

ONE MORE STEP

In the Easter edition of the Newsletter, I spoke about being a fellow traveller and it is with great pleasure that I have to say that I do feel very much “at home” and a part of the Christian family at Haggs as I do at Denny also.

Without prejudice to decisions that still have to be taken it has been a pleasure to see the Church being fuller at the Summer Joint Services than would have been the case if we had held two morning services. I am grateful to the members who led the worship for the Sunday that I was away at Carronvale for a week’s course with future BB Officers aged 17-21.

Sometimes it is thought that it is a Minister’s job to inspire the congregation and others. In these past few months, I have been inspired by the Congregations and was also inspired by responses from the young people with whom I also work. I would like to share with you the following comment made in an online reflective diary on the BB Course:

“Praying with everyone is great every night and particularly last night I opened my eyes during evening prayers and I saw a family. Every single head bowed, every eye closed, every mind focused on his words and our fellowship. A beautiful moment to witness and frankly that was one of my highlights this week.”

May we all strive to feel and to share that kind of family spirit as we travel the journey of faith together.

Trusting that I am your Minister and friend, and maybe you feel that we are part of that larger family.

Derek



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Linked with Denny Old Parish Church

Autumn 2018

An article written by Derek and published in the current edition of the BB Gazette. If you substitute “Church family” for “BB family”, it might speak to you too!)

Shoot for the Moon!

It wasn't long after the first man landed on the moon that I attended a conference as a Youth Representative of the Boys' Brigade. One speaker took the theme of landing a man on the moon and spoke about the involvement of massive teams of people with various skills, all important no matter how menial the task seemed to be, and yet their names never recorded for history. I think of the BB family, of which I am proud to call myself part, as a big team all working together united with a common purpose of advancing Christ's Kingdom among Boys but also among the men and women who serve in our great movement.

Often, we will never know the impact that our actions, our enthusiasm, our dedication, our commitment has had; and I wish I had the opportunity to properly thank those people who gave me so much. However, I believe that they would appreciate my way of saying thanks is to strive to offer that same commitment to succeeding generations. To my fellow officers I say be aware that you are often doing much that is good by simply showing you care!

The speaker at that conference also challenged us to “Shoot for the Moon!” He pointed out that even if you miss, you'll find that you have gone higher than you could have imagined and just possibly will find yourself amongst the stars! Will you share that mission with me “Shooting for the Moon!” It's about aiming for what some would say is impossible, raising the bar, about the level of expectation and of challenge. Inherent in high aspiration is quality and that requires training, dedication, and mutual support. Let us always strive to be the best that we can be.

Like the Apollo team, we need to define our mission. I suggest that paraphrasing Luke 2:52 could be our mission: to encourage, support and challenge our young people to grow in body and in mind and in favour with God and man, in other words to grow



more and more like Jesus as whole human beings. It will be impossible to become the perfection of humanity that is Jesus but in aiming to be like the king, we will truly be advancing Christ's Kingdom.

Derek Gunn

Chaplain, BB Scotland

Christian Aid

Come and join Christian Aid on Saturday 29th September from 10:30am at the Helix Park, Falkirk. Visit the breath-taking Kelpies and discover some secrets of the Helix Park on this 5km walk, run or cycle. Afterwards you can enjoy a well-deserved rest with a picnic on The Great Lawn and some fantastic entertainment including face painting, bouncy castle and much more. Together we can walk to fight poverty and injustice worldwide. We can't wait to see you there!

Sign up as part of the church group for free or entry will be charged at £5 per adult on the day.

For more information, get in touch with Sue Storrar, Jean McCheyne or Lucy on 0141 221 7475 or visit caid.org.uk/walks.

Sponsor forms from Sue Storrar.

Thank you! I would like to thank all my friends who have sent the “Get Well” cards, best wishes and all the lovely flowers. Usually it is a fall downstairs, but I have to be different, I fell upstairs in the garden, resulting in broken bones in my wrist and hand.

The cast is to stay on for six weeks and then I'll be back in circulation again.

Bless you all, Bea Millar

To all my friends of Hags and Denny Old Parish Church

When I conducted worship on Sunday 27 May you all presented me with a more than substantial gift of money. I must confess I had some difficulty in deciding how to spend the money (always a good problem since money seems to disappear as soon as it comes to hand).

In the end of the day I decided to purchase a royal blue cassock which I will wear when leading worship at Kildrum or at your own sanctuaries.

I was also glad to buy a clock for the living room as the previous one had, quite simply run out of steam.

I still had a little money left so was able to purchase two pairs of cufflinks with matching tie clip and when I wear these I will remember you all with warmth and affection.

I also wanted to say thank you not just for the generous gift of money but your time, and friendship which have meant so much to me. The sheer warmth and depth of your care and friendship have greatly encouraged me during my time as your Interim Moderator. I am grateful for all I have learned from you as this was my first appointment as IM.

In closing may I take the opportunity to pray God's richest blessing on you all and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Once again, every blessing for the ongoing life of your congregations and many thanks.

David Nicholson DCS

Sunday Club

The end of session outing took place to the cinema in Stirling when we saw Sherlock Gnomes followed by lunch at McDonalds.

It was planned to go to the Will Graham evangelic event at Falkirk but this was changed when we saw the torrential rain.

The prize giving was the following Sunday when our locum Minister presented the prizes.

We have lost two of our older children from the Sunday Club. We wish them well and hope they will come back to visit us soon.

It is also sad that we are losing Judith from our team. We thank her for her help over the two years and send our best wishes to her.

Through games, crafts and stories we learn all about Jesus, so come along and find out more.

The Sunday Club resumes on Sunday 2nd September 2018.

Moira Martin 01324820736
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Indoor Bowling

The Bowling commenced on 5th September. It is held in the Church Hall from 12.30 p.m. We are always happy to welcome new members and maybe some gentlemen might be interested in joining. It is not too serious and we have a cup of tea/coffee and a chat afterwards.

Elma Findlay

When one door of opportunity closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

Anon

Thank You

We have received a thank you card from Rev Sandra Mathers also on receiving a gift of appreciation from Haggs Parish Church.

She wrote "I can assure you , the Kirk Session, Board and Congregation of my real appreciation of your thoughtfulness and generosity to me. As you know, I enjoyed my time with you all and I miss you all and the opportunity to work with you in God's service. I pray regularly for you all and trust that you are experiencing God's blessing in all your work and witness for Him. Again with my sincere thanks and appreciation, Yours Sincerely Sandra!

A Summer Shower

The sky darkens and clouds stand at attention
Air tingles with anticipation and excitement
Then just as if nature's hand has turned the volume
All sounds can be heard with an ever increasing intensity.
A passing car breaks the sound barrier in your ears
And the nearby fairground booms out music from yesteryear
Then it happens,
the lightning flashes and the heavenly drum beats and there before you is a waterfall of sweet smelling rain.

By Sandra J. Mack (*Angus Johnston's sister*)

1st Haggs Girls Brigade

The new season started on 28th August on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 – 7.25 in Haggs Parish Church Hall. If you know anyone in P.1 upwards who would like to join send them along on a Tuesday evening for fun and games. More information from Shona Laird on 0797931599 or email fsthagsgirlsbrigade@gmail.com.

1st Haggs Boys Brigade

Anchor boys (P1 to P3) starts back on Tuesday 28th of August 2018 at 6.15pm – 7.45pm.
Junior Section (P4 to P6) starts back on Friday 31st of August 2018 at 7.00pm – 9.00pm.
Company Section (P7 to S6) Starts back on Friday 31st of August 2018 at 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

Haggs Boys Brigade meets in Bankier School.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

This is advance notice that we are once again collecting filled Christmas Shoeboxes for those less fortunate than ourselves. The leaflets have not as yet arrived at Church but will be shortly. Please if you can fill your box with the basic items of Toothbrush and toothpaste, Hat, scarf, gloves, soap and if it is for a child a small toy and sweets (not chocolate or loose sweets but packets with a date of no earlier than March 2019) and any other items on their list. Last year the uplift of boxes was in late October. Look out for further information.

Jean McCheyne

Crossreach Christmas Cards and Calendar Collection 2018

Please support the work of Crossreach by buying your Christmas Cards and Calendars from Crossreach. Maisie Mortimer will shortly take orders from you. Also Crossreach is collecting used stamps and collectables – they will accept coins and postcards that are no longer in circulation. Please separate foreign stamps from UK ones.

Diary:

Haggs Parish Church

23rd September – MacMillan Cancer Lunch after Church
30th September – Harvest Festival
7th October – Holy Communion (*Time to be advised*)
21st October – Christian Aid Lunch after Church
11th November – Remembrance Sunday.

Remembrance

As this year marks 100 years since the end of WW1 it is planned to display photographs, documents and other memorabilia from WW1 or WW2 in church on remembrance Sunday. Members are invited to bring items for display and, if they wish, tell the related story to the congregation. **Contact Murray McCheyne about items you wish to display or for further information.**

Funeral:

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Mr John Harkins Banknock August

Perhaps if we could see the splendour of the land
To which our loved are called, we'd understand.
Perhaps if we could hear the welcome they received
From old familiar voices, we would not grieve.
Perhaps if we could know the reason why they went,
We'd wipe away the tears that flow
And wait – content.

Anon.



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