

**Minister: Rev. Helen Christie BD**

The Manse

5 Watson Place

Dennyloanhead

Bonnybridge

FK42BG

Tel: 01324 813786

**Session Clerk: Pro tem**

**Mr Jack Dunn**

Tel: 01324 840763

**Mr Murray McCheyne**

Tel: 01324 840137

**Beadle: Mr Thomas Mortimer**

Tel: 01324 813164

**Clerk to the Congregational Board:**

**Mr Drew Christie**

Tel: 01324 813786

[www.haggschurch.org.uk](http://www.haggschurch.org.uk)

The Church  
of Scotland



**THE LINK**

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church  
Spring 2009**

Spring 09

Haggs Manse  
March 2009

## EDITORIAL

**Hi folks,**

At long last Spring is in the air and the bulbs are beginning to bloom in the gardens. A time of new beginnings.

The theme in Scotland for the year 2009 is one of Homecoming as we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Burns and hope to encourage folk to visit Scotland. The Church is taking this opportunity to encourage folk to visit our churches and to examine their faith and come home to God.

The parable of the Lost Son is a wonderful illustration of this homecoming, especially the description of the father seeing his son when he was still a long way from home and running to meet him and throwing his arms around him.

We are now in Lent, a time for us to renew our commitment to follow Christ as we approach Holy Week and Easter. A time that reminds us how far God is willing to go to reach out to us with love and forgiveness. A time that gives us hope for this life and for the future.

This Easter come home to Church. If you have not been for some time why not take this opportunity to come and celebrate the hope that came with the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with us yesterday, today and forever.

God bless you all this Easter

**Helen F Christie**

This Edition of the magazine was prepared as we approach the season of Lent. The dictionary tells us that Lent is the “Christian period of fasting and repentance before Easter”. We tend to think of it as the time when we should give up something or make some sort of sacrifice. We also tend to see it as building up to Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection – the end of his ministry and life on earth.

In fact Lent recalls the period of time at the beginning of Christ’s ministry when he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus rejected the temptations and set off on a ministry that led him to a cross on Calvary. Jesus sacrificed himself for us and did what his Father in Heaven asked Him to do. His faith in God was what saw Him through the remainder of His life and the pain and agony of his death on the cross.

The Bible tells us that it is our Faith that finds favour with God, not the things that we do. So giving up something for Lent will not achieve very much for us in God’s eyes other than some personal satisfaction. What will find favour is the way we express our Faith through our worship, prayers and witness for Christ.

Perhaps we should use Lent not to give up something but to consider and resist the many temptations that life brings to us in today’s world and to re-start our Christian life, as Christ started His, by affirming our belief in God and by then living a life, as Christ did, that demonstrates our faith and belief in Him.

The magazine committee wishes you a contemplative and rewarding Lent and Easter.

**Jack Dunn**

## A LETTER FROM GOD

As you woke up this morning, I watched and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday but I noticed you were too busy trying to decide what to wear before going to work.

I waited again. When you ran around the house getting ready, I hoped there would be a few minutes for you to and say Hello but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do but sit in a chair. Then you sprang to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called your friend to get the latest gossip. I watched as you went to work and waited patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.

I noticed that before you started your lunch you looked around – maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, which is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced at some of your friends who were talking to me briefly before they ate – but you didn't. That's OK, there is still more time left and I have hope that you will talk to me yet.

And then I heard the words I had been waiting for: "Oh my God" – but it was only a woman at an adjacent table reacting to something she had been told. "For God's sake" – from a man who was frustrated at not being able to start his car. "Jesus Christ" – from a youth who was angry at one of his friends. None of them really wanted to talk to me. They just took my name in vain.

You went home and it seems as if you had a lot of things to do. After doing a few of them, you turned on the TV. You watched quite a lot. I don't know if you liked it or not but you managed to find the time for it – but still no time for me.

Bedtime and I guess you felt tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's OK because you may not realise that I am always there for you. I've got more patience than you

will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait every day for a nod, a prayer or a thought from a thankful part of your heart.

It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Well, here you are getting up again. I will wait with nothing but love for you, hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a nice and wonderful day.

Your trusted and best friend,

GOD.

*(A modified version of an original from the magazine of Denny Westpark church)*

What is the use of nothing?  
It's no good to me or you,  
Yet sometimes saying nothing  
Is the wisest thing to do,  
And sometimes on reflection,  
You can hear that inner voice  
Which tells you doing nothing  
Would have been the better choice.

Submitted by N. Ure

## **CUMBERNAULD ANNIVERSARY**

Cumbernauld Old Parish is celebrating 350 years of worship this year and has organised a series of events to mark the anniversary.

The opening service in January was conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Findlay McDonald, Principal Clerk to the Church of Scotland and a former Moderator. In June, the current Moderator, the Right Rev. David Lunan will conduct their Summer service and, in November, a candlelight service will take place with invited special guests.

A book about the Church has been published and an Open Doors day will be held in September. The church has put out a call to all members and people with a church connection to get in touch. The congregation are extending an invitation to all to come and worship with them during this very special year.

### **Life & Work, Jan 2009**

### **Keep Fit**

Every Tuesday from September – March from 8 – 9 p.m. and April to September 6-7 p.m.

Gym Balls are used which is for every fitness level.

We have a regular attendance of approximately 6-9 people. All monies gathered have gone to the Church this year but in the past has gone to various charities. So please come along and support our good causes as well as keeping fit. Give me a call if you would like to come but don't have your own ball.

**Liz: 07813 857 486**

## **BIBLE CENTRED**

The following appeared as part of a letter in the February 2009 edition of Life & Work The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119

The chapter in the centre of the Bible is Psalm 118

There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after it  
 $594 + 594 = 1188$

The centre verse in the Bible is Psalm 118 v 8 which says "It is better to trust in the Lord than to depend on man".

## **Flower Circle**

Have you ever noticed when visiting someone in hospital that there are usually lovely floral arrangements in the female wards but there are very rarely any in the male wards.

I wonder why?

Do men not like flowers?

It is usually the men who look after the gardens.

We never see females tending the districts gardens.

I wonder why?

Thank you to all who have provided the flowers for our church over the year, I know that they are appreciated and bring some happiness to those who receive them after the services on a Sunday.

**Moira and Jean**

## Presbyterial Council of the Guild

**Hi Folks,**

It has been a long hard winter, but hopefully the worst is now over and Spring will soon be with us. The weather may have been bad but the Guilds locally have been flourishing, in fact this morning I got a report in from one who has 70+ members, and that is not the biggest! It is such a wonderful movement and it is a shame that it is still seen as a sexist and age related organisation. I know when I was asked to join "our Guild" I was reluctant but have never regretted it. It has opened up an insight of the work of the Church of Scotland to me. I know it was initially due to the Late Rev. Duncan McClements and our last minister Rev S Fulton for encouraging me, I had just joined Presbytery when I was given the opportunity to become World Mission Convenor and the rest is history.

Over the past 120 years the Guild has changed but never its intentions "whose we are and whom we serve". It was founded by the Rev. Dr Chartres to give women their rightful place in the Church - it took a long time but we have succeeded.

Our next year theme is What does the Lord Require of you? Starting this year with Justice? Based on Micah 6 V8.

It has given me great pleasure to speak to so many guilds and to have received such friendship from them (I have been speaking mainly about the history of the Guild).

We have three important dates coming up. AGM in March, in April our Theme Topic evening – in June our summer rally. Pray for the further success and why not join us at Hags.

I hope you enjoyed my writings in the Falkirk Herald during December and my article in Life and Work in October.

**Yours in Christian fellowship, Jean Cowan**  
*(Convenor of Presbyterial Council).*

## 1st Hags Girls Brigade

We have a very good company this year which consist of 26 girls in total on a regular basis. This year the Explorers theme has been "Things" so we have had lots of fun, discovering about different "Things"

Juniors 4 Badge sections consist of physical, spiritual, educational and science. We have completed our Badge work successfully and enjoyed this very much.

We have one Brigader this year and hopefully this will increase next session.

We had a great Hallowe'en Party this year with a challenge set to the girls to make their own costumes, and parents what a great response, fabulous!

At Christmas we again distributed the Xmas cards which raised £95, so thanks to all for their donations.

At the Junior Challenge Competition held in Erskine Church, Falkirk, the 4 girls who attended, 2 of them came in second place, Congrats Emma & Sarah. Great fun was had by all.

The yearly Central Region Gathering Night was held at Abbotsgrange Church. This was a success with choruses, stories and a good way of meeting different companies and being together.

Chocolate night 24<sup>th</sup> February we had a great turnout and made £300.

Thanks to all for your support. Hope you didn't feel too sick with all that yummy chocolate!

Our Parents Night takes place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at 7 p.m. so please come along and join our fun.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Haggis Boy's Brigade Company Section**

Just a short note to keep you all up to date with what has been going on this year.

We have on average 20 – 22 boys attending on a Friday night. Our ages this year ranging from P.7 to S5 which gives us for the first time in a number of years a Senior section. We hope to have one Queen Badge completion and 3 more starting work on their Queens Badge and one Presidents Badge completion by the end of the session.

This year we have again taken part in the National Competitions and progressed further than anytime in the last 10 years. In the Masterteam we were only one round away from the Scottish final. In the Table Tennis we reached the last 12 which is again one round away from the Scottish final as 6 teams complete in the final. In the Chess we reached the last 8 having beaten one of last years finalists only to be knocked out 5-4 by the company who have won the competition for the last 3 years running (that's the luck of the draw)

At Battalion level we are involved in Football Senior and Junior, Badminton, Cross country with some boys going to the Scottish to represent Falkirk. Table tennis one team in 1<sup>st</sup> division and one team in the second division, Chess (we came 2<sup>nd</sup>), Swimming, Pulpit Fall (we came 3<sup>rd</sup>) Drill, Vaulting (we came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), First Aid and Golf.

A date for your diary this year is our annual Parents Night/Display which is on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Bankier Primary

May I take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Boys and parents for their support in making this a very successful year for the Company Section.

**Colin Meek**  
**Officer in Charge**

## **Baptism**

### **'Suffer little children to come unto me'**

Dec. 21 Laurie Baxter  
Max Maurice Cartwright

## **Marriage**

### **'Whom God has joined together'**

Dec 31 Kerry Taylor to Paul O'Connor  
Feb 21 Mary Hannan to Stewart Yardley

## **Deaths**

### **'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'**

Nov	James McFarlane Baby Mason	Banknock Stirling
Dec	Miss Elizabeth Bateman Ian Marshall Mrs Hilary Wood	Banknock Banknock Banknock
Jan	Mrs Kathleen Reid Baby Sneddon Mrs Carol Reid Mrs Catherine Beable Baby Adair	Bonnybridge Falkirk Banknock Banknock Clackmannan
Feb	Baby Bateman Baby Carmichael Daniel Scott	Bonnybridge Falkirk Banknock