

The Church
of Scotland



The Link

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

Summer 2018

A Summer Message

It seems like yesterday but the time has flown and it's almost six months since I started as your Locum Minister and I hope that you feel as comfortable with me as I do with you! You have made me feel like one of the family.

Over the summer period, we will be sharing joint services at 10am with another part of the family, our linked congregation of Denny Old. I hope that not only will we worship together but that I will have the luxury of time to spend in fellowship after the service which I sadly can't do when conducting two services.

Over the summer, I will preach a series of sermons based on the Lord's Prayer and I hope that it will make the Lord's Prayer even more meaningful and special to us all.

As you know I have already had my summer holiday but I will be away from parish duties for a week in July as I act as Chaplain for a week's residential training for new Young Leaders in the Boys' Brigade. I am very pleased and privileged to do this as the Boys' Brigade was a massive factor in leading me towards ministry. Please pray for me that I might be an encouragement to the young men who are willing to commit their time and energies to a Christian Organisation.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a time of relaxation and re-creation over the holiday period and that you will return from holidays refreshed and renewed and ready to work together for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in our community.

Your minister and friend,

Derek Gunn

1st Hags Girls Brigade

2017/2018 saw me Shona Laird take over the role of Captain, and I'm pleased to say we have had a very successful year, with new members joining throughout the year. The final numbers were 16 girls made up of 9 Juniors and 7 Explorers.

Our parent's night ended the year with all the girls' receiving their badges for their hard work completed through the session. Two trophies were awarded to each group for Christian faith and Best Girl. Christian Faith went to Niamh Johnson and Angel Walker and Best Girl's went to Emma Truesdale and Sophie Brown.

Both explorers and juniors entertained the parents and friends with displays showing what they get up to on a weekly basis. Explorers learning about celebrations, incorporating bible reading and arts & craft. Juniors learning mindfulness incorporating building skills using Lego and learning about listening skills.

Lots of fun was had each week with games old and new and a couple of these were shown on the night and BB officers encourage to participate as well.

We look forward to the next session that will start with **Enrolment night 28th August 2018 @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm** and then from 4th **September 2018 6.30pm to 7.45pm**. God bless and we hope you all have a truly wonderful summer.

I would like to thank all officers Alan and Shirley-Anne Hobbs, and Chloe Currie for her help during the session whilst working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Shona

3 YEARS ON....

HOW NEPAL IS REBUILDING FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE DISASTER.

Just before noon on Saturday 25th April 2015 the first earthquake struck Nepal, followed by subsequent shocks and landslides. These events lasted only for seconds, yet caused such devastation that they changed lives forever.

3 years on... I was selected to join a small Scottish group that travelled to Nepal to witness the rebuilding and regeneration work. This work has been possible due to the generous response to the 2015 emergency by Church of Scotland congregations; sending £130,000 to United Mission to Nepal (UMN) through the 'Let us Build a House' charity.

I spent 10 days travelling in the Dhading, a rural area to the north of the capital, Kathmandu, attending business meetings and seeing how the money has been spent to rebuild schools and clinics, provide training in building, water purification and farming techniques. UMN also works with local partners on projects to improve education and self-governance so the villagers will be less vulnerable to natural disasters in the future.

I went trekking for four days to Nth. Dhading, in the foothills of the Himalayas, where there were no roads and villages were not even recorded on maps. Some villages in this area had been swept away in landslides following the earthquake; killing mainly the old and young, and leaving many homeless. The whole valley had been thick with heavy dust and it took 20 days for them to receive any outside aid; when a helicopter eventually landed on the hillside to bring much needed

emergency supplies. Self-help was therefore essential as communities worked together to rebuild their homes, schools, water supplies and reclaim their terraced fields so a simple life could be re-established in this harsh living environment. The villagers welcomed us into their homes and were keen to tell how the aid they had received had given them hope, and the optimism to carry on. Their Christian faith also sustained them in these troubled times and they welcomed the opportunity to share worship in their partially reconstructed churches.

It was a privilege to walk alongside the Nepalese people and to experience, even for a few days, the tough lives that they endure, in this beautiful rugged environment. Our trip highlighted the importance of International Aid to transform the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves and to achieve the UMN vision of 'Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society.'

To mark the 3rd anniversary of the Nepal earthquake disaster I organised a fund-raising event on Saturday 28th April at Denny Old Parish Church halls entitled: 'KEEP CALM & REBUILD'. Local fitness and well-being practitioners donated their time and talents to lead Zumba, Yoga and Highland Hustle and Massage sessions. Church members and friends also organised a raffle and delicious home-baking and refreshments. A magnificent total of £1,237.92 has been raised from the 'Soup & sandwich' lunch, 'Spring clean' clothes collection, 'Keep Calm & Rebuild' fund raising day and from generous donations. All proceeds from the event will be sent to support the rebuilding projects in Nepal. Thanks to everyone at Hags Church for their tremendous support.

Sue Storrar.

Teas and Coffees

During the course of last year we have enjoyed fellowship with tea and coffees after 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

Christian Aid 2018

We have been able to send a cheque to Christian Aid for £1,400. What a great amount – without your generosity this would not have been possible.

It was made up of monies from the Christmas retiral collection, Lucky Ticket, Lunch and Door to Door collections.

Every year we have a discussion about should we stop the door to door collections but then we have one or two volunteers and we think we will go ahead with it yet again!

This year we had six volunteer collectors and did not cover as many doors as we would have liked but we managed to raise £837.72 which we would not otherwise have had. Thank you for your dedication and help.

Mrs Sally Foster Fulton (*Stuart's wife*) is now the head of Christian Aid in Scotland.

We went to a recent morning visit to Westpark Church in Denny to hear her talk about the work of Christian Aid. She assured us all the money we raise is used very wisely with teams in the areas C.A. helps who know the needs and best uses for the money. This benefits the recipients by helping them improve their existences and sustaining their new life styles with hope for their futures.

So on behalf of C.A. may I give a big thank you to all who help in any way.

Jean McCheyne (*Treasurer Haggs Church C.A.*)



Outreach

Over the past year we have been fortunate to have access to the three local primary schools in our parish.

Myself, Jean Duff from Denny Old and now the Rev Gunn take part in the school assemblies where we give a Christian story through fun and interaction with the pupils.

We are grateful to the schools for this opportunity to do this and look forward to our end of term theme with the title “The big Picnic”

Moira Martin

Joint Sunday Services over summer

It has been arranged by both Kirk Sessions that during the summer months one joint service will be held each Sunday. For the month of July services will be held here in Higgs. For the month of August services will be held in Denny Old. All services will start at 10.00 am.

Anchor Boys Report

After a bit of a nervous start with only 2 boys on the roll, the numbers quickly grew to the 11 we have now, we have a good mix of P1, 2 & 3's.

Each week there is myself and Mr Kelly as officers and helpers Elaine Cameron and Claire Sherry. We also have three young helpers, Kyle Kelly, Maiya Sherry and Daniel Young who join in games, help with crafts and with snack time.

All the boys have great attendance and come along each week full of enthusiasm, they are always willing to try new activities that are suggested to them which is encouraging and rewarding for officers & helpers

This year we have had several outings which have included a Halloween treat to Zoo Lab in Larbert, all of the boys enjoyed getting to see and hold a lot of different creepy crawlies, we joined with junior and company section for our Christmas night out to Flip Out, which was a huge hit with everyone, then in January we had our Annual Anchor Boys Fun which as always was a great day out, TurnaBBout at the Falkirk Town Hall was cancelled due to the snow and we took part at its Sports day held at Grangemouth Sports Complex as part of the Falkirk & District Centenary Celebrations. All of these have been enjoyed by both the boys and the officers.

Each week we vary the games and crafts focusing on various occasions throughout the calendar year. This we do in an attempt to provide the boys with the necessary life skills and confidence which we hope the boys can develop and take in their adult lives.

Katy Duncan

Officer in Charge

Junior Section Report

The Junior Section has 9 boys made up with primary 4 & 5 no primary 6 boys with average of 8 boys turning up every week.

We entered the Alan Douglas competition with 4 boys representing our company the 4 boys enjoyed the quizzes, puzzles & games. We finished 3rd in the figure marching competition all boys doing really well. For Halloween we went back to Zoolab in Larbert with the Anchor Boys, where all the boys dressed up in fancy dress with prizes for the best dressed. All the boys enjoyed touching & holding a snake, a lizard, a Tarantula spider and other animals.

This year we celebrate 100 years of the junior section, when we had a party with a birthday cake, sweets, biscuits & juice & received a special badge. We played party games and everyone had fun. Our Christmas trip took us to Flip out Trampoline Park in Glasgow with Anchor Boys & Company Section. The boys had a good time jumping on the trampolines. This year's Turnabout was cancelled due to the weather. We had a Sports day held at Grangemouth Sports Complex where all the boys had a good time meeting and playing games with boys from other companies ending with a Church Parade at Larbert Old Church as part of the Falkirk & District Centenary Celebrations.

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

1st Haggs Junior section

Company Section Report

This year has been a very difficult year for the company section. Our numbers at the start of the year were good but have tailed off to 6 boys who regularly attend on a Friday night. Despite our low number we have continued to offer a varied program of activities for the boys.

Our Friday nights consist of our opening parade, drill, tuck shop, classes, games then closing parade and intimations. This year we have attended church for our opening parade, Remembrance and Christmas, and also attended the Church Parade at Larbert Old Church as part of the Falkirk & District Centenary Celebrations. We have one boys going to the Battalion Centenary Camp on Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th May 2018 at Barrwood Campsite.

We have Jason Marr working towards his Queen's badge, which continues our trend of having Queen's Men from the company. Jason has been assisting at Church with the overhead projector with the hymns as part of his badge work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers this year for all their hard work as without them we would not have been able to give the boys the variety of activities they have taken part in this year. Thanks to the boys and the parents as we would not have a company section without them.

Alan Hobbs

Officer in Charge

Company Section

Captains Report

As my first year as captain is drawing to an end I have enjoyed it but it's been hard to fill Ernie Firth's shoes. I also thank him for all his advice and help he has given me. Grant Kirkwood has now completed KGV1 Officers Training course. We celebrated 100 years of the Junior Section and we are also celebrating 100 years of the Falkirk Battalion.

We had our Annual display and Parents evening on Saturday 12th may 2018. It was a good night enjoyed by all.

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 joint 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



The Sunday Club outing is on Saturday 16th June when we will go to the cinema in Stirling. On Sunday 17th the prize giving will take place.

h	o	u	s	e	a	p	d	q	r
i	b	t	w	y	z	h	i	n	o
d	q	x	h	c	e	f	a	d	o
e	w	f	a	g	r	i	b	j	f
h	i	p	i	k	t	y	m	z	n
o	n	w	t	s	e	e	k	a	t
u	d	y	i	o	s	d	f	z	j
m	o	r	f	n	x	k	p	a	x
j	h	u	r	r	i	c	a	n	e
c	s	k	i	p	p	i	n	g	l

Find these 10 words on the grid above.

House. Skipping. Christian. Wind. Hurricane. Roof. Seek.
Hide. Joy. Aid.

Unscramble the letters to find things in our church.

1. Libbspeew
2. Ecterln
3. Tilupp
4. Rango
5. Sorcs
6. Sanbern
7. Elpeop

Answers on second back page

Guild Crockery

Denny Old Church Guild enquired about crockery with the Guild Logo.

We were able to give them 24 settings retaining 12 settings for Hags.

We received a generous donation and this will be passed to the treasurer of the Boys Brigade, going towards the maintenance of the Brigade Bus.

We also received a thank you card from Denny Old Guild.

Bea Miller

Bowling

The winter session is over and fourteen members had lunch at the Railway Inn on 23rd May.

One of our members had an eightieth Birthday in June, so we celebrated a little early with a Birthday Cake.

Bouquets were given to the two 'Girls' who manage our finances.

It was a lovely afternoon and it was enjoyed by all present.

The Bowling will commence again in September, usual time and place.

Bea Miller

Church Flowers

I would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers I received after the Service of Communion on 4th March. The kind thought is very much appreciated.

Liz Martin

A Message from your Treasurer

On behalf of the Congregational Board may I thank you for your continued support to Haggs Parish Church. During the current vacancy it is important that we keep our finances in order and we need **you** to allow us to do this. Can I just remind you of the different ways in which you can make your offering?

By Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes. Please see the Treasurer Marion Campbell if you wish to have envelopes or ask your elder.

If you pay Income Tax please Gift Aid your offering – this allows Haggs Church to claim back the tax which you have already paid (approx. 20% more – at no extra cost to you). Please see Murray McCheyne or Marion Campbell for a form to complete (this does not tie you to a fixed amount or a fixed term but allows the Church to claim back tax on however much you give) or again ask your elder. On average over the last few years we have recovered between £5000.00 and £6000.00 per year from Gift Aid. Without this money we would not have been able to pay all our bills.....so please – the more we can claim in Gift Aid the more money we can get back.

Either of the above methods can be made by Standing Order directly from your bank account to the Church's bank account. This saves the number of WFO envelopes we have to buy and saves you remembering to make up the Sundays you have missed for whatever reason. It is really important to Haggs Church that you do make up the weeks you have not managed to get to Church so that we have a more accurate assessment of what monies are coming in to be able to budget for the expenditure.

We are most grateful for your generosity to all the charities we support – for a small congregation you do give very willingly to others – so thank you.

Thanks for all your loyalty and support and PLEASEdon't change!

Marion

Your stamps change lives!

CrossReach need your stamps and collectables.

How to collect and prepare UK and foreign stamps, both current and past issue:

- Please trim to between 4mm and 8mm thickness of border around each stamp.
- Please do not soak stamps off paper.
- Separate foreign and UK stamps.
- We can also accept coins and postcards that are no longer in circulation.
- Rare stamps and collections can be of high value.

Please pass any of the above to Maisie Mortimer

Answers to puzzle

1. *Pew bibles*
2. *Lectern*
3. *Pulpit*
4. *Organ*
5. *Cross*
6. *Banners*
7. *People*

Deaths:

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”

Mrs Jean Potter	Head of Muir	April
Elizabeth (<i>Elsie</i>) Moir	Haggs	June
Mrs Margaret (<i>Margo</i>) Johnston	Banknock	June

Locum Minister: Rev. Derek Gunn
Tel: 01324 610349

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 B. Richmond
1 Hazel Rd.
Banknock
Tel. 01324 840761

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

Web site: www.haggschurch.org.uk

email: haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk

Magazine Editor: Mrs Jean McCheyne
email: mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SCO14536