



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Linked with Denny Old Parish Church
Spring 2019

Sharing the Journey

It's now over a year since I arrived as your Locum Minister and, particularly with the Local Church Review being almost complete, I think it is a good time to look back at this last year. I smile when I think about the change in pronoun from a year ago! I spoke about you or them dependent on the person to whom I was talking. I realised when talking with the LCR Team that I now talk about we or us -I feel that WE belong as does my wife when Pat comes to Haggs. I believe that the visit of the LCR Team has been good in helping us to see that we are striving to do our best without any complacency about the problems that the Church, in the widest sense, faces. We would all like to see more members, young and old and more children in the Church but it has been wonderful to be celebrating three baptisms and to see new young families feeling really welcome.

I think there is a real sense of building on good foundations with the move to share Communion services with our linkage with Denny Old and to consider the Unitary Constitution as a more streamlined way of dealing with the business of the Congregation. I also feel a very real sense of fellowship and worship as we share together Sunday by Sunday. It is always a pleasure for a preacher to feel that we are worshipping together and responding to one another to encourage, challenge and support our mission of advancing Christ's Kingdom and I share a sense of pride at being with a congregation that does so much to help others less fortunate than ourselves by giving so generously to charity.

As we approach Easter let us see that not only as the resurrection of Jesus, wonderful though that is, but see it as an opportunity for our faith and work to be even more enlivened. In that sense I take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy but challenging Easter!

**God bless,
Your friend and minister,
Derek**

Christian Aid 2019

Christian Aid works with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as responding to emergencies and natural disasters all over the world.

They carry out ground-breaking work in key areas, such as gender, health and resilience, to support people in poor communities to improve their lives.

Christian Aid has programmes operating in 37 countries, working with 475 local, national and international partners.

Christian Aid week 2019 runs from 12th-19th May – with the focus on supporting mothers in Sierra Leone who lack basic maternity care and inadequate health care due to escalating government debts following the Ebola crisis.

Haggs Parish Church plans to collect donations again this year and your continued support is needed please. Last year we sent a total of £2,520.00 to Christian Aid and we would like to continue the strong commitment to this outreach work undertaken in the Lord's name. Every year it becomes increasingly difficult to get collectors involved in the door-to-door collection, so maybe this year we will need to think of another fund raising event. If anyone has any fund raising ideas then please let us know.

There will be a **'Soup & Sandwich' lunch on Sunday 19th May** and the **'Kelpies Canter' sponsored walk will be on 31st August.**

If you can help in any way then please talk to Sue Storrar or Jean McCheyne.

UNICEF

Thank you for responding so generously to the UNICEF 'Jar of Grace' appeal during the Advent period. A total of £394.00 was raised from the jars and the 'Soup & Sandwich' lunch on the 3rd February.

God Bless - Your donations helped to keep some poor and vulnerable children warm this winter.

Dates for your Diary

3rd March – 11.15 a.m. Communion Haggs and Denny Old will celebrate together in Haggs Parish Church

10th March after Church – ASM for Haggs Church

24th March – Soup and Sandwich Lunch after Church

14th April – Soup and Sandwich Lunch after Church

Holy Week Services:

Mon 15th – Bonnybridge St Helens Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

Tues 16th – Dunipace Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 17th – Denny Old Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

Thurs. 18th – Westpark Parish Church – Maundy

Thursday Communion 7.30 p.m.

Fri. 19th – Denny Baptist Church – Good Friday Service 7.30 p. m.

Walk of Witness – Friday morning

10.30 a.m. leaving from Dunipace Parish Church

Easter Sunday – 8.30 a.m. Open Air Service (weather permitting) Denny Old Parish Church

9.00 a.m. Breakfast (to be confirmed)

21st April – Easter Service 11.15 a.m. at Haggs Parish Church

19th May – Soup and Sandwich Lunch after Church

CrossReach

Maisie Mortimer has received a lovely letter of thanks from CrossReach – saying – “the throng of angels is jumping for joy at the generous response of Haggs Parish Church to the CrossReach Christmas Appeal! The generous gift of £504.00 from Haggs Parish Church following a Beetle Drive on 16th January 2019 will help make the dark, dreary days of the early months of 2019 so much brighter for those who find this time of year particularly difficult. Thank you so much to everyone at Haggs Parish Church for sharing, with CrossReach your concern for the welfare of people.”

Signed by Rebecca Tennant , Angels’ Support Officer.

MOVING TOWARDS A UNITARY CONSTITUTION

An edict was read to the congregation on the 13th and 20th January informing everyone that Haggs Kirk Session has decided to move towards establishing a Unitary Constitution.

At a Special Congregational meeting on 17th February, the congregation voted unanimously for a move to a Unitary Constitution. This will streamline the business affairs of the church in the future and hopefully make us in more attractive position to attract a new minister to the joint charge of Haggs Parish Church and Denny Old.

As encouraged by the leadership of the recent LCR visiting team from Falkirk Presbytery, we must take up the mantle of being ‘Living Stones’ (1 Peter 2:4-5) at Haggs Church and build upon the faith and determination of our forefathers to continue to move forward and to ensure meaningful Christian worship is maintained in this place.

The proposal to adopt a Unitary Constitution will now proceed to Falkirk Presbytery for confirmation before being sent to the law department at the Church of Scotland for ratification and issue of our Unitary Constitution..

Haggs church members will be notified when a Unitary Constitution has been successfully adopted.

The Driving Force

The Driving Force takes people, with cancer, who live in Bonnybridge, Denny and Banknock to hospital appointments and treatment sessions. We also take people from the same area who have dialysis to their dialysis sessions.

We provide door to door transport and drivers will take people to reception desks and wait with them. Our service is free, friendly and reliable. Relatives and friends can accompany people and when someone is admitted to hospital or the hospice we will take visitors to see them. Cancer affects many people. Since we started we have made more than 12,000 journeys and driven more than 530,000miles. We know that our service massively decreases the stress of attending hospital. The reliability of our service, having the contact details of their driver and drivers phoning the day before journeys gives confidence at a time when little in life is certain. Drivers are frequently praised for their friendliness and humour.

In 2018 we started offering a number of new services for people who have cancer and their families. All of these are free. People don’t need to be using us for driving to have them. Hairdressing, nail cutting, manicures and pedicures available for people having radiotherapy and chemotherapy and until their hair and nails are back to normal. Using nail varnish can help protect nails from the effects of some chemotherapy. All these are available in people’s houses. If people prefer manicures and pedicures can be done in a salon, and a driver will take them if required.

Our hairdressers can also advise on wigs or scarves for people who have lost or may lose their hair.

Complementary therapies like massage, relaxation, reflexology and Reiki are available to anyone having cancer treatment and to anyone living with cancer who is finding life a challenge.

The treatments are very gentle and you don't need to remove any clothing. They are done in people's own home. They can help people feel better generally and let them feel more relaxed and less tense. They help with stress, sleep and anxiety and make it easier for people to cope with their situation. A close friend or family member can also have these therapies. If people would rather not have them at home we have rooms available in local health centres.

We run mindfulness courses for people with cancer and/or a family member. These take place at Denny library. There is an introductory session so you can check it out and the course is then 8 two hour sessions. Mindfulness helps people deal with stress, relax and sleep better. Again, we can provide drivers if required. Our website www.bdthedrivingforce.org.uk has more information. If you would like to use any of our services please leave your name and phone number with your GP receptionist.

Please tell as many people as possible about what we do. Despite all our publicity there are still people who don't know we are there to help. If you are on facebook you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/The-Driving-Force-590914120986345/> following us will also help us publicise what we do.

Dr Bridget McCalister MBE Sec. The Driving Force

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowls continue on a Wednesday afternoon in the Church Hall at 12.30 p.m. If you would like a pleasant afternoon come and join us and you will be made most welcome. A cuppa and a chat are also on the agenda for the afternoon.

Elma Findlay

Sunday Club

Christmas seems just a memory, but the Sunday Club 7 had great fun playing pass the parcel round the congregation. As each parcel was opened the story of Jesus birth was told. As the story unfolded more parcels were opened until as well as a large pile of torn Christmas paper one last tiny box was opened to reveal a question mark. The question mark is "*What happened next*".

What happens next is up to you. Bring the young people to church. Let them find out all about Jesus and his love for each and every one of us.

In February the theme will be Colours and for March it will be New Life as we explore all that is wonderful about spring.

April topics will be of course be Easter eggs. We will have the usual painted egg competition then the rolling of the eggs down the side of the church before we return to the hall for tea.

Thanks to Libby and Shona and the members of the congregation who volunteer to help and for those who keep us supplied with sweets and biscuits.

Moira Martin



Q. Where is medicine first mentioned in the Bible?

A .When God gave Moses two tablets.



Q. Who was the greatest investor in the Bible?

A .Noah: He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation

Boys Brigade Anchor Boys

We are having another great year so far with a total of 17 boys, with great attendance each week. This is made up of 2 primary ones, 9 primary twos and 6 primary threes. This year we made the choice to split the boys up into two groups. We always start the night together playing one game before one group going through to the community wing for craft and snack while the others play games then swapping over half way through the night. Some of our favourite games include dodge ball, toilet tig, and they always enjoy when we set up an obstacle course for them or let them pick a game. We often get the boys back together at the end of the night for one game before picking a boy to finish the night with our prayer.

During this year we have visited Zoo lab for Halloween, we had our Christmas night out to Laser Quest, in January we attended the annual anchor boy's fun day and on Friday 22nd February we will be attending a one-off fun night at the new soft play at the Mariner Centre.

Including myself and the other officer Bobby Kelly, we have two helpers Elaine Cameron and Claire Sherry. We also have a few young helpers, Rebecca Cameron (14), Maiya Sherry (12), Kyle Kelly (12) and Daniel Young (9) who are a great help each week with setting games up for us or helping with snack and giving some of the boys a little extra help during craft.

Katy Duncan

Officer in Charge of Anchor Boys

1st Hags Boys Brigade Junior Section Report

The Junior Section has 9 boys made up with primary 4, 5 & 6 boys with average of 8 boys turning up every week doing Figure marching, Badge work and playing games. We would like to thank Jack & Elizabeth Dunn for coming to do some astronomy with the boys. We entered the Alan Douglas, spiritual and Five a side football competitions. We are still to

enter the Figure Marching & sports competitions. For Halloween we went back to zoolab in Larbert with the Anchor Boys & company section all the boys dressed up in fancy dress with prizes for the best dressed, they all enjoyed touching & holding a snake, a lizard, a Tarantula spider and other animals. Our Christmas trip we went to indoor laser tag centre in Cumbernauld with Anchor Boys, Company Section & Officers all the boys & Officers had a good time shooting each other with a laser gun. We are still to attend the year's turnabout at Falkirk town hall on Friday 1st march. We are now planning for Parent Night which is Saturday 11th May. We are also planning a sponsored event in April to raise company funds. Our session will finish with our annual weekend camp at Girvan in the first weekend in June. Thanks to all the Officers and parents for their help and support.

John Fenney

Captain

1st Hags Company Section

This year has proven to be another very challenging year for the Company Section. We have struggled to maintain our numbers of boys.

We have tried to vary the program that we offer the boys having merged to run at the same time as the Junior Section. This was to allow us to offer more team games for the boys which worked to a greater degree.

This year we have attended Church for our Opening Parade, Remembrance, and Christmas services and a big thanks to the boys who attended.

Jason Marr has been working on his Queen's Badge and has completed his book and will be attending his completion course.

A big thank you to the officers and boys for their help over the year.

Alan Hobbs, Officer in Charge of Company Section.

CAPTAINS REPORT

The Anchors are going strong with a good number of boys attending. It's been a hard year with low number of boys in the Junior & Company Sections. With only 9 boys in the junior section we still managed to enter all of the Competitions in the Battalion so far with some still to run. They will finish the session with the annual weekend camp at Girvan on the first weekend of June. All Sections attended Church for our Opening Parade, Remembrance, and Christmas services. Our Annual display and Parents evening will be Saturday 11th May at Bankier Primary School & our closing Parade on Sunday 12th May at Hags Parish Church and we will hopefully award Jason Marr with his Queens Badge.

I would like to thank Officers Katy Duncan, Sharon Fenney, Bobby Kelly, Alan Hobbs and Grant Kirkwood and Helpers Elaine Cameron & Claire Sherry and Parents for all their help & support over the year we wouldn't have a company without you all.

Do you know of any boys who would like to join our company or any adults (Male or Female) who would like to help please contact myself (johnfenney1@aol.com or 07799145121).

John Fenney Captain 1st Hags Boys' Brigade

LIGHT FILLING MY LIFE: A MEDITATION

There is a yogic exercise that encourages the practitioner to imagine that with each in-breath you breathe in light which begins at the top of the spine and travels downwards. With each out-breath that light is sent to every corner of the body. As the meditation continues so the light continues to soak the spine, coursing its way to each bodily extremity.

In my attempts to pray, to communicate with God, to enhance my listening skills and be open to receive light from God, I find this exercise helps. This image of light filling my life gives me hope, joy and courage for the future.

If you are struggling to feel close to God then you could sit in a quiet place and give this meditation a try.

You could also try the 'Yoga 4 All' sessions in the Church Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.00-8.15pm.

(Contact Sue Storrar for more details)

Baptism:

"suffer little children to come unto me"

January : Sophie Jane Paton

February : Alice Hermione Marie McGowan

Deaths:

"blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"

December 2018 – Mrs M Vass Banknock

January 2019 - Mr Robert Buchanan Allandale

Mr George Bryson Dennyloanhead



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