story told to make our hearts rejoice It's our Father up in Heaven speaking through the Christ Child's voice Telling us of heavenly kingdoms that he has prepared above For those who put their trust in His mercy and His love And only through the Christ Child can man be born again For God sent the Baby Jesus as the Saviour of all men.

Helen Steiner Rice

A Christmas Blessing for You

May Jesus, Our Saviour
who was born on Christmas Day
bless you at this season
in a very special way.
May the beauty and the promise
of that silent, holy night
fill your hearts with peace and happiness
and make your new year bright

Helen Steiner Rice Submitted by Nan Ure

IS IT TRUE?
Is it true, is it true,
Who told you, can it be true,
When did it happen, can you be sure,
Is it true, is it true.

Is it true, please let it be, We've waited so long, can it be true, Is it true, a baby is born? Is it true, please say it is true.

Yes it is true, a baby is born, Our Saviour born, yes it is true, Yes it is true, Our Saviour is here, To save the World, Yes it is true.

Church Fellowship Teas and Coffees

Since the beginning of September we have enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and a time of fellowship in the hall after church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this possible.

In order to keep this going through 2014 we again need your help, if you have helped before and would like to do so again or if you would like to for the first time, please contact Elizabeth Dunn. She will gladly add your name to her list and will explain to you what is involved.

Remember – Together We Make A Difference.

Elizabeth Dunn

Carpet Bowls

This activity is still enjoyed by those who attend. We are still small in number and would welcome any new members on a Wednesday afternoon at 12.30 p. m. in the church Hall.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2014.

Elma Findlay

The Guild

Dedication of the Guild was held in Church on 13th October and our first meeting was opened by the Minister as our first speaker. We have a varied programme for the session.

On 19th November we held a Hostess Tea with a Guild member hosting her table for her guests, It was an enjoyable afternoon rounded off by Jack Dunn leading us in community singing. The sum of £260 was raised for our projects. Thanks to Jack for coming along and entertaining us. The Christmas Dinner for the Guild and Carpet Bowls is at The Railway Inn, Dennyloanhead, on 11th December.

Thank you to all who support the Guild. We wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2014.

Elma Findlay

Praise Band

On Friday 9th November we held a sing along concert in aid of the Boys Brigade mini bus. We were very well supported and raised the sum of £553.60. Thank you to everyone who supported this venture and to all who helped on the night.

Special thanks to Colin Meek and the members of the Steadfast who helped with the teas, door duty and sale of lucky tickets. A big thank you once again to Murray McCheyne who was our stage manager keeping us in order. I wonder where he got his jokes!! Winnie and Arthur put so much hard work into these events and the rehearsals are a pleasure and a lot of fun. Thanks to Winnie and Arthur for all that they do and for the welcome we get. Thank you to everyone who supports us and we wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2014.

Elma Findlay

The Sunday Club

The Sunday Club has been busy since starting after the summer holidays and it's hard to believe we are now working towards the Christmas Service. We have another banner soon to be presented to the Church and have been busy with bible stories, arts and crafts and singing. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and send a very special THANK YOU to everyone for your support and in bringing the children along each week. Thanks also go to all who help keep the Sunday Club running, Moira, Libby and Nan.

Shona Laird

1st Haggs Girls Brigade

Explorers

This section was host to the annual competition this year. Several companies were represented and the theme was "under the sea". The teams were to make an aquarium from a cardboard box with a peek a boo flap for viewing. While the hosts did not win everyone enjoyed themselves.

M. Martin (Lieutenant)

1st Haggs B.B.

All sections have restarted with numbers down slightly in Anchor Boys and Junior sections and Company section up slightly. Anchor boys programme is going well with Bible stories, word searches, craftwork and games. Junior Sections have taken part in two Battalion competitions, the Alan Douglas and Spiritual where four boys took part in each. Tuesday evening programmes consist of opening service, maze marching, tumbling, music, puzzles and games.

Company Section has also been involved in Battalion competitions 5s, badminton, vaulting and table tennis. National competitions table tennis, badminton, masterteam and chess. Our Friday activities are opening service, drill, badge work, vaulting and games. Thanks to all helpers and officers for the work they do with the boys. The boys and officers would like to thank the Praise Band for the concert which everyone enjoyed to raise funds for another mini bus also to members of the Church for their kind donations.

Ernie Firth (Captain)

UNICEF

During Advent we will be collecting again for UNICEF through 'The Jar of Grace' appeal.

Every 20 seconds a child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease. Every £1 we raise could provide vaccines to protect 25 children from diseases such as tetanus.

UNICEF is busy working in the Philippines helping children affected by Typhoon Haiyan. With our help, UNICEF can provide vulnerable children with essential supplies such as water, medicine and life-saving emergency food.

So during the period of Advent please put your loose change into a jar or one of the boxes available at church and the proceeds will be sent to UNICEF at the beginning of the New Year.

Thank you for your support, Sue Storrar

CHRISTIAN AID GIVE, ACT, PRAY at CHRISTMAS TIME

Points for prayer:

- For yourself that this Advent you will find time to reflect on God's great love for a broken world.
- For your church to be a beacon of hope, a sanctuary of peace and a wellspring of joy in this season.
- For the wider world that in places of conflict, there will be peace; in places of brokenness, there will be healing; and in places of despair, there will be hope.

Please come to the 'Soup & Sandwich' lunch following the Gift Service on December 15th and give generously for the work of Christian Aid at the retiral offering after the Mid-night service on Christmas eve.

Banner Group

This group has now met with a view to producing one or two new banners for the Church. If you feel you would like to come along and have some input in a new banner please do. We shall be meeting on 3rd December but I suspect some may not receive this magazine until after that date so the first meeting in the new year will be on Tuesday 14th January 2014 in the MacLean Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Jean McCheyne

'Yoga for All'

This general yoga group meets on Thursday evenings in the Church Hall from $7.00-8.15 \mathrm{pm}$

The last session for this year will be a Charity night on December 12th – when no fees will be collected, with all donations going to UNICEF.

'Yoga for All' will restart on Thursday January 23rd 2014 following Sue's trip to India.

For further details on yoga sessions – contact Sue Storrar (01324-840757)

Make the Most of Today

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account with £86,400 every day. It carries over no balance from day to day. What would you do? Draw out every penny of course.

Each of us in fact has such a bank. It's name is 'Time'. Every day it credits you with 86,400 seconds. At the end of each day it writes off whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you.

Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposit wisely, the loss is yours. There is no going back. You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in life.

The clock is running. Make the most of today. Anon – Submitted by Sue Storrar

Speak Out – Make a Difference

When Jesus said "the poor will always be with you", he did not then add "so that's all right then". This Bible quote has been used over the centuries to justify the acceptance of the injustice of poverty and complacency in the face of the poor, but it is really a challenge that our responsibility as individuals, and as a society, to those most vulnerable never goes away.

The Church of Scotland has collaborated with the Baptist Union, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church to produce a report 'The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty' (2013)

In this report the myths about poverty, reinforced by politicians and the media are challenged by examining the statistics available from public sources. Myths such as:

- 'They' are lazy and don't want to work
- 'They' are addicted to drink and drugs
- 'They' are not really poor they just don't manage their money properly
- 'They' are on the fiddle
- 'They' have an easy life
- 'They' caused the deficit

These myths are convenient because they allow the poor to be blamed for their poverty, and the rest of society to avoid taking any of the responsibility. Myths hide the complexity of the true nature of poverty in the UK. Social injustices are prevalent in Britain today with 1 in 5 children living in poverty and a growing number of people welcoming help from food banks.

The congregation here at Haggs Church are generously supporting the poor in Falkirk by regularly contributing to the Falkirk Food bank. As well as giving this practical support we, as Christians, need to examine the poverty myths and test them against serious evidence. As well as giving contributions we need to ask 'Why are people living in poverty?'

We are called to tell the truth. The truth is that every human being is valued, honoured and loved by God, regardless of their material wealth. The truth is that we are all created to be interdependent upon one another. And we have a responsibility to speak these truths even when they are uncomfortable or unwelcome.

For further information:

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Diary 2013

December	
1^{st}	Advent Christmas Sale after Church at Teas./Coffees
	3 p.m. Memorial Service
15th	11.30 a.m. Gift Service/Soup & Sandwich Lunch
18th	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
	6 p.m. Carol Singing at Bankview Nursing Home
24 th	7 p.m. Family Service at Head of Muir School
	11.30 p.m. Watch Nigh Service at Haggs
25 th	Christmas Day Service
29th	Lessons and Carols



The winter magazine would not be the same without the following:

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)

Marriage 'Whom God has joined together'

Sept 12 Catherine Black to Robert Moffat
Oct 13 Alison Vella to Iain Walker
Nov 23 Morven Costello to Silvio Carinhas

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Sept Mr John Henderson Banknock Oct Mrs Rae Harkins "

Nov Mrs Yvonne Black Bonnybridge

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