

The Church  
of Scotland



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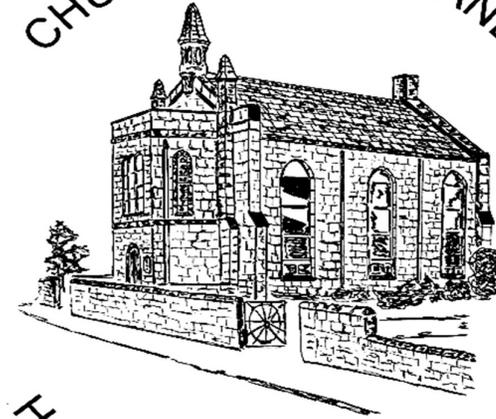
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CHURCH of SCOTLAND



HAGGS PARISH CHURCH

## The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Linked with Denny Old Parish Church

## Winter 2021



## A Time of Hope

The season of Advent is a season of hope. What do we mean by this? How can this help us in this uncertain time of global pandemic and climate crisis and rise in the energy and fuel prices?

We are living in a very challenging time where along with our common challenges; we daily face individual challenges that force us to discern where our hope for future will come from. It is second year in a row that we can't live a normal life and celebrate our special occasions and religious events (Christmas) fully. And it seems that like our personal lives and living, our hope for the future is also becoming dull. It seems all dark around us as we hardly see a light on the other side of the tunnel as we hear every day that virus is circulating fast and number of cases are rising again in the winter months.

In these circumstances, perhaps our Christian Virtues can help us to recognize what we mean by this concept.

It's up there with Faith and Charity! Hope, for the Christians, is not a vague notion that things will somehow get better; it is a powerful motivator and an encouragement to the other virtues. It is the impetus to look forward in the light of past; the notion that God will act again for His people because He has acted for them in the past.

Then, having that assurance in our minds, how are we lead through this season?

A couple of things to remember at this time,

1. Advent season may not be familiar to all people.
2. Our culture wants Advent to be Christmas, waiting and anticipation are not in favour.
3. The purpose of Advent is not to pretend that the incarnation has not occurred, it is to help us appreciate the person of God made man and our future.

Isaiah reminds us that our hope for better future arises from our past as Isaiah 9:1 says, ***"The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light."***

God's activity through Jesus' incarnation and redemption and resurrection enables us to look forward with confidence – not with uncertainty but with hope. We who have the knowledge of the Scriptures understand the unfolding of salvation history.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, I would like you to reflect on how the Prophet Isaiah invites you to know we have been enlightened in the past? How do you see God's activity in your past and in your life?

Is there anything in your past that can help you to trust God for your future?

Do you believe that you have a secure and bright future?

I personally do believe. As I know and believe that in Jesus, I have a secure and bright future that is yet to come. Jesus says,

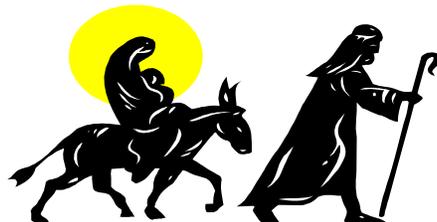
***“At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory”.*** (Luke 21:27)

So, may this season of Advent help you to look forward into your future which I am sure is bright and beautiful. Therefore, rather than being terrified by what is happening in our world, we are encouraged to confidently wait for Christ’s return who will bring justice and righteousness and restoration to his people. At that time all will be good: no pandemic, no global climate crisis, no rise in energy bills, no worries. We will all dwell in God’s glory. Till then, Jesus says, ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me”.*** (John 14:1)

In these words of Jesus, we find our hope and a secure future. So better not worry rather glad that you are going to have an eternal. This is the hope for our future. This is the hope that this Advent season brings.

God bless you and all your loved ones.

***Rev. Raheel Arif***



## **Deaths**

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

May 2021	Duncan Crerar	Banknock
October 2021	Angus Johnston	Banknock
October 2021	Nan McAlpine	Bonnybridge

## **Christian Aid**

This year Hags Church has sent £1255 to Christian Aid raised by the Kilt Walk and National Giving Day etc. **Again, this Christmas Eve the retiring collection will be donated to the work of Christian Aid.**

Your contributions to this organization are always well received and put to good use.

Thank you.

Jean McCheyne

## **Quiz answers:**

*(Answers 1: Dancer, Dasher and Donner)*

*(Answers 2: Blitzen, Cupid, Vixen, Prancer and of course Rudolf)*



## Yoga 4 All

The Yoga group began meeting again in the Church Hall at the beginning of September, once Covid-19 restrictions allowed. The class, from 7.00pm until 8.15pm on Thursday evenings, has a maximum number of 12 participants and no equipment can be loaned or shared in the current climate.

This is a gentle form of exercise that keeps our bodies moving gently, as well as stilling the mind and improving general wellbeing. Everyone works to their own level without any pressure to achieve any particular yoga pose.

If you would like any further information about the yoga classes, then contact Sue Storrar on 01324-840757.

## UNICEF Jar of Grace

During the season of Advent, we will again be asking you to place any spare change in a jar to donate to the work of UNICEF. This will be used to fund UNICEF's wide-reaching work to help children in whatever way they need it most. The donations will be collected at the beginning of January 2022 by Jean McCheyne.

Thank you for your support.



### HAGGS PARISH CHURCH - FINANCIAL STATEMENT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2021 Budget	Budget	2020 Actual
<b>INCOME</b>			
Offerings			
W.F.O (Non Gift Aid)	3000	3500	2346
Gift Aid	20000	20000	19598
Tax on Gift Aid	7000	7000	5310
Open Plate	1250	1850	875
Other Offerings & Donations	2150	5000	1913
	<u>33400</u>	<u>37350</u>	<u>30042</u>
<b>Other Ordinary General Income</b>			
Donations from Organisations	0	150	0
Fund Raising	1000	500	0
Weddings & Funerals	250	500	0
	<u>1250</u>	<u>1150</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 34,650</b>	<b>38500</b>	<b>£ 30,042</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>National Ministry and Mission &amp; Wider Work</b>			
National Stipend Fund Allocation	20253	22353	22353
Less Endowment income	-629	-1074	-1074
Presbytery Dues	0	550	0
	<u>19624</u>	<u>21829</u>	<u>21279</u>
<b>Local Staffing costs</b>			
Ministers Travelling Expenses	750	0	561
Ministers Expenses	250	0	120
Pulpit Supply	150	300	0
Other Salaries	1500	3000	550
	<u>2650</u>	<u>3300</u>	<u>1231</u>
<b>Buildings Costs</b>			
Repairs & Maintenance	3000	3000	2756
Heat & Light	5000	3500	5048
Insurance	2068	2525	2484
Manse Council Tax	400	0	397
	<u>10468</u>	<u>9025</u>	<u>10685</u>
<b>Other Local Costs</b>			
Stationery, Photocopying	600	700	585
Sunday Club	50	150	27
Other Expenses	1250	1250	1,461
	<u>1900</u>	<u>2100</u>	<u>2,073</u>
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 34,642</b>	<b>£ 36,254</b>	<b>35,268</b>
CLAIMED FROM 121			-5556
FROM RESERVE ACCOUNT			330
			- 5,226
			<u>£ 30,042</u>



## Touch the Earth Lightly

With the focus of the whole world and all media channels on COP26 in Glasgow in November, it has become difficult to avoid worrying about 'Global warming' and 'Climate Change.' These have been presented to us as new problems, as if the world has recently become polluted and over developed by mankind.

However, God predicted, and knew from the beginning of time, that as soon as men and women were placed on the earth, with the gift of free choice, then the earth would be exploited and defiled.

The challenge for mankind has always been how to utilize this amazing planet that we inhabit whilst looking after the environment, sharing resources fairly, and preserving the earth's riches for future generations. Many early stories in the Old Testament tell us that greed and exploitation have often prevailed over justice and conservation, yet the Lord has promised us that he will never destroy this planet.

Therefore, there is hope; we can still work to 'Touch the Earth Lightly' and to leave a positive imprint on our families, our friends and our community here at Haggs. Personal small acts of kindness and caring for others, as well as aiming not to be wasteful with resources, will collectively change things for the better; for ourselves and for future generations to come.

We are interconnected to the world around us so let us endeavour to do our best to preserve it for all future beings:



## URGENT – VACANT CHURCH POSITIONS

The Kirk Session and the Congregation at Haggs Church would like to offer our thanks and best wishes to Ernest Martin, following his retirement from the posts of Beadle/Church Officer and Property Convenor, as from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

Ernie has worked diligently over the past 11 years as Beadle (*following a long apprenticeship under Tommy Mortimer's guidance*) and he has also taken on many additional duties over the years including operating our sound system and big screens each Sunday and ensuring that the fabric of the Church buildings have been maintained for our comfort and safety. We commend Ernie for his reliability, efficiency and organizational skills in all these tasks and wish him, and Moira, more relaxation and better health in the future.

This does now leave the positions of Beadle/Church Officer and Property Convenor vacant at our Church. These are vital posts that need to be filled so our church can move forward into 2022 with a full team working together to keep worship alive and functioning at Haggs.

You do not need to be an Elder to fill either of these posts.

So, if you feel that you could serve the Lord at Haggs by taking on the duties involved with either the Beadle or Property Convenor posts or could help with assisting with either of these roles, then please contact Sue Storrar, Session Clerk, for further details. However, if you are unable to offer your time or talents for whatever reason, then please pray that suitable people feel the call to serve in this way.

***God Bless you all.***



## **'The Precious Air**

The air is precious to all peoples. For all things share the same breath – the beasts, the trees, the women and men, they all share the same breath. And what are we without the beasts, the birds, the fishes in the sea? If they are gone, we would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to them, soon happens to the people. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the peoples of the earth.' (Spoken by Chief Seattle, Native American Indian, in 1854)

*Sue Storrar*

## **Sunday Club.**

The Sunday Club is still going. We have stories, games and crafts and all young people are welcome to join us during Church on a Sunday morning.

A quiz questions:

1. How many of Santa's reindeer's names begin with the letter D?
2. What are the other reindeers called?

*Answers on second back page.*

Have a great Christmas!

*Moira Martin.*

## **Crossreach Christmas Catalogue**

Hi Folks, A big thank you for your support this year for the sale of Crossreach Christmas Cards also Gift Shares and Donations.

We sent £1050.

This is much appreciated. Well, done everyone

*Maisie Mortimer*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Haggs Boys Brigade**

1st Haggs Boys' Brigade has started back and running well.

Boys, Girls & Officers are happy to be back.

Anchor Boys (P1 – P3) Tuesday nights between 6pm & 7pm.

Junior Section (P4 – P6) & Company Section (P7 – 18 Years Old) Friday nights between 6.30pm & 8.30pm all at Haggs Church Hall.

If you have a boy or girl who wants to come and want more information or want to be an adult helper please contact John Fenney (Captain) Phone (01786) 470817 or 07799145121 or Email - [john.fenney72@outlook.com](mailto:john.fenney72@outlook.com).

*John Fenney, Captain*

## **EASYFUNDRAISING**

This is a scheme in which everyone can participate to raise funds for Haggs Parish Church at no cost to themselves. It is a website dedicated to charities only. When shopping online you would logon to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and from there pick the website, you wish to shop at. If your chosen retailer is listed and you complete a purchase, Haggs Parish Church will benefit from either a donation or a percentage of your purchase from the retailer. There is no cost to yourself. The more of us who get involved, the more we could raise – remember 'Every little help's (with apologies to Tesco!)

Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

Thank you in anticipation

*Marion Campbell  
Treasurer*



## Falkirk Food Bank

### Emergency Food for people in crisis, restoring dignity reviving hope

As we enter the festive season, Falkirk Foodbank finds its stocks going down. They welcome any foodstuffs and toiletries but find that tinned soups and tinned meals (*e.g. stew and meatballs*) are very popular as they can quite easily be turned into a meal at a low energy cost.

People willing to donate bring along their donations on a Sunday morning where they are collected and passed on to the Foodbank.

However, there may be many people who cannot come to Church but would like to donate. If you fall into that category, please phone George Hoggan on 01324812405 or Ruth Gallacher on 07938481811 to arrange a pickup which suits both parties.

Falkirk Foodbank is not a walk-in centre. People in need are recommended by local councils, Doctors, Citizens Advice etc. While they are receiving food they are encouraged to try to get help from other sources to give them extra support.

Haggs Parish Church has donated hundreds of kilos of food over the past few years and would earnestly ask for your help over the festive season and beyond.

“I was hungry and You fed me, thirsty and You gave me a drink” Matthew 25 v35

*Isabel Hoggan*



## Gift Aid

Can I please ask anyone who pays Income Tax and has not signed a Gift Declaration to PLEASE, PLEASE seriously consider doing so. This signed form allows Haggs Parish Church to claim back the income tax which you have already paid on the value of your offerings/donations. This equates to an extra 25% added to the amount you have contributed. Even during the past 18 months of lockdowns and restrictions we have been able to recoup in excess of £5000.00 from the Tax man through the Gift Aid scheme, so, if you, like me, would rather Haggs and not the Tax man benefited please contact myself to sign up.

### STANDING ORDER

This method of contributing your offering has been invaluable during the Covid months of Church closures and has to be acknowledged as the main factor in allowing Haggs Church to have been able to keep paying our bills and not having to default or run into debt. Other Churches have not been so fortunate – so thank you all for your commitment and faithfulness. If anyone wishes to use a Standing Order to make your offering, please contact myself and I will be delighted to give you a form.

### CONTACT MARION

Mobile 07891 062656

Email [marioncampbell429@btinternet.com](mailto:marioncampbell429@btinternet.com)

Or speak to me at Church on a Sunday



## Christmas Greetings:

Isabel Shearer wishes everyone at Hags a very happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year.

1<sup>st</sup> Hags Boys Brigade Boys, Girls & Officers would like to wish everyone a merry & Save Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Winnie Kemp wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year

Kenny Halliday wishes all at Hags Church a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Wishing you blessings and peace for Christmas and New Year - Maisie Mortimer

Archie & Marion Campbell wish everyone a blessed Christmas and safe, healthy 2022.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Good Health to everyone from Jim and Anne Bell

Carol and Brian Richmond wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Bea Miller and family wish everyone at Hags a Merry Christmas and hope that 2022 will be a happy and prosperous year for all.

Wishing my Hags Church family the warm and wonderful Blessings of Christmas from Jean Proffit



## Christmas Greetings:

Best wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2022 from Elma Findlay.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from Elizabeth and Jack Dunn

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and bright, healthy, peaceful New Year from Jean McCheyne and family.

Nan and Allan Young wish everyone a merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Wishing all my Hags Church family a Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2022. From Sue Storrar.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and good New Year, Evelyn Goble

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022, from Moira and Ernie Martin.

## The Flower Calendar

It was lovely when we were able to re-introduce flowers to adorn the Church once Covid restrictions were eased. There are several Sundays available if anyone would like to add their name to the flower list while I am compiling it for 2022. Please contact me on 07799768106

*Jean Proffit*

