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Scottish Charity Number: SCO14536

The Church
of Scotland



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Summer 2016

Boys Brigade

Our new session begins on Tuesday 30th August 2016 with the Anchor Boys (P1-P3) at 6.30 to 7.45 pm in Bankier Primary School, The Junior Section and the Company Section on Friday 2nd September. The Junior Section (P4-P6) from 6.15 to 7.45 pm and the Company Section (P7-S6) from 7.45 to 9.30pm, both in Bankier Primary School.

This session, boys from Primary 1 to Primary 3 will be able to join, as one of the helpers, Kate Duncan, is doing Youth Leading training allowing Primary 1 boys into the Anchor Boys Section of the Company.

One of our young helpers is doing a Training course at Carronvale House (BB Headquarters Scottish) from the 16th to 22nd July this year and a further week in 2017. We wish Grant well with this course.

The Junior Section had a great weekend camp at Girvan which left the boys **and** officers exhausted on Sunday evening.

E. Firth (Captain)

The Company Section has had a very mixed year starting with 12 boys but now we are down to 8. This has made it difficult to organise an effective programme with the fluctuation in numbers attending regularly.

The normal night would consist of opening parade with bible reading, short talk and prayer followed by inspection. We would then move to Drill, tuck-shop, classes and games or practice for the national and battalion competitions. We have tried to enter as many competitions as possible however due to the numbers wishing to participate we only managed national masterteam, chess and table tennis having to withdraw from the chess and table tennis. The battalion competitions entered this year were only vaulting, swimming, and pulpit fall.

The attendance at church parades this year include harvest and the Christmas gift service and the battalion night at Falkirk Town Hall which was a mix of Christian Music, sing along, and Magic acts.

This year 1 boy achieved his Presidents Badge and we have one boy working on his Queen's Badge, which hopefully he will complete next year.

Thanks is due to all parents and church members and organisations who have helped to raise money for the minibus.

*Colin Meek, Officer in Charge
Company Section*

Manse

I would like to thank all those who helped with the clearance and decoration of the Manse ie. Carpet removal, general cleaning and painting. Your help was appreciated with the clearing of the debris and general tidy of the garden.

The minutes of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings agreeing to the sale of the Manse have now been passed to Presbytery and 121 Trustees who can now proceed with the sale.

The sale of Hags and Denny Old manses should give the linked charge enough to purchase a more modern house which will be situated somewhere between the two churches.

Colin Meek

Girls Brigade

We have had three Explorers regularly attending over the session. The Explorers' have been working on the Celebrations. They have made a few collages while learning all about the different celebrations that are carried out throughout the year whilst making posters and carrying out other craft evenings.

This session we have had five Juniors regularly attending each week. The Juniors are again working on their badgework. We have covered 'God's Heroes' where the girls learned about people such as Mother Theresa, Florence Nightingale and David Livingstone. We have also covered 'Head to Toe' which covered hair care, skin care, and nail care. Currently we are working on 'You are what you eat' and 'Keep Fit'. The girls have been learning about good foods and bad foods as well as learning some traditional Scottish dances all for their badgework.

We have two Brigaders attending this year, Rachel and Heather. The Brigaders this year have been working hard to complete all four sections of their badgework as well as being very helpful with the other sections whenever any officer has needed help. This year, Rachel was working hard to complete her badgework for her Brigader Brooch.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support.

*Shirley-Anne Hobbs
Officer in Charge.*

Sunday Club

We held our prize giving on 26th June when five young people received their prizes. Sandra presented the youngsters with their books, (children who were not there will get their prizes at a later date). We have 10 young people on the roll.

The Sunday club leaders are having a well earned break but activities will be made available during the summer months to keep the youngsters amused. Please bring your children to church where they will be made welcome.

Thank you for coming to church and bringing mums and dads, aunts, uncles, grandmas and granddads.

The Sunday club team would like to thank all who help with the young people. They are the future of the church and we have to encourage them to come and discover Jesus for themselves.

Have a good summer holiday, keep safe and we will see you all back on September 10th.

Shona, Moira and Libby.

Carpet Bowls

In May we went to Oban with the Carpet Bowlers of Bonnybridge. It was a lovely day out and everyone enjoyed their time in Oban.

The Carpet Bowlers will resume in the autumn, the date still to be arranged.

Elma Finlay

Thanks

Bob Miller would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards and best wishes while he was in hospital. It was most appreciated.

Two churches

Two churches were standing a few miles apart.
In each village they were the heart.
No one had a preacher so they decided to share
One who could teach them and lead them in prayer.

This is an historical occasion
We have met here to acclaim
The linking of our churches
To the Glory of the Lord's name.

A chapter in our church's history
Is being written here tonight
It is hoped all those present
Will in friendship unite?

Now that the two churches are joined in unity
We hope all concerned will work in harmony
That when a preacher comes to stay
He will bless the day he came this way.

This poem was written by Catherine Sloan on the occasion of their church being linked with another and I thought it was appropriate at this time in the history of Haggis Church. It was given to me by the author's daughter.

Elma Finlay

Bible quiz to keep you busy

1. What is the first book of the Bible?
2. What are the first words in the Bible?
3. What is the last word?
4. Who is the first person mentioned in the Bible?
5. How many days did God take to make the Earth?
6. How many books of the Bible?

IN or OUT

Over the past few months, we have all had to decide whether we are IN or OUT, not just the EU Referendum but on many other issues.

We Scots are not used to the intense heat, as the temperature rises we relish the sunshine bringing out the garden seat or barbeque, but after a prolonged hot spell, whether to stay out or take shelter in doors in the shade is our choice.

Euro 2016, even although Scotland was not in the competition, the referee rules the game, whether the ball is out or in, as the players try to score goals into the back of the net.

Wimbledon has begun as frustrated players argue whether the tennis ball is in or out.

We here at Higgs have had to make decisions and vote in a democratic way. Whether we are on the IN side or the OUT lets pull together and go forward in Love.

Lets fall in love with God, Stay in Love with God, and that will decide everything.

To the Younger Ones of our Church.

Enjoy your holidays and keep safe. Remember that although the Sunday Club leaders are having their holidays too, there will always be something to keep you busy throughout the summer at church. Look forward to seeing you all in September.

Bible quiz Answers

Answer 1. Genesis

Answer 2. In the beginning (see Genesis)

Answer 3. Amen (see Revelations)

Answer 4. Adam

Answer 5. six (He rested on the seventh)

Answer 6. 66

Iona

The thirteenth of July 2016 was a very special day for both Ernie and



I as we headed from Mull to the tiny island of Iona. We were not disappointed as the sun shone on the white sands of Iona in the distance. The short ferry trip

landed us on the island spewing out the many visitors to this tiny community. This Island of Iona has become a place of pilgrimage and of continuing community spirit to many. This is where St Columba arrived in AD 563 spreading Christianity to the Scottish mainland. Many had been before him as archaeologist have uncovered over the years and left their mark but St Columba has left Scotland with a legacy that is still alive today. The Abbey was restored in the early 20th century. George McLeod's Iona Community, united clergy and craftsmen in restoring the abbey and now welcomes today's pilgrims.

The walk up the short incline, past the ruins of the nunnery then following the path round to the right brought our first sight of the Abbey. The church and hall on the left was if my memory does not deceive me was where we as 16-17 year olds bunked for the week over 50 years ago as volunteers with our church youth fellowship.

The buildings were simple as you would expect giving the impression of peace and beauty as I marvelled at the carvings on the stone pillars round the courtyard. I took time to sit in a quiet place and reflect, giving my humble prayer up as I had promised.

The Abbey and related historical buildings remain in the care of Iona Cathedral Trust, managed by Historic Scotland since 2000.

Moira Martin

Message from Sandra

Dear Friends

Yesterday as Thursday's stage of the Tour de France neared its climax with Chris Froome seeming destined for another victory, 'tragedy' struck. Due to the usual crowds on the roads where the cyclists have to pass, a TV motor cycle couldn't get through and the three front riders crashed into it. Chris Froome's cycle was smashed to smithereens and he couldn't at that point finish the stage. It seemed disaster for him until the race organisers agreed that he should still be given his rightful place as No 1.

Today details of yesterday's real tragedy have become increasingly known - the numbers of dead and injured, together with fifty in hospital whose lives are in the balance have brought grief and horror to France and the world at large. Today, Chris Froome said, "The tragedy and the suffering brought to individuals, to families, to a nation - by pure evil - puts everything else into focus." Suddenly points lost in a race assume their rightful status - way down the list of priorities.

I'm sure many of us have had that same experience in our lives - the disappointment brought by the cancellation of a looked forward to holiday, a new car or house, or even just a special day out - brought into sharp relief by the reason for the cancellation, perhaps accident or illness either personal or in the family, or worse still, the loss of a loved one. Suddenly what seemed important at the time loses its glitz as what is of vital importance impinges on our consciousness, our sense of what is really important.

So I ask you to consider what is of first importance in your life. Many of you will immediately think of your spouse and/or your family. For others, especially the young, it may be that coveted degree or apprenticeship, the career perhaps opening out before them; for others a return to health will have first priority.

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus says that all these, good as they are in their own right, have to take second place in our lives. In Matthew 10:37 Jesus states categorically that anyone who puts anyone or anything in that place of priority before Him is not worthy

of Him. He demands and must have first place in our affections with everything else falling into its rightful place behind Him - but He assures us, all who have their priorities right, will receive their reward. In fact, even if we give a cup of water in His name, that will be rewarded.

Chris Froome, and I'm sure all the riders in the Tour de France, learned a valuable lesson. Winning a race no matter how prestigious that race is, is NOT life's real priority. Putting Jesus into first place in our life IS or should be our first priority. When we do that, all these other things not only assume their rightful place - we go forward in the certainty of Jesus' presence going with us, guiding us and leading us not matter what difficulties or tragedies we face.

*Blessings to all of you
Sandra Mathers (Rev)
Locum Minister*

From the Interim Moderator

By the time you read this article you will have elected and appointed five members to the nominating committee. This is an important step forward for us at Higgs and Denny Old. Your representatives have now been charged with a very important and responsible task and we are hopeful of a good outcome but given the climate before us we will probably have to be patient.

I invite you to keep the members of the nominating committee in your prayers as they work towards nominating a candidate in the hope that you will call him/her as your new minister. Since much of the business of the nominating committee deals with the personal details of candidates and is therefore confidential I would urge you all please not to grill your representatives but simply trust them to get on with the job.

I am looking forward to conducting worship on Sunday 7th August but in the meantime I wish you a restful and refreshing summer.

*Every blessing
David Nicholson DCS*

Christian Aid 2016

Once again in 2016 the congregation of Haggs Parish Church and the community of Haggs have shown their generosity towards those neighbours less fortunate than themselves around the world.

This year we raised the magnificent sum of £2,165.24 from donations, the Christian Aid lunch, Forth Bridge Walk and the Door-to-door collection. Although each year less people are actively involved in the collection and walking; the support we receive through gifts of money and from the strength of prayers keep this a source of mission work that should make us all feel proud, as we are continuing to do the Lord's work in this place. God promises a kingdom where the poor are blessed and the hungry are satisfied. This has inspired us to achieve amazing things for our neighbours.

The next fund raising event for Christian Aid will be a 'KELPIES CANTER' Sponsored walk at the Helix on Saturday 27th August 2016 from 11am-2pm. Face painting, scavenger hunts and a big picnic make the Kelpies Canter the best way for kids and families to support Christian Aid this summer.

With the iconic sculptures of the Kelpies as the centrepiece of the day, walkers can learn about water projects supported by Christian Aid while they snake around the 1, 2 or 3 mile routes. A big picnic on the lawn will be the finale to this great new event. More information about how you can get involved and sponsor sheets can be obtained from Sue Storrar (01324-840757)

Sue Storrar

Teas and Coffees

During the course of the last year we have the fellowship of tea and coffees after the church. I would like to thank everyone who provided these and also everyone who came along for a few minutes of friendship and fellowship.

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

Elizabeth Dunn

The Prayer Stool

I leave aside my shoes - my ambitions,
undo my watch – my timetable,
take off my glasses – my views,
unclip my pen – my work,
put down my keys – my security
to be alone with you, the only true God.

After being with you,
I take up my shoes - to walk in your ways,
strap on my watch - to live in your time,
put on my glasses - to look at your world,
clip on my pen - to write up your thoughts,
pick up my keys - to open your doors.

By Graham Kings

Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

April 10 Robyn Jane Aitchison,

June 5 Chloe McLay

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

March	Kenneth More	Banknock
April	Margaret Miller	Longcroft
May	George Morrison	Head of Muir
May	Peter Weir	Longcroft
May	William Dunsmore	Allandale
June	Alistair McLanachan	Camelon