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## The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Linked with Denny Old Parish Church

**Spring 2020**

## A Tempting Prospect

Spring is the transition season between winter and summer during which we see days getting longer, temperatures warming (not so often in Scotland) and plants blossoming in time for summer. But in Christian calendar, spring is a time when we have Lent and Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. It is a time when people observe a period of fasting in some places, and think about repentance, moderation, self denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lent is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

I would like to see what Matthew tells us about the time in Lent by looking at Jesus who was tempted by the devil in wilderness.

**“Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. Then the Devil came to him and said, “If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread.” But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.’”** (Matthew 4:1-4)

For many, the season of Lent is synonymous with one thing: temptation. Specifically, it is associated with overcoming it: giving up some bad habits, perhaps; denying ourselves some luxury; or turning over a new leaf. The rationale for this is the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, during which he was tempted to turn stones into bread, to bow before Satan, and to test God by throwing himself off the highest point of the temple.

But what does all this actually mean for us today? Too often it's understood as a stick with which we should beat ourselves; an example of stern self-discipline that we must somehow follow, and God helps us if we fail to do so. If Jesus could do it, the implication seems to be, then so also should we.

Yet is that really the point here? The temptation Jesus faced was to take the easy path rather than the hard, to fit in with the way of the world instead of walking the way of the cross. It's the fact that he refused to give in that gives us reason to hope and rejoice despite our faults. He took the road of costly self-sacrifice, the route that led to death in order to bring us life, and he did so not because we deserve it but precisely because we don't, because he loves us as we are. Lent speaks of the God who longs not to condemn but forgive, not to punish but to bless.

May this spring – the season of Lent, self-denial and self-discipline blossom new life in you and help you to conquer all the temptations in Jesus' name. Amen.

Raheel Arif.

## UNICEF

Thank you for responding so generously to the UNICEF Jar of Grace appeal during the Advent period. A total of £719.00 was raised from the jars, the Soup and Sandwich lunch and the retiral offering following the Watchnight service. God Bless – Your donations will help to vaccinate vulnerable children against measles this year and to keep them healthier.

## Haggs Parish Church Charities Supported in 2019

Blythwood Trust	45 Shoeboxes
Knitting for Malawi	Hats & Jumpers
Christian Aid	£1450.00
Crossreach	£950.00
Falkirk Food Bank Food Parcels & Macmillan Cancer Support	£250.00
Poppy Scotland	£560.00
Souper Sunday (HIV Projects)	£109.10
Strathcarron Hospice	£225.00
Vine Trust	£423.00
UNICEF	£ 93.10
Deny Social Work Dept.	80 Christmas Gifts
Total	£4,779.50

**Thank you all for your continued generosity – working together to help others in need at home and abroad.**

## Deaths

*'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'*

December 2019	John Jarvie	Head of Muir
“ “	Peter Quinn	Banknock
January 2020	Jessie Harkins	Banknock
“ “	Elizabeth Duncan	Banknock

Jesus said the golden rule was to do to others before they do it to you. He also explained a man does not live by sweat alone.

The people who followed Jesus were called the disciples.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

One of the apostles was St. Matthew who was a tax collector.

*Out of the mouths of babes.....*



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES 2020

### HOLY WEEK

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Denny Baptist Church	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Denny West Park	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Bonnybridge St. Helens	7:30 p.m.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Haggs Parish Church	7:30 p.m.
<i>(Maundy Thursday Communion)</i>		
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Walk of Witness Denny Westpark	10:30 a.m.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Dunipace Parish Church	7:30 p.m.

### EASTER SERVICES

Easter Early morning Service	Open air near Library	8:30 a.m.
Breakfast after open air service	Denny Old Church Hall	9:00 a.m.

### Services at Haggs Parish Church

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Bankier Primary School	9:30 a.m.
<b>Easter service in Church</b>		
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Service	9:45 a.m.

### Services at Denny Old Parish Church

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Denny Primary School	2:00 p.m.
<b>Easter Service in Church</b>		
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Service	11:15 a.m.

## Church Ceiling Repair

A few weeks ago you received a letter from the Kirk Session inviting you to make a donation towards the cost of repairing the ceiling in the Church. The background to this request started in 2016 when Falkirk Presbytery conducted a routine survey of the Church buildings. In their report they noted that the ceiling cornice above the organ and choir was cracking. We had this section of cornicing replaced in 2017.

Unfortunately in 2019 we noticed that the crack had reappeared and over the course of that year it grew worse. We invited a contractor to look at the damage and he informed us that the ceiling was sagging, due to the deterioration of a number of ceiling support timbers, which would need to be replaced to prevent further sagging and remedy a potentially dangerous situation.

This work was completed over the period 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> January at a cost of £7000. We have paid the bills for the work but, as you can imagine, this has significantly depleted our funds. We are currently exploring possible ways of obtaining a grant towards these costs but this is by no means certain. Hence our request to you, as one of our members of Haggs Parish Church, for a contribution to offset the cost of the repair work.

We appreciate how much our members give to the Church and its various charitable organisations in the course of each year. This particular cause is much closer to home and is literally helping to keep a roof over our heads.

We would like to thank you for any donations that you have already made or that you might make in the near future.

Thank-you for your support and for helping Haggs Church to continue to provide a place of worship in our community.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk

Jack Dunn, Property Convener

## Running the race.

Over the past few weeks the Sunday club have been listening to the stories of Moses, David and Samuel, all of whom were called to serve God. This is the story of another man who was called to serve the Lord and answered it.

Eric Liddell was the man who is known as the athlete who refused to run in the heats of the 100m at the Paris Olympics of 1924, because they were to take place on a Sunday. He went on to win the 400m and received his Gold Medal and a bronze.



Eric Henry Liddell was born on 16th January 1902 in Tientsin (Tianjin) in Northern China, second son of the Rev. & Mrs. James Dunlop Liddell who were missionaries with the London Mission Society. He was educated at Eltham College, Blackheath, a school for the sons of missionaries. Eric, with his older brother Rob, were left at their boarding school while their parents and sister, Jenny, returned to China. In 1920, Eric joined his brother Rob at Edinburgh University to read for a BSc in Pure Science.

He graduated after the Paris Olympiad in 1924 then he returned to North China where he served as a missionary from 1925 to 1943 – first in Tientsin (Tainjin) and later in Siaochang. During his first furlough in 1932 he was ordained as a minister of religion.

Eric was an all-round sportsman as he also played rugby for Scotland, but gave it all up to serve God. His story is told in the Oscar winning film Chariots of Fire.

In 1941 life in China was becoming so dangerous that the British Government advised British nationals to leave. Florence his wife and the children left for Canada while Eric remained in China where he was arrested and interned until his untimely death in 1945.

Athletics and rugby played a large part in Eric's University life. He ran in the 100 yards and the 220 yards for Edinburgh University and later for Scotland. He played rugby for Edinburgh

University and in 1922 played in seven Scottish Internationals along with A.L. Gracie a famous rugby player of that time. He will be remembered as a man who gave his life to follow God.

He lived his life serving others. "He ran the race and reached his goal"

*1 Corinthians 9:24* - Do you not know that those who *run* in a *race* all *run*, but only one receives the prize? *Run* in such a way that you may win.



### From the Scottish Bible Society

Bible 2020 is a global movement reading God's Word aloud across the world. By encouraging the Church to read the Bible aloud each day across our cities, countryside and towns, we believe we can bring change. When we speak the words of the Bible out loud today the truths within it come into the present, promises are made and blessings received.

Partner agencies in 72 countries have signed-up for Bible 2020. We are asked to consider what we can do in our local community to bring about change throughout 2020 and beyond.

If you would like to know more about this movement you can visit the website: [bible2020.org](http://bible2020.org) or install their App both of which will give you information about daily readings.

The Scottish Bible Society seeks, under God, to put the Bible into people's hands and hearts and its vision is to see lives transformed through reading it.



Elizabeth Dunn

## Sunday School Lessons

***The following about the Bible were written by children and have not been altered in any way.***

In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took Sunday off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark, which the animals came on to in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt, but a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Fillistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread with no ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert.

Afterwards Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.

Moses died before he reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.

Solomon, one of David's sons had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard that she was to be the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, the found Jesus in the manager.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hagg's Girls Brigade



We have had a very busy time since we started in September last year, with our numbers now sitting at 12 – 14 girls, the highest we've seen for a while. We have a very busy schedule doing badge work, playing games and learning new skills.

The Juniors are lead by Alan, & I lead the Explorers, and we come together each night for games and tuck shop. We had Father Christmas visit us in December and he brought gifts for everyone. Jack and Elizabeth Dunn came to visit and Jack brought his telescope, the girls were all thrilled to have such a close look at the moon.

We are now starting to plan our closing evening, it seems time passes so quickly as we feel like we've just started and now we're planning the end of session already. The girls put in so much effort into everything they do and come every week full of energy and enthusiasm, I would like to thank all the parents / guardians for bringing them each week.

Note for diary Parents Night Tuesday 12/05/20 Church hall 6:30pm, we'd love to see you there.

Kind regards

**Shona Laird**

*Captain 1<sup>st</sup> Hagg's Girls' Brigade*

## Used Stamps

Over the year we have collected used stamps in a box in the vestibule. Thank you if you have used this and may I ask that everyone continue to collect their used stamps and bring them to Church to help good causes. Last years stamps have been given to CrossReach to do what they do with them. Thank you for your help.

Jean McCheyne

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hagg's Boys Brigade



### Anchor Boys

Anchor Boys meet every Tuesday, they have Arts & Crafts and play games every week all boys have a good time. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January they attended the Falkirk & District Battalion Anchor boy fun day. All the boys had a fab day. Thanks to Katy Duncan, Bobby Kelly & the helpers for all the work they do at the Anchor boys also thanks to the boy's parents for sending the boys ever week. I would also like to thank Ernie Firth for helping out while Katy is taking time of leave after the death of her mother.

### Junior & Company Sections

Junior & Company Section meet every Friday with an average of 4/5 Boys attending in the Junior Section and between 2 & 3 Boys attending the Company Section. We start with an opening Service including a Talk & Prayer then we split. Figure Matching for the Junior Section and Drill for the company section then do Badge work then do PT and play Games. We have a closing Service including intimations & a prayer, then dismiss the boys. We finish off with a tuck shop. The Junior & Company Section haven't managed to enter any Battalion Competitions because we don't have enough boys to enter. We look forward to our annual parent's night in May and our annual weekend camp in Girvan on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June . Thanks to Grant Kirkwood, Sharon Fenney & Alan Hobbs for all their help in the Junior & company Section and for the parents who send their boys looking smart in their Uniforms every week.

**John Fenney Captain**

## Christian Aid 2020

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 area, 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 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Hagg's Parish Church plans to collect donations again this year and your continued support is needed please. Last year we sent a total of £2,600.00 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 19<sup>th</sup> May** and the **'Kelpies Canter' sponsored walk will be on 31<sup>st</sup> August.**

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