

## **The Link**

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church**

**Summer 2013**

## **Editorial**

The subjects in this magazine are many and varied. I hope you enjoy reading this. May I bring to your attention one thing - our B.B. minibus is beginning to need replacing and the B.B. need your support in any way to help with the running and maintenance of it. One way you can help is if you join their 100 club – costs £1.00 each month with the possibility of receiving a small prize once a month. Why not consider adding your name to their list? (Please see any BB Officer to find out more)

## **Update on the Presbytery Plan**

A meeting took place in February at Haggs Church that was attended by the four ministers/one locum minister and Kirk Session representatives from the churches of Dunipace, Westpark, Denny Old, Bonnybridge & St Helen's and Haggs.

You will recall that in the Presbytery Plan it was stated that we need to reduce from five to four ministers in this area. The process of calling a new minister has started at Westpark Church and Haggs is likely to become the first vacant charge in 2015 on the retirement of Rev. Helen Christie.

It was agreed that we would work together to try to keep all five churches open for worship. This could mean sharing ministers or a linkage with another church. A meeting is being organised when speakers from other parishes will come to tell us about how different models for reorganisation have worked in their areas.

The Kirk Session wants to reassure you all that we are working together with the other churches to have a plan in place to take worship forward at Haggs into the future.

Please keep giving your support to our minister and the Kirk Session in this difficult period of change in Haggs Church's history.

Sue Storrar  
( acting pro-tem Session Clerk)

## **Church Diary 2013**

<b>June 2013</b>	
	<b>2 p.m.</b> Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
30th	Sunday Club Prize Giving Service

## **Praise Band**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> the praise band led the service of Pentecost. The music was lively and hopefully everyone enjoyed it. Thank you again to Winnie and Arthur McMillan for the work they do organising rehearsals and selecting the music and performing. New members are always made welcome.

Elma Findlay

## **Carpet Bowls**

Although still small in number our group enjoy our times together. Our annual outing is to Gretna on 29<sup>th</sup> May.  
Thanks to Bea for the work she puts in and to Maisie our Treasurer.

Elma Findlay

## **The Guild**

The Daffodil Tea was held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, a very pleasant afternoon.  
On 18<sup>th</sup> April the A.G.M. was held in the Church Hall and our funds were disbursed as follows:  
£200 to Comfort Rowanda (Building a better Rowanda)  
£200 to Crossreach Heart for Art Scotland  
£200 to the Church.  
£125 raised from the Beetle Drive was given to Driving Force  
We are very grateful to all who have supported us to enable us to give out this amount of money.  
On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May we had lunch at the Railway Inn instead of a bus drive.  
The Guild will resume again in October.

Elma Findlay

## **Teas & Coffees**

During the course of the last session we have enjoyed the fellowship of teas and coffees after Church. This time of coming together has become a regular part of our Sunday worship and we would like to thank everyone who comes along for a few minutes of friendship and fellowship.

We would especially like to thank everyone who has made this possible by setting up tables and making the teas and coffees for us to enjoy.

We will be restarting at the end of August and look forward to seeing you then.

Elizabeth Dunn

### **1<sup>st</sup> Hags Anchor Boys**

2012-13 has been a successful year for the Anchor Boys and they have achieved record numbers and attendance.

During the course of the year there have been numerous fun outings for the boys including the Christmas outing to Adventure Planet, fun day at Larbert Church Hall where all the boys from the Falkirk area met up and they split into teams, played games, had craft activities and enjoyed a puppet show in February. In March they attended TurnaBBout (BB Music and entertainment festival) in Falkirk along with Anchor Boys and Companies from the Falkirk area.

The boys have attended several Church services throughout the year including the opening service, Christmas and Easter services, Harvest and Palm Sunday.

Visits to the boys came from the Police Dogs and Fire Service talking about safety issues which included them bringing their fire engine for the boys to see.

Various craft activities throughout the year have stimulated the children's imagination and co-ordination encouraging team work, bonding and forming friendships.

Thanks goes to Mr Firth, Grant, Beth, Daniel, Ann-Marie, Fiona, Gail and Bobby for their help throughout the year.

Gail and Fiona. Anchor Boys Officers

### **1<sup>st</sup> Hags Junior Section**

We have 10 – 12 boys attending on a regular basis and during the session we have taken part in the Alan Douglas, Spiritual, Chess, Figure Marching, Swimming and Sports competitions – not winning - but having fun.

At Christmas the boys attended the gift Service. Like the Anchor boys the Junior Section had a visit from the Fire Service too. The Community Policeman and his dog came along to see them also.

TurnaBBout was popular with the boys and they are now looking forward to the weekend camp in Girvan at the end of May.

Thanks to Ernie, George, John, Chris and Sharon for their help throughout the session.

Sandra Moffat, Junior Section Officer

### **1<sup>st</sup> Hags Company Section**

The company section has been very busy this year with 12 boys attending on a Friday night and progressing with their badges. Four of the boys having progressed through the badge structure attained their President's badges. Well done boys!

Competitions including Football, table tennis league, badminton and chess matches have taken place. In the Battalion Swimming Gala they were 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Chess they had 3 teams and were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Vaulting competition they were 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Battalion First Aid they entered a Junior and two Senior teams, the seniors were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the cross country, the Senior Team won and individual winner in the Senior category, with some of the boys representing the Battalion in the National Scottish Cross Country competition.

The National competitions - football, table tennis, and in chess they reached the last 16. This year for the Masterteam Quiz we reached the Scottish final. They boys have done very well to reach the finals in these very competitive national competitions.

Thanks to all officers for their hard work, without them we would not have been able to give the boys the variety of activities they have taken part in this year.

Colin Meek, Officer in Charge, Company Section

## **David Livingstone**

200 years ago David Livingstone was born. (19th March 1813-1873)

I see David Livingstone as one of my all-time heroes. He was a simple man, born into a weaving community in Blantyre near Hamilton and who began his working life as a weaver but was eager to be a medical doctor and fortunate to be able to study at Andersons, now Glasgow University. He became a doctor of medicine but wanted more as he applied to be a missionary in Africa but was turned down on numerous occasions. He was not an eloquent speaker which was one of the things that the London Missionary Society did not like but he was determined. Eventually he was accepted and was sent to Africa. It was there that he helped the native Africans with medical matters, explained how best to use the land and lived with them in their villages even although he was not of the best of health himself. He met his wife at Kuruman who helped him in Africa for some time but he sent her home when she was to have her children. He suffered bouts of fever and dysentery, was taken prisoner at one time having to sleep and eat with animals but his determination and stubborn nature helped him overcome these deprivations to become a famous explorer and doctor of the people. While in Africa he explored the tributaries of the Zambezi River and sought the source of the Nile, found Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyassa drawing maps and keeping journals of the unexplored rivers and their tributaries. It was him who charted the route across the continent from east to west the first white man to do so. This was a great achievement and a boost for the British Empire and of great commercial value for trade as well as bringing civilisation to Central Africa. He named the Victoria Falls after the then Queen. David Livingstone, despite his bouts of ill health, fought on to help set up medical facilities in the villages across Africa. He made only one convert to Christianity in all his time in Africa but he is remembered all over the World.

When he died his body was carried across Africa by faithful friends, to be returned to Britain and buried in Westminster Abbey, his heart was buried under a tree in his adopted country of Africa

It is said that the Queen (Victoria) provided a royal coach for the Livingstone family to attend the Abbey although she herself did not attend.

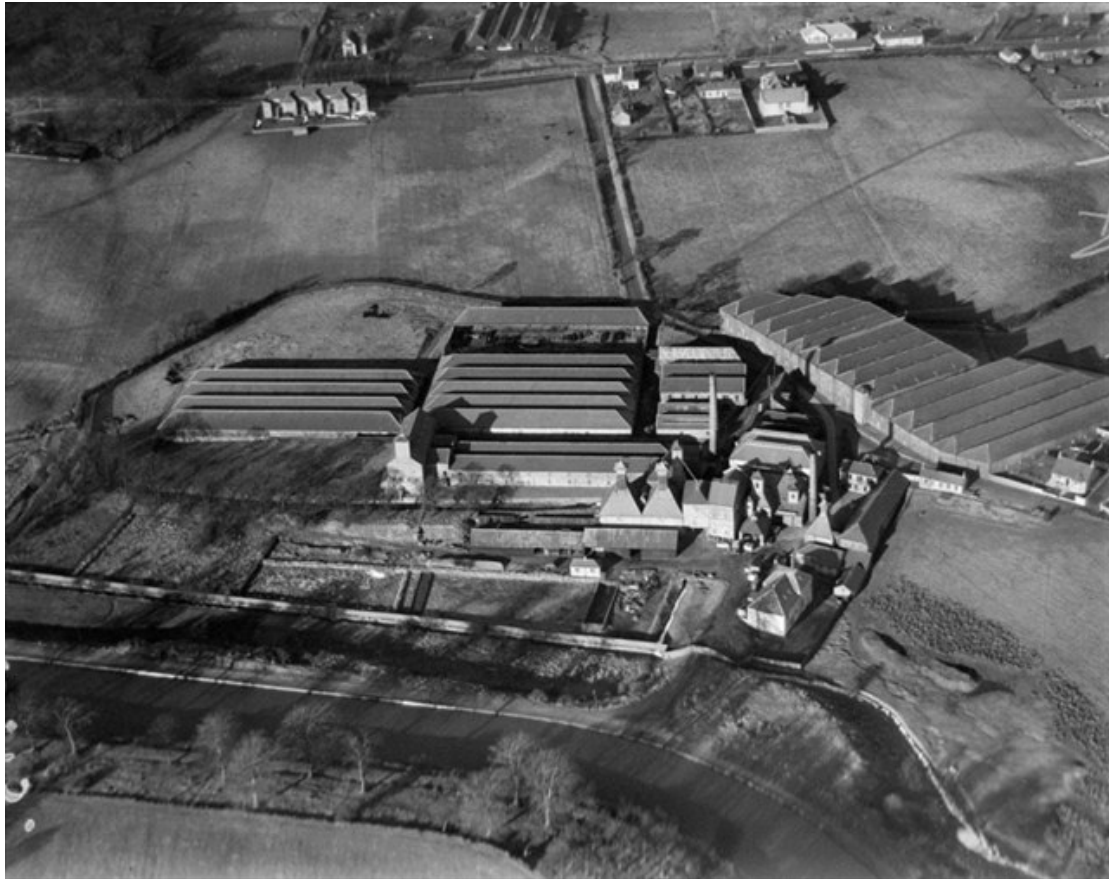
There are villages, towns and university faculties around the World all named in his honour, Quite a feat for a simple weaver from Blantyre.

Inserted by Moira Martin

## **The Sunday Club**

We have been really busy with lots of activities and bible stories. We have started working on our third banner for the Church and we plan to have it ready before the end of this session. Ideas for our summer outing would be gratefully received. I would like to thank all who help and support us, and the parents and grandparents who bring their children each week throughout the year.

Shona Laird



### **Bankier Distillery:**

Bankier was one of some six distilleries built close to the Forth-Clyde canal, the others being at Port Dundas in Glasgow and two at Falkirk. Originally a corn mill between Castlecary and Denny, it was converted to distilling in 1827 by Paisley man Daniel Macfarlane, acquiring the name Bankier Distillery Company in 1838. The company was reformed a decade later and, despite many changes and alterations, kept that name until 1925. The Company and distillery were acquired by James Risk in 1878 and James Buchanan and Co. Ltd. in 1903. It was finally passed to DCL in 1925 and closed in 1928. However, the maltings stayed in use until 1971 and the warehouses until the late 1980's. Its last remains were finally demolished around 1990.

In its early days it was described as a thriving place, very clean and efficient, spread over six pleasant almost rural acres. Moray and Angus barley arrived by barge and was shifted by horse-drawn tram wagons to the barley lofts. Coal too arrived by barge and peats(dug from the Cumbernauld moors, when Cumbernauld was but a hamlet) rolled in by cart. Process water and water power came from the Doups Burn, which touched the site on its downhill path to the Bonny River. The buildings were low and scattered, with two high chimneys(75ft and 100ft) the main landmarks. In the 1880's it claimed to make "Highland-type" malt whisky and had two large, 6500 gallon wash stills and two smaller spirit stills, whose total output was 150,000-180,000 gallons a year.

Uphill from the production buildings were seven warehouses with a total capacity of 4,500 casks or well over 200,000 gallons. It was a classic, wholly-integrated, self-sufficient distillery with everything on site – peat barn, engine house, two cooperages, two huge spent wash tanks and a draft pit. Like many distilleries of the era it also had its own pig farm, with 100 draft-fed porkers in sties around a large central feeding yard.

The whisky was fine and the distillery profitable until the day the water went bad. Upstream from the distillery John Young and Company had started pumping water out of its coal mines into Doups Burn. The water was still fit to drink but its chemical composition had changed causing it to become too hard for whisky making.

Bankier Distillery went to court, arguing that its rights as a “riparian” landowner had been violated as the company possessed property on the ripa or bank of the stream. In 1893 the House of Lords upheld a lower court's decision to stop the mine's waste water from flowing into Doups Burn despite the fact that the water was still fit to drink. Lord Shand stated emphatically that it was not permissible for one man to use his property in such a way that it injured his neighbour. “ The lower owner is entitled to have the water transmitted to him with its natural qualities unimpaired” he said.

A quarter mile uphill from the distillery stood Bankier House which was occupied by James Risk. It had a swan-topped miniature lake and manicured lawns and gardens. The Manager's house and employees cottages stood on the main road opposite the distillery's eastern gate. Today virtually everything has gone.

Jack Dunn (from information on the Internet)

P. S. If you have any information or photographs regarding the distillery, please let me know.

**FITNESS CLASSES;-Church Hall**

ZUMBA every Monday 6-7pm

ZUMBA GOLD every Friday 11am-12pm

PILATES every Monday 7.15-8.15pm (Class Full)

Pilates every Tuesday 8.1-9.15pm limited space available

Small classes if you have back shoulder or neck problems this is the class for you

For more info or to book a space contact LIZ on 07813857486

## **Christian Aid Week 2013**

The weather forecast is for 'wet and windy conditions' – it must be Christian Aid Week again!

Christian Aid week started with a 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch in the church hall following the morning service. A warm bowl of soup was certainly welcome on such a cold day that was more like February than May! The sum of £104.00 was collected at the lunch.

It seems that every year the weather is bad for our volunteers, who battle through the wind and rain, to cover as much as the parish as possible in the door-to-door collection. Every year we try to think of another way of raising money for Christian Aid as nobody enjoys collecting around the doors, however, each year we are astounded by the continuing generosity of many people in the area. It would be difficult to raise the same large amount of money for the work of Christian Aid in any other way.

So a big 'Thank you' to all of our collectors – your efforts and this way of giving your time to help others is much appreciated. Your efforts will help to transform lives around the world. Christian Aid works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of their faith or nationality.

### **Forth Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

£740.00 has been raised by walkers from Hags Church for the work of Christian Aid. Most took part in the Bridge Cross Walk but some, due to family commitments, holidays or illness, could not join in the organised event. However, they completed their walks at an alternative time and place – fighting poverty step by step. Thanks to all who took part and to all the sponsors for their generous support.

### **Soup and Sandwich Lunches**

There have been five lunches over the past session, and these have been well supported by the congregation. Each time the produce for the lunch has been kindly donated by church members and the lunches have been prepared and served by a loyal team of workers.

Thanks to all who gave their time making these lunches such a success – they helped to bring fellowship to the church and also raised money for a variety of worthy causes.

We are always looking for soup makers or helpers to work in the kitchen so please offer your time next session if you are able.

Sue Storrar



## **Marriage**

### **'Whom God has joined together'**

Charlotte Edgar to Paul Reid

## **Deaths**

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

March

Mr Alexander Foster	Dennyloanhead
Mr Barry Shaw	Bonnybridge
Mrs Jessie Black	Bankview
Mrs Dorothy Scaife	Bankview
Mrs Margaret Munn	Bonnybridge

April

Mr Andrew McMillan	Banknock
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May

Mr John Hamilton	Banknock
Mr Tommy Gillan	Banknock

The Manse

18<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Hi folks

'Silver and Gold have I none'

Today was the first day of the General Assembly where I am one of the commissioners.

After the opening worship the retiring Moderator, the Very Rev Albert Bogle handed over the Office of Moderator to Rev. Lorna Hood.

As part of his address to the new Moderator, Albert quoted 'Silver and Gold have I none' a reminder of the loss of the Moderator's ring and cross on his return from South Africa. But Albert did have a wooden cross which had been gifted to him at the start of his year as Moderator.. This he gave to the new Moderator along with the replacement ring.

The gift of the cross reminded me of the other wooden cross on which our Saviour died giving us the gift of new life.

We may not have great amounts of silver and gold, but we all have been given the new gift of life in Christ.

As Albert passed on his gift we have the gift of the Good News of Christ to pass to those around us.

May God's blessing be with you.

Helen F Christie

**Minister:** Rev. Helen F Christie  
The Manse  
Watson Place  
Dennyloanhead  
Tel: 01324 813786

**Session Clerks Pro-Tem:**  
Mr R. M. McCheyne  
36 Hazel Road  
Banknock  
FK4 1LQ  
Tel: 01324 840137

Mrs Sue Storrar  
2 Cumbernauld Road  
Longcroft  
FK4 1QJ  
Tel: 01324 840757

**Clerk to the Congregational Board:**  
Mr Drew Christie  
The Manse  
Watson Place  
Dennyloanhead  
Tel: 01324 813786

**Beadle:** Mr E Martin  
39 Cruikshank's Court  
Denny  
FK6 5DU  
Tel: 01324 820736

Web site: [www.haggschurch.org.uk](http://www.haggschurch.org.uk)  
Email: [haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk)

Magazine Editor: Mrs Jean McCheyne  
Email: [mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk)

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