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of Scotland

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THE LINK

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Autumn 2008**

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Haggs Manse
September 2008

Hi folks,

Paul writes: "I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day." 2 Timothy 4:7,8.

During August athletes from all over the world took part in the Olympic Games in China and our own British contingent brought home a goodly crop of medals and more importantly had done their best.

Before the Summer break we in Haggs Parish Church ran a campaign to celebrate how together we make a difference. May I take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the running of the campaign. Also all who have responded by their presence at worship and their suggestions and offers of help to enable us to continue to make a difference in our parish and in the wider work of the Church.

The ties that bound our athletes together in China was the opportunity to represent their country. The ties that bind us together is the opportunity to be part of the body of Christ. We have taken vows of commitment to give of our time and our talents in following Him. The prize for victory in the Olympics was a medal of Gold, our prize is being put right with God.

As we begin the new session for all our organisations I wish you God's blessing on all your endeavours.

God bless you all
Helen F Christie

EDITORIAL

Did you watch the Olympics? Aside from the spectacle of the opening and closing ceremonies, how about the performance of Team GB. They were so successful that they even exceeded the medal targets that had been set for London 2012. What we witnessed was a group of people coming together and functioning as a team to the extent that they exceeded expectations.

Together they made a difference.

So what about Team HAGGS? How did we perform?

At the end of last year the Kirk Session accepted an invitation to participate in a pilot stewardship programme which was called **Together we make a difference**. A Steering Committee was set up. Team Leaders and Visitors were recruited and everyone was invited to attend one of our Gatherings. The Gatherings were held and members were asked to return a Response Card indicating how they would continue to support our Church here in Haggs. The results of the responses have been analysed and the Kirk Session is preparing an action plan outlining what we will do next.

To everyone who participated in any of the above activities we say Thank-You very much.

So, what difference did we make? Some people have returned to church after a period of absence. To you we say Welcome Back. Some people have offered to help maintain the grounds and the fabric of the church. Others have offered to help in organisations. To you we say Thank-You. Yet others have committed to increase their givings to the church. Again we say Thank-you.

Remember: TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jack Dunn

What Difference did we make? Here is a little self-check table for you to complete, just tick the boxes:

I was on the Steering Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was a Team Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was a Visitor	<input type="checkbox"/>
I helped prepare for the Gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>
I attended a Gathering	<input type="checkbox"/>
I completed and returned a Response Card	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summer is over. The rain was warm. I hope that everyone managed to find some time to relax, despite the weather conditions. The Church is re-awakening after its Summer slumber. We need the support of every member, in every and any way that you can, whether it be through worship, attending or helping with organisations, or through our givings.

Even though the stewardship programme is over, we can still Continue to Make a Difference.

Jack Dunn

An Irish blessing.

As you slide down the great banister of life, may all your splinters be facing in the right direction!!

“Out of the mouths of babes”

A few years ago there was a young lady Sunday School teacher who decided to set her class a task. They were to learn the 23rd Psalm from the Bible and were given one month to tackle it.

After the month was up, one by one, the children took it in turns to recite the Psalm and managed very well. It came to the last wee boy called David, who had struggled all along to learn it. He stood up and in a loud voice and began, **“The Lord is my Shepherd”** *“that’s all I need to know!”*

Once again we thank all who donate flowers to the church and to the people who deliver them after worship on Sunday, to the sick, the troubled and whoever the minister wishes them to go to.

I will give her the valley of trouble as a door of hope, she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth.

Hosea 2 v 15

Moira Martin

At the Closing of the Day by Eila Webster

You wake up to a rosy dawn from the slumbers of the night
Blissfully you fill the hours when everything goes right
We all have moments such as this as we journey on life’s way
Yet they pass by without a thought at the closing of the day

Another day when you awake you feel tired and wear a frown
The hours ahead all look so black when somebody lets you down
The hurt it festers in the soul and life seems dull and grey
If you keep on remembering this at the closing of the day

Why is it – when we are happy of God’s gifts we’re unaware
As we go gaily on our way without a thought or care
It’s only when the goings tough or if we have gone astray
We see a path of thorns ahead at the closing of the day

But sometimes as we grow older we see the error of our ways
By accepting now what the day brings for joyful moments, giving praise
Life is mixed, some light some shade but when to Him we pray
Our Lord will bring peace to the soul at the closing of the day.

Nan Ure.

1st. Haggs Junior Section - Week-end camp, Girvan , June 2008

After all hard work with our 75th Anniversary celebrations, 16 boys and 6 officers set off excitedly for our camp. Unfortunately, we could not have Denny's bus this year, so we took three cars and our own minibus. We arrived around 8pm and, after unpacking, set off to explore Girvan. After supper they had some games and then into their sleeping bags. Some of the boys slept a little. Some, we suspect, probably didn't sleep at all! However, this is all par for the course, and the next morning, bright and early, we arose to greet what looked like the start of a really bright sunny day! A picnic seemed a great idea, so some of us set off to the newly built ASDA to get some goodies, while the boys played football and then set off to the swimming baths. At lunchtime we sat on the grassy bank above the beach and had a good "tuck in. " Then down to the sand, where they had a brilliant time. They were in the water and, of course, everything wet was covered in sand. We applied copious amounts of sun tan lotion, as the sun got hotter and hotter, and then we played beach games. This involved a lot of running around, with some of the officers joining in. (This is when you discover how old you really are!)

Much later, we all trailed back to the hall, where we left all the sandy shoes and clothes outside, and brought out a large basin of water to wash everyone's feet before we went into the hall.

Tired, though they were, the boys played a few games while some of us prepared a barbecue round the side of the Church. After the afternoon we had had, the boys were very hungry, and demolished all the food, finishing off with "knickerbocker glories" made with real ice cream from the Italian café and various other fruit, chocolate flakes, and fruit sauces to hand!

After clearing up we went down to the amusements for a while and then back for more games and supper (groan, more food!)

Midnight, all the boys were conked out, with various colours of faces from the sun, sticking out of the top of their sleeping bags, leaving the officers a wee while to relax and reflect on the great day!

Sunday dawned. After breakfast we tidied up the hall and put out the chairs and tables for the Sunday school. Then off to Church where the boys helped with the service.

Lunch followed and, as the weather was now very unsettled, our convoy set off for Ayr. Unfortunately, one of the boys in the van had a migraine, and we had to stop at various intervals to let him out. Further up the road, one of the cars which had been borrowed for the camp, had an accident with another car, which ran into the back of it. All the passengers were fine, however, and as the other driver admitted liability, John's Dad's car is now returned to its former glory! This had happened right at Heads of Ayr farm, a large play area for children, and the people there let us in free until the Police were finished with the drivers. We were soon free to go, and around an hour or so later, we arrived home to the cheering parents, very tired and very grubby, but having had a fantastic time! A brilliant end to a very busy year.

By the time you read this we will have started a new session. Some of our boys will have moved up to the Company section and we will have new recruits from the Anchor boys. We would love to swell our numbers so if you know anyone in primaries 4, 5 and 6 please encourage them to come along and join us on Tuesdays at Banker Primary School from 7pm and 9pm.

Morag Wales officer-in-charge.

1st Hags Girls Brigade

The new session begins on Tuesday 9th September in the Church Hall:

Explorers 5.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Junior Brigaders 6.45 – 8 p.m.

All girls will be made most welcome.

As the new session Begins we (the Officers and Helpers) look forward to seeing the girls and welcoming them back, refreshed and enthusiastic for the year ahead.

The Opening Service will be held on Tuesday 30th September at 7 p.m. in the Church Hall. Everyone will be warmly welcome to come along to join in the service.

Liz Heeps.

Keep Fit

The class has continued through the summer with a regular attendance, which has helped to raise funds for the Church and a cancer patient in need. The class use Gym Balls for a work out; the exercise is for any fitness level so come along and try it out (If you have a gym ball bring it along). Class is at 8 p.m. from Tuesday 9th September. Money raised goes to the Church and other charities.

For more information contact Liz Heeps

Baptism

‘Suffer little children to come unto me’

June 1 Hannah Margaret Scoular

July 7 Brodie Emily Walls Fitzpatrick

Marriage

‘Whom God has joined together’

Mar. 30 Sarah Mather to Anton Stephenson

Apr. 5 Wendy McGlashan to Paul Harvey

6 Julie Boyle to Richard Leigh

June 28 Kelly Pritchard to David Fleming

28 Winifred Harkness to Arthur MacMillan

July 3 Alison McGhie to Martyn Yule

4 Laura Gwynne to Robert Cumming

19 Claire McKenzie to David Sherry

20 Naomi Haddrell to Brian Henderson

Aug. 1 Primrose Dunbar to John Beaton

2 Cheryl Tait to Michael Dodds

3 Dionne Beard to Martin Firth

17 Elaine Kilday to Barry O’Donnell

22 Susan Smelt to Alan Fisher

23 Marlene Millar to Andrew Liddell

31 Susan Howden to William McGuckin

Deaths

‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

June Baby Lewis Hodge Carron

Bruce Swan Hags

July Roy Arthur Banknock

Mrs Jean Fleming Banknock

Robert Easton Dennyloanhead

Rose Burnside Condorrat

Aug. Baby Hannah Stewart Carronshore

Mrs Sarah Hamilton Banknock

Alexander Cooper Stenhousemuir

Derek Russell Dennyloanhead

Baby Maddison Alexander Reading

James Taylor Longcroft

Baby Alexander McIvar Rumford

Allan Neil Bonnybridge