



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Spring 2014



Haggs Manse
March 2014

Hi Folks

Once more we are in the season of Lent approaching the most important celebration of the Christian year EASTER.

But before Easter we have this time of reflection, of Spring cleaning you could say, clearing our mind of all the clutter and focusing once more on what it means to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. We don't retreat out into the wilderness and we don't fast for 40 days and 40 nights

Some of us might go to a Lenten Study group others may give up chocolate, or crisps or cigarettes as a symbol of fasting.

This year as you reflect on your own life and the gifts that have been given to you take time to consider your neighbours' needs. In Haggs Church we now support the Falkirk Food Bank why not consider giving a donation of food as a thanks offering to God for the blessings given to you.

Then on Easter Sunday morning as the call rings out Christ is Risen, Alleluia come and join us in our worship and fellowship. If you are on holiday elsewhere find a church to join in their worship on this most special day of the year. The day when we are reminded of the promise of new life given to each of us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the words of the hymn Because He lives I can face tomorrow Christ gives us hope yesterday, today and forever.

God bless you all this Easter
Helen F Christie

Minister's Report ASM 2014

During 2013 our Sunday Services followed the normal sequence through put the year with our two formal Communion Services and a number of informal communion Services. During the year the members attending the early service at the Archibald Russell Centre decided to attend the main service at Haggs Parish Church.

Our special services included our new Souper Sunday, Christian Unity Service, Homeless Sunday and Sea Sunday. We enjoyed visits from the Gideons and a spokesman from the Falkirk Food Bank and continued to support Christian Aid and the Vine Trust during the year.

Our Stewardship Season during May was on the them of time and from it came the continued commitment to Christian Aid and our new commitment to supporting the Falkirk Food Bank. A special thanks to Jack Dunn for his sponsored cycle.

In May, Murray McCheyne and myself were Commissioners to the General Assembly and report due diligence in our attendance, at what was a very interesting but tiring week.

During 2013 we welcomed 4 new members and shared in 5 baptism's and I officiated at 8 weddings and 29 funeral services. In the community I continue to have services at Bankview Care home and act as Chaplain to Bankier and Head of Muir Primary Schools.

The different organisations have given their own reports but I wish to include my own thanks to all their office-bearers for their continued contribution to the mission of the church of the church in the community and also to thank all who organise and support our giving to our different charities throughout the year.

A special thanks to all who serve our teas and coffees after church and our special lunches which give both a time of fellowship and aid to others. Once more I give thanks to all on the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, especially Murray McCheyne, Sue Storrar, Drew Christie and Marion Campbell.

Our property committee continue to work in the background to keep us wind and weather tight and our church cleaning rota and flower rota mean the church is welcoming for worship, thank you. Thanks to

my beadle Ernie Martin, organist Drew Christie, the Choir and Praise Group led by Winnie and Arthur MacMillan who through music add to the beauty of our worship.

During 2013 a small group of elders have continued to meet to discuss the way forward for the Denny area under the Presbytery Plan and I hope and pray that some agreement will be reached before I retire in 2015. It will be a challenging year, but also a year of celebration for Haggs Church's 175 birthday. Let us look forward in faith that our Christian mission to this Parish will continue in years to come.

Rev Helen F Christie

Editorial

In this Spring magazine you will find report and accounts from the Church Annual Stated Meeting along with all the different activities that you will be able to participate in.

Have a Happy Easter!

Jean McCheyne

WINTER WARMER CONCERT:

On Friday 21st February, about sixty of us were entertained in the Church Hall by the Falkirk Bohemians. It was a most enjoyable evening and raised £506 for Church Funds. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to a very successful evening.

Jack Dunn

Carpet Bowls

Although small in number this activity is enjoyed by all who attend. It is a very pleasant afternoon with plenty of chat and tea and coffee. We meet in the Church Hall at 12.30pm on a Wednesday afternoon and would be pleased to see any new members.

Choir

Although small in number we do our best to lead the praise on Sundays.

We are looking to introducing an Introit to our worship on Sundays, hopefully within the next two months.

If you sing and enjoy singing join us on a Sunday morning. Male members would be made most welcome which as well as filling the back row, would bring some depth to our singing.

I would take this opportunity in thanking those who have led the singing throughout the year.

A Christie

Yoga for All

The group of 10 – 15 ladies has continued using the Church Hall during 2013 –14 on Thursday evenings for their weekly yoga classes.

They have shown their appreciation for the use of the clean and warm hall by making regular donations to Church funds. Instead of paying fees for the final class before Christmas the yoga class gave donations to the UNICEF ‘Jar of Grace’ appeal.

Sue Storrar

Praise Band

We are now rehearsing for Easter and Pentecost and there are some well known pieces along with new additions. Winnie and Arthur make all most welcome so if you feel you would like to show us your talent, come along to Winnie and Arthur’s house on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and become part of our group.

E Findlay

Stewardship of Talents

In the past two years Hags Parish Church has followed a Stewardship Program in the month of May and we have concentrated on giving of money and then giving of time. This year is no exception and in May our stewardship theme will be Giving of Talents.

Within the church there are many people with exceptional talents including music, sewing, painting and decorating, carpentry, gardening, IT skills, electrical expertise, organisational abilities, baking, soup making to name but a few. A number of projects, as listed below, have been identified for completion this year and it is hoped that we can use our talents to do this work as an integral part of our stewardship season in May.

Please do consider the work to be done and if you have a skill, talent or aptitude that you can offer to help then please contact Sue Storrar who will be pleased to give you further information and the contact details of the person leading each project.

Once more, you are reminded that as we look ahead to next year when our minister will retire and the number of ministries in the area will be reduced from five to four, we will require to be more self sufficient in many ways. One way in which we can all help is by giving freely of our talents to help in the up keep and running of our church.

Let us all reflect on how much of our selves we can give to our church and to God. Everyone on becoming a communicant member of the Church of Scotland by Profession of Faith has vowed to give a fitting proportion of their time, talents & money to their Church. “Don’t hide your light under a bushel”. Let us know about your talents and use them for your church here in Hags.

*Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (Pro Tem)
Contact Sue Storrar at 01324- 840757*

LET IT SHINE!

STEWARDSHIP SEASON –MAY 2014

Following the response to the request for members to share their TALENTS for the Stewardship Season in May 2014, the following ideas are being planned:

- The stage area in the Church Hall will be renovated i.e. the back wall will be recovered, the stage front painted and the stage curtains cleaned and re-hung.
- The Church Hall will be given a spring clean, notice boards cleared and new headings for different organisations and fresh displays put up.
- Church garden will be tidied and new plants added.
- The new banner will be displayed in the church foyer area – with the existing bookshelves adapted or new ones purchased.
- A ‘Musicathon’ will take place in the church hall - with live music being provided by church members/friends of the church/praise band/BB/GB/ school choirs etc. with posters, request forms and programme available.
- Refreshments will be available with teas/coffees/home baking being sold to supporters at a ‘Coffee Morning’ + a ‘Lucky draw’ on Saturday 24th May.
- Christian Aid ‘Soup & Sandwich’ lunch on 11th May and Christian Aid week from 11th-17th May

We hope that as many members as possible will use their talents to ‘Let it shine’, making these events a sign of the love and fellowship we offer to others at Hags Church.

Girls’ Brigade Report.

We have had four Explorers regularly attending over the session. The Explorers’ have been working on the Animal Kingdom. They have made a few collages while learning all about the different animals there are from around the world. The girls have also taken part in the Divisional Competition before Christmas where they made a cardboard fish tank. Although we did not win all the girls who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This session we have had five Juniors who regularly attend each week. The Juniors this year have completed their Spiritual and Service sections of their badge work. These were ‘Badge Reformed’ and ‘Girls’ Brigade Around the World’. They are now working on their Physical and Education sections, which are dancing, and Safety at home and outside. This year the Junior Section shall be enjoying a fun day which will be based on the Commonwealth games.

We have three Brigaders attending this year, Sarah, Lauren, and Carly. The Brigaders this year have been working hard to complete all four sections of their badge work as well as being very helpful with the other sections whenever any officer has needed help. They have also been studying hard for a competition they will be taking part of this year; we wish them all the luck with this.

This year also marks the last year of our Senior Brigader, Sarah Laird, we wish her all the luck with her future pursuits and we hope to welcome her back after the summer as a full auxiliary.

We have had two fund raising events this session. The Christmas Card deliveries that raised about £40 and our ever popular Chocolate Evening raising £170. A big thank you all the people involved in running and supporting these events.

**Shirley-Anne Hobbs
Girls Brigade Captain**

1st Hags Boys' Brigade

The Anchor boys meet on a Tuesday evening between 6.00pm and 7.15pm in Bankier Primary School. The evening begins with a Bible story and prayer, then they play their games for a short period of time, then they into the community wing for craftwork, word searches, biscuits and juice, when they are finished, they go back into the school hall for more games and before you know it, it is time to go home. We close with a boy saying the closing prayer. Thanks to all the helpers Bobby, Gail, Fiona, Beth and the Company Section boys.

Junior Section also meet on a Tuesday evening from 7.15pm to 9.00pm. Our opening service and inspection begins the evening, followed by figure marching, chess, recorders and tumbling, then a tuck shop to finish off. The boys have taken part in Battalion competitions The Alan Douglas competition, Spiritual ,Chess and swimming. Thanks to George, Sandra, John, Sharon and the Company Section boys for their help.

The Company Section meet on a Friday evening at the school from 7.45pm to 9.45pm. The evening begins with the opening service and inspection, then drill, tuck shop, badge work, box work and games. We entered the National and Battalion competitions, we didn't do very well in the National competitions, but in the Battalion competitions we attained Vaulting 2nd, Badminton 2nd Seniors : 1st X country Intermediate with two boys Grant Kirkwood and Lewis Symon representing the Battalion at the national X country at Coatbridge, Pulpit Fall 2nd, Swimming 3rd, Chess 1st. Drill and First Aid still to happen ! Thanks to Colin, the two Alans and Robert for their time on a Friday evening. The boys and officers would like to thank everyone for their kind donations towards a newer min-bus.

E Firth (Captain)

1st Hags B.B.

All sections have been working hard this session with a slight increase in numbers in the Anchor Boys., Junior Section down also the Company Section.

Junior Section took part in the swimming gala and came in 7th out of 12. They are still doing their activities on a Tuesday evening and working towards our annual display.

The company section have been working hard towards the drill and first aid competitions, taken part in the swimming gala, came 3rd in Cross country with Lewis Symon winning the intermediate race and both Lewis and Grant Kirkwood running for the Battalion.

All sections are preparing for parents night on Saturday 10th May at Bankier School. Come along and see the boys.

Ernest Firth (Captain)

CHURCH HISTORY:

As part of our preparation for next year's 175th Anniversary celebrations we are updating the Church History which appears on our website.

We are therefore looking for photographs, programmes, newspapers, brochures, in fact anything at all about the Church and this community.

If you have anything and would like to lend it to us please contact Jack Dunn (01324 840763). We will copy or scan it and return it to you. Our hope is to prepare a booklet for distribution to the congregation with perhaps a display in the Church Hall.

Jack Dunn

Sunday Club

We have ten young people on our roll. Shona aims to give the older girl, Chloe Currie more Bible instruction while Moira and Libby attend to the junior members.

We follow the same theme as the lectern lesson, gauging the lesson depending on the age range of the young people in attendance. We follow the same format each week and we try to do a few action/singing activities which the younger ones enjoy. We also have a new game called Do This – Do That which everyone enjoys. We continue to support the Vine Trust throughout the year with our weekly collection, gathered in our small church.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Carol and Susan from the congregation one week and if anyone else would like to come to see us please feel free to speak to Shona who can arrange this.

Shona Laird

Sunday Club Visit

You may wonder what goes on in the Sunday Club – here is a report from two of our Elders who recently visited.

In February we visited the Sunday Club – ranging from tots to teens there was almost a full complement of children present. Following an opening prayer the children embark on their task of the day. There was much chatter and laughter as they cut out, coloured in, glued and sprinkled on glitter to make cards to send to someone special on Valentine's Day. During this time the children heard a story which followed the message of the church service about love. It was soon time to tidy up and hide away the cards until later in the week when mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters or friends were to receive these token of love. A prayer was said to bring the Sunday Club to a close. Thank you to Shona, Moira, the children and helpers for allowing us to share their worship and fellowship.

Carol Richmond (Elder) and Susan Swan (Elder)

Church Calendar for 2014

March '14

2nd - Communion 7th - World Day of Prayer
9th - Church ASM & 1st Sunday in Lent
16th - Visit from Presp. Moderator - Marjory Williamson -
cancelled due to illness
17th-21st Rev Christie away
30th - Mothering Sunday

April '14

13th - Palm Sunday -Soup & Sandwich lunch for Foodbank
14th - 20th - Holy week: 14th @ Haggs, 15th @ Bonnybridge,
16th @ Dunipace, 17th @ Haggs, 18th - Good Fri. @
Bonnybridge
20th Easter Sunday
26th Christian Aid Bridge Cross walk

May '14 - Stewardship Campaign (TALENTS)

4th - informal Communion
11th - Soup & Sandwich lunch for Christian Aid
11th- 18th - Christian Aid week
18th - 'Heart & Soul' at Edinburgh
23rd Musicathon in Church Hall 5 - 11 p.m.
24th Coffee morning - end of Musicathon 8a.m. - 1 p.m.
25th - Thanksgiving service for Stewardship Season

June '14

8th - Pentecost - Lorna Duncan preaching
15th - Trinity Sunday
22nd - Sunday Club Prize giving
29th - Informal Communion

CHRISTIAN AID

FORTH ROAD BRIDGE 50th CHALLENGE

Saturday 26th April 2014

This year to celebrate 50 years of the Forth Road Bridge, we are celebrating with a challenge and hope you can join us!

As well as having the usual sponsored walk across the Forth Road Bridge, we would like people to challenge themselves to cross as many times as possible in the 3 hours of the event and get sponsored per crossing to maximise your fundraising to help those living in poverty.

Why do we walk for Christian Aid?

- **For understanding** – We walk for understanding and to put ourselves in the shoes of those fighting poverty.
- **To celebrate** – We walk to celebrate the strength and the resilience of those living in poverty.
- **For unity** – We walk for unity with those in our communities and churches – standing together against poverty.
- **To remember** – We walk to remember our past and be inspired to make a better future.
- **For justice** – We walk for justice by engaging our hearts, minds and feet in the fight against poverty.

By walking you are helping to rebuild communities across the world.

Sponsor forms are available from Sue Storrar (01324-840757) or you could set up an on-line sponsorship page at www.justgiving.com/christianaid

Christian Aid 2013-2014

The Christian Aid Committee, along with all of our helpers, continued to work hard this year to organise, collect, count and send to Christian Aid the proceeds from the Door-to-door collection, the Bridge Cross Walk and Soup and sandwich lunches along with special church collections.

We would like to thank everyone concerned for their on-going support.

The amounts collected were:-

Door-to-door collection.....	£1,389.41
Bridge Cross Walk.....	£ 741.00
Lunches and collections.....	£ 379.03
Total.....	£ 2,509.44

Church members used their ‘TIME’ this year to support Christian Aid as part of the Stewardship Season. As well as collecting in our own parish, we also supported a joint church collection effort for Christian Aid at the local Sainsbury’s store in Denny.

We hope that through this work we are renewing our sense of community and sustaining us all in the movement to end extreme poverty.

We continue, with Church members support, to collect an amazing amount for Christian Aid each year – it is a shame that every year aid is so badly needed by those in the world living in poverty and facing injustice in their lives.

Sue Storrar

The Guild

The Guild commenced again on 13 January 2014 for a get together.

The Scots Night on 24 January 2014 to which the '37 Club' members were our guests, went very well, Winnie and Arthur provided the entertainment and supper was served by the Guild ladies. The sum raised for this event was £185.00 for Guild Projects.

We had speakers for our next two meetings, Colin Meek on 10 February and Colin Johnston on 17 February two very interesting talks.

The Bunny Drive on 10th March was a success raising £195.00 donated to the BB for their minibus fund. Thanks to all who attended.

E Findlay

37 Club 2014

The 37 club is enjoying another successful year although with numbers reduced to five or six regulars this session. Activities prior to Christmas included a ten pin bowling night in Stirling, an evening attended by our visiting elders Sue Storrar and Gwen Hamilton when Jack Dunn gave an interesting talk about his world travels, and of course our ever popular dominoes evenings. We concluded the first half of the session with Christmas dinner with our wives at what has become the traditional venue of the Holly Bank restaurant in Stirling. Our Haggis Bash was held in January when the lady elders were invited to join us. The girls of the Girls Brigade prepared and served our meal and provided an excellent entertainment of recitations and songs. Other activities included another ten pin bowling night in Stirling and an enjoyable evening when we were invited to the Guild's Scots Night. A visit to the telescope at the observatory in the old High School of Stirling is arranged and the session will close at the end of March with a gentlemen's dinner. All gentlemen will be made most welcome when we meet, usually in the MacLean Hall, on alternate Tuesdays from October to March.

Murray McCheyne.

HAGGS PARISH CHURCH REPORTS 2014

SESSION CLERKS REPORT 2013 – 2014

The role of Session Clerk continues to be filled by Murray McCheyne and Sue Storrar, both acting as Clerk Pro-tem. In this capacity they support the minister at Kirk Session meetings, selected services and at other times as required throughout the Church calendar. This situation works adequately although it would be ideal if a permanent appointment could be made.

Our roll at the 31st December 2013 was 264 with 70 on the Supplementary roll. During 2013 three members died, one received a certificate of transference having moved out of the area, and four new members were added by Profession of Faith. It is very encouraging to see our level of membership being maintained with new members joining our church at Hags. The twenty eight Elders on the Kirk Session, in conjunction with our minister, continue to plan and lead the work of our church life not only for Sunday worship but also in the care of our membership and service to the local community.

2014 will be the third year of our dedicated stewardship seasons. The theme for this year will be "Talents". In the month of May we will all be encouraged to put our talents to the best possible use for our church so don't "hide your light under a bushel".

2014 will also continue to be a challenging year as we work through development of the Presbytery Plan for the Bonnybridge, Denny and Hags areas to meet the requirement of reducing the number of ministries in the area from five to four. Although any changes will not be implemented until after our minister retires in 2015, it is intended to form a plan for the future that can be endorsed by Presbytery this year in readiness for implementation when our minister does retire.

We do not yet know exactly what the final outcome will be but we can be sure that there will be noticeable changes. As ever, we must all be prepared to face, and rise to, the challenges that come before us.

Murray McCheyne and Sue Storrar (*Session Clerks, pro-tem*)

Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

Dec.22 Declan James Ross Oliver

Feb.23 Hollie Elizabeth Ross

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

Jan.18 Diane Fryer to Colin MacAloney

Feb.22 Elaine Learmonth to Andrew Black

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Nov. Mr Allan Wilson Banknock

Dec. Mr Allan Findlay “

Mrs Sandra Whitehead Bonnybridge

Mrs Mary Scobbie Denny

Jan. Mrs Katrina McNab Bonnybridge

Mar. Mrs Annie MacLanachan “

Minister: Rev. Helen Christie
The Manse
Watson Place
Dennyloanhead
Tel: 01324 813786

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

Clerk to the Congregational Board:

Mr Drew Christie
The Manse
Watson Place
Dennyloanhead
Tel: 01324 813786

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