

The Church  
of Scotland

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**THE LINK**

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

Haggs Manse  
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**Hi folks,**

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased. Luke 2:14*

Once more the Christmas season approaches. A time for remembering the gift from God of Jesus Christ our Lord.

But I wonder how many of you remember a service that took place 10 years ago in December 1998. In that service I was given a very special gift, the gift of caring for this Parish as your Minister. Over the years since then I have received the gift of friendship and the privilege of sharing in the happy and sad times of many of you. Thank you for the support you have given to me.

Each year at the beginning of Advent we have a service in Church where we take time out from all the bustle of preparations for Christmas to remember those who have shared their life with us and have now gone on before us. A reminder of the reason for the season. The coming of Jesus into the world as it's light and it's hope. The gift of God's love and forgiveness and the promise of life eternal.

I invite you to come and join us for our services during December when we celebrate the coming of Jesus and also remember the needs of our neighbours and the world through our gift service and giving to Christian Aid.

**Helen F Christie** (*Minister*)

## **EDITORIAL**

The Presidential election in the USA is over, as is the Glenrothes by-election and the world financial crisis still lingers. So let's get down to the serious business of Christmas. No, not buying presents and eating ourselves silly but remembering its origin and the Saviour who was born for us more than 2000 years ago. Here is the story as told to us by Matthew:

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judaea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked "Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea" they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote":

"Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel."

So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs!

It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

*Matthew 2 vv 1 - 12*

*The magazine committee wishes you all a very happy and spiritually uplifting Christmas.*

**Jack Dunn**

**Dates for your diary -**

**7<sup>th</sup> December - Elders Service**

**14<sup>th</sup> December - Gift Service**

**24<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service, Head of Muir 7.15 p.m.**

**24<sup>th</sup> December - Watchnight Service, Haggs, 11.30 p.m.**  
*(Tea/coffee served in McLean hall from 10.30 p.m.)*

**25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day Service 11 a.m.**

**28<sup>th</sup> December - Lessons and Carols 11 a.m.**

**Bonnybridge Driving Force**

Bonnybridge Driving Force is a group of local volunteers who aim to provide a free, friendly & reliable means of getting cancer patients (registered at the Bonnybridge Health Centre) to and from hospital appointments & treatment sessions. They try to make the experience as pleasant & stress-free as possible. This is a self-funding organisation.

If you can help in any way or would like to access this service please contact Dr B McCallister on 812315.

**JESUS LOVES ME (FOR SENIORS)**

Jesus loves, me this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow,  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in him

Though my steps are oh so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won,  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day

## 60 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAMMES

(Life and Work Nov. 2008)

Award-winning GRF Christian Radio celebrated 60 years of continuous radio production in November. It is the oldest independent radio production studio in Europe, religious or secular.

GRF focuses on being a producer, making programmes to be broadcast by other people. Beginning life as Gospel Radio Fellowship, GRF's first programme was broadcast on a missionary station (HCJB) in Ecuador and was aimed at Scots living in South America.

The advent of commercial radio in Britain in 1973 led to a close relationship between GRF and Radio Clyde in Glasgow, which remains to this day.

Now, GRF is staffed by 20 volunteers, supplies programmes to commercial stations across Britain and Ireland, English speaking overseas stations, BBC local radio, internet and community stations.

## MODERATOR OPENS "GREEN" HALL

(Life and Work Nov. 2008)

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. David Lunan, led a very special service at Bridge of Allan Church in August.

A union of two churches in Bridge of Allan took place just over four years ago and, following that, the new congregation made a commitment to build extra hall accommodation for local church groups and the wider community. The building project has now been completed and the newly extended church hall was celebrated with a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication.

The church hall's new-build extension, the Chalmers suite, will feature a heating system that is quite literally "groundbreaking". The innovative renewable technology makes use of a ground source heat pump, developed in Sweden, in conjunction with under floor heating. The pump will also be connected to new radiators in the existing hall. There

are four boreholes, each going 100 metres down into the ground.

To further enhance the "green" credentials of the project, the hot water supply will be provided through solar panels.

The Moderator said: "The Church of Scotland works in support of over 180 eco-congregations throughout Scotland. These are churches which are committed to tackling climate change through actions in their local communities. The Bridge of Allan project is an excellent example of that commitment in action.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hags Girls Brigade

We have 28 girls this year in our company, 13 in the explorers, 24 juniors and 1 brigadier. We have just had a very successful Hallowe'en party with the girls and their mums using their imagination and coming up with some great ideas for dressing up. Thanks mums for all the effort. Our Christmas party will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6 – 7.30 p.m. hopefully we will see Santa! The Christmas cards will be collected on 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December this year and the box will be in the vestibule on these dates, a price of 10p per card is suggested. We are also going to the panto in Falkirk on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. One of our girls will be in the performance. We wish all Church members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the Officers and girls.

Liz Heeps

## Keep Fit

We are doing very well approximately 8 plus regular members and in that time have given to several charities and the Church. The class is for all levels of fitness so come along and support our good causes. The class is a gym ball class and if you decide to come along give me a call to arrange for a ball (I have some for sale). We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Heeps

## Christmas Greetings



Jean and Murray McCheyne wish everyone a happy Christmas and a very good New Year.

Best wishes for Christmas and the coming New Year, Brian and Carol Richmond

From Gwen and family wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Jack and Elizabeth Dunn wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

We wish all our many friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Nan & Garry Ure

A Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year to all. Margo and Angus Johnston.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends in Haggs.  
Maisie and Tommy Mortimer

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. Elma Findlay.

Jim and Evelyn Goble wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Jean Leishman wishes all her friends at Haggs a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

## What is Christmas?

Is it just a day  
At the end of the year?  
A holiday filled with merry good cheer?  
A season for presents – both taking and giving?  
A time to indulge in the pleasures of living.  
Are we lost in a meaningless, much – muddled daze  
That covers our minds like a great autumn haze?  
Have we closed our hearts to God and His Love?  
And turned our eyes from the bright star above?  
O Father in heaven renew and restore  
The real, true meaning of Christmas and more,  
So we can feel in our hearts again  
That “Peace on earth, goodwill to men”  
Is still a promise that man can claim  
If he but seeks it in Thy name

Helen Steiner Rice

## May the Gift of Christmas Be Yours

The richest gifts are Gods to give,  
May you possess them as long as you live,  
May you walk with Him and dwell in His love  
As he send you good gifts from heaven above

Helen Steiner Rice

Submitted by N. Ure

## Baptism

### ‘Suffer little children to come unto me’

Sept. 28 Nina McAra Hutchison

## Marriage

### ‘Whom God has joined together’

Sept 6 Louise Maxwell to Stephen Miller

7 Keli Morris to Gavin Long

13 Karin Morris to Kenneth Fisher

Oct 5 Carol Anne Burns to Euan Smith

12 Katrina Stevenson to Peter Mulkerrins

13 Dawn Harris to Allan Dunbar

31 Emma Watters to Stuart McCulloch

Nov 2 Louise Lawrie to David Page

## Deaths

### ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

Sept. Mrs Elisabeth Herbert Head of Muir  
Mrs Alice Duff Falkirk  
Mrs Nan Orr Bonnybridge  
Mrs Mary Slessor Dennyloanhead

Oct John Marsland Denny  
Baby Isobella Hardie Falkirk  
Mrs Janet McMillan Allandale  
William Leishman Longcroft

Nov Roderick MacKay Banknock  
James Perrot Allandale  
Andrew Nelson Banknock