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The Church
of Scotland



THE LINK

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Spring 2010**

Hi Folks,

Because I live, you too will live. St John 14:19

As I write this letter we are in the season of Lent a time of reflection on the life of Jesus and what he suffered to give us life. On the first Sunday in Lent I suggested that one of things we could give up for Lent is grumbling. Instead, each day, we should look for a reason to give thanks. But as we give thanks we also need to remember the troubles of others in our world and we have given the opportunity to donate towards Christian Aid: Haiti Appeal. Thank you to all who have participated.

At Easter we have so many reasons to give thanks. Spring is in the air, the daffodils are blooming and the trees are coming back to live. The chocoholics amongst us have all those Easter Eggs to feast upon, but most importantly we give thanks for Jesus and the hope that came with his life, death and resurrection.

In the words of the song because He lives I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives. All our lives have their good times but also their sad and difficult times but through it all we have the promise of God's love through Christ around us and the hope for the future in the love.

Come and join us in Hags Parish Church this Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Come and give thanks and praise to God for the gift of life now and in the future Kingdom of His love.

May God's blessing surround you at Easter and always.

Helen F Christie

This Edition of the magazine was prepared during the season of Lent. The dictionary tells us that Lent is the "Christian period of fasting and repentance before Easter". We tend to think of it as the time when we should give up something or make some sort of sacrifice. We also tend to see it as building up to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection – the end of his ministry and life on earth.

This year during Lent we have, as a congregation, been donating to the Christian Aid Haiti Appeal, a very laudable and worthwhile gesture but Lent is more than that.

Lent helps us to recall the period of time in Christ's ministry when he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus rejected the temptations and set off on a ministry that led him to a cross on Calvary. Jesus sacrificed himself for us and did what his Father in Heaven asked Him to do. His faith in God was what saw Him through the remainder of His life and the pain and agony of his death on the cross.

The Bible tells us that it is our Faith that finds favour with God not the things that we do. So giving up something for Lent, other than giving us some personal satisfaction, will not achieve very much for us in God's eyes. What will find favour is the way we express our Faith through our worship, prayers and witness for Christ.

Perhaps we should use Lent not to give up something but to consider and resist the many temptations that life brings to us in today's world and to re-start our Christian life, as Christ started His, by affirming our belief in God and by then living a life, as Christ did, that demonstrates our faith and belief in Him.

The magazine committee wishes you a very happy and spiritually rewarding Easter.

Jack Dunn

Haggs Has Talent:

This is the banner title for our Church Concert which will take place in Bankier Primary School on Friday 23rd April at 7:00pm. Members of our church organisations will provide an evening's entertainment and we invite all our members and friends to come along and join us.

Tickets are priced at £5.00 for adults, £3.00 for seniors, children free of charge and can be had from Jack Dunn, Jean Proffit, Fiona Schuit and Ernest Martin. Please put the date in your diary.

Jack Dunn

1ST Haggs Girls Brigade

We are nearing the end of our session. The girls have worked hard for their badges and are looking forward to receiving them on parents night, which is being held on Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and watch the girls perform. We have had a very busy yet quick year.

Recently we attended the Bad Wolf production of Beauty & the Beast, as one of our girls was in the cast and it was fabulous.

We will be performing at the forthcoming Haggs has Talent on Friday 23rd April.

Thanks to Mrs Christie & elders who have supported our company and a big thanks to officers and helpers who come along every Tuesday to help with the girls.

Liz Heeps.

Keep Fit

This is held every Tuesday 8-9 p.m. and uses Stability Balls. It is for all fitness levels and you can work to your own ability. We have a good core of people and all proceeds go to charities - half to the Church and the rest to various charities. If you would like to come along and join in call Liz on 07813857486.

Join the Zumba party every Monday 6-7 p.m. in Haggs Church Hall. It's fun, it's different, it's easy and effective. Latin American dance fitness exercise. Music is great and it's easy to follow. Come on join the fun, contact Liz Heeps on 07813857486.

Haggs Parish Church Calendar

March 2010

7th 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Communion Services
14th 11.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service
28th 11.00 a.m. Palm Sunday Service
23rd Soup and Sandwich lunch for C.A. Haiti appeal
29th Beginning of Holy Week

April

2nd Good Friday
4th Easter Sunday
23rd Haggs Has Talent Concert
24th C.A. Bridge Crossing Walk

May

16th 11.00 a.m. Christian Aid Service and Lunch
9th - 15th Christian Aid week

June

20th Sunday Club Closing Service

Poets Corner

The Hope of the World

An empty tomb, a stone rolled away
Speak of the Saviour who rose Easter Day
But that was centuries and centuries ago
And we ask today - Was it really so?
We were not there to hear or see
But our hopes and dreams of eternity
Are centered around the Easter story
When Christ ascended and rose in glory.
For after the Lord was crucified
Even the ones who scoffed and denied
Knew that something had taken place
That nothing could ever remove or erase,
For hope was born in the soul of man
And faith to believe in God's master plan
Stirred in the hearts to dispel doubt and fear,
And that faith has grown with each passing year
For the hope of man is the Easter Story
And life is robbed of all meaning and glory
Unless man knows he has a goal
And a resting place for his searching soul.

Helen Steiner Rice

Hope for every day

God, grant me courage and hope for every day,
Faith to guide me along my way,
Understanding and patience too,
And grace to accept what life gives me to do.

Helen Steiner Rice

The Guild

The Guild though small in numbers is welcoming and the content enjoyed every two weeks, on a Monday afternoon, by all who attend in fellowship. In December, accompanied by some friends, we enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld - a very nice venue. On February 8th we held a Beetle Drive in the Church Hall and although the numbers were small we made £78.00 to go towards our projects. There was only one man present and he won the booby prize - a bunch of red roses - this ensured his wife would get a Valentine bouquet on the 14th!

Thank you to all who support us.

Elma Findlay

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowlers had their Christmas celebration at Hagg's Tavern which was a lunch enjoyed by all.

Everyone who attends enjoys the afternoon of bowling, chat and also a welcome cup of tea. We meet every Wednesday afternoon at 12.30 p.m. in the church Hall and would welcome any new members. We are not quite at Olympic standard yet!

Elma Findlay

The Sunday Club

This report has been prepared by members of the Sunday Club. We have 9 regular members, six of these are juniors. David Currie and Daryll Laird help us on occasion. The juniors do lots of arts and crafts, we have made bookmarks, cards and we learn about God. The seniors learn about the Bible and Jesus. The Sunday Club often take part in the Church Services by doing such things as readings, prayers and performances. We have decided to support 'The Vine Trust' by donating our weekly collection. We enjoy ourselves on Sundays and have lots of fun.

Members of the Sunday Club

Anchor Boys

Anchor Boys meet on a Tuesday night at Bankier Primary School. This year we have extended the time by ½ hour, meaning we start at 6 p.m. and finish at 7.30 p.m. We have 18 boys on our register with an average of 15 boys attending each week. During the evening we spend some time playing games, which is followed by a well deserved drink break then bible story time, where the boys ask loads of questions. Then sometimes we do craft, which the boys really enjoy. This session we took the boys to Adventure Planet for their Christmas trip, which was thoroughly enjoyed by boys and adults. We also attended the Anchor boy fun day, where the boys met and played with all the Anchor boys in the Falkirk Battalion. The remaining of the session is jam packed full of activities, including - Turnabout, Fire Station visit, Police Station visit and if we are lucky another trip to Falkirk Football Club to watch a game of football. We look forward to seeing you at the Church Concert where we will be performing a small play which we have been practicing. If anyone has any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fiona Boyd

1st Hags Boys' Brigade - Junior Section

This year we have been small in number, with only three primary four boys and seven primary fives, but next session as we have quite a few boys coming up from Anchor boys, and as we don't have any of an age to go to the Company section, our numbers should increase again.

The ten boys we do have, have worked really well as a team. We were 3rd in the Battalion Alan Douglas trophy and 2nd in the swimming competition. The boys are doing well in the football and we were 3rd in the Battalion figure marching competition, where, although the boys are really young, they have really been enthusiastic about mastering the difficult moves. We will also participate in the Battalion sport on April 23rd. We also discovered that all the boys could play chess, and entered them in the Battalion chess competition for the first time. Although they were not placed they enjoyed themselves and we hope to continue this in the future.

At Christmas we all went to the bowling at Falkirk where the boys did considerably better than most of the officers! We also participated in the Christmas gift service and the boys had great fun learning the songs.

We had our opening service, and some of the boys came on Armistice Sunday, where the Company presented a wreath at Longcroft Memorial. We will also attend Church on Palm Sunday.

March 19th, we are off to TurnaBBout 3, an alternative church parade for the Battalion. This will be held in Zetland Church in Grangemouth, and there will be a gospel choir from Glasgow, a personality from River City taking the service and an alternative story teller. In the past we have had a Christian rock group and some puppets from the People's Church in Falkirk to name but a few! A piper will pipe in the Colours and we all make banners for each of our companies. This year it will be a "Homecoming" theme. Next year it will be held again in Falkirk town hall, which the Battalion have had to book a year in advance, to accommodate over 600 boys and officers.

Our annual parents' evening will be held in Bankier Primary school on Saturday 15th May, with all sections of the Company giving a small idea of all the hard work we do throughout the session. This will be followed by our Closing parade the next day. You are warmly invited to either of these events.

We were considering not having our usual week-end camp to Girvan this year as we only have 7 boys eligible to attend, but as we thought it would be a shame if they were to miss out, we have decided to go ahead and have a smaller camp which will take place between 4th - 6th June.

Thank you for your continuing support throughout the session.

**Morag Wales,
Officer -in-charge, Junior Section.**

The Boys Brigade Company Section

The Company section has been very busy this year. We have regularly had twenty boys on a Friday night and are progressing with our new badge format. Our Friday nights consist of opening parade, drill, tuck shop, classes, games then closing parade and intimations. This year we have attended Church on four Sundays, our Opening Parade, Remembrance, Harvest and Christmas.

Four of the senior boys having progressed through the badge structure have attended their grade 3 leadership course and will move forward to the Presidents Badge in January. This year we hope to present our Queens Badge.

Competitions have consumed a lot of time this year, having taken part in all Battalion events, football, table tennis leagues 'A' and 'B' teams, Badminton, volleyball. In the swimming gala we were 2nd and also won the individual Westquarter Trophy, in Chess we had 3 teams and were 1st and 4th, in the Pulpit Fall we were 4th, we won the Vaulting competition and were 4th in the Drill. Later this month we will have a Junior and Senior team in the First Aid. These National competitions have been good for the company this year. Football in Dunfermline, football in Greenock and Port Glasgow Table tennis we reached the last 16, Chess we reached the last 16, and Masterteam Quiz which we reached the Scottish final in Stirling. Initially we were 2nd equal and were beaten 2-1 in a play off to be placed 3rd on the night. However, one answer was queried after the competition which has since been confirmed as correct making us 1st equal. The final decision on what happens now is up to the National Committee with as far as we know 3 possible outcomes. We will keep you posted on the final conclusion, hopefully, we will go forward to the national final against England, Ireland and Wales.

Parents night this year is on Saturday 15th May at Bankier Primary School to which you are all invited. We hope to attend Church Service on Palm Sunday, take part in the Hags has Talent and our closing Parade on 16th May.

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.

Colin Meek

Articles from Life and Work March 2010.

Oor Moderator

Cries of "jings, crivvens, help ma boab!" are unlikely to be heard any time soon from a Church of Scotland pulpit, but it appears the Moderator has found a new seat of learning.

As part of his visit to Dundee Presbytery, the Rt. Rev Bill Hewitt met workers from DC Thomson at their Kingsway East site. And following a tour of the building, staff presented him with a special caricature to mark the occasion - depicting the Moderator sitting on Oor Wullie's bucket, with his home church in Greenock in the background.

Mr. Hewitt said: "In Mark's Gospel Jesus says unless we become more child-like in our faith we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven, but I don't think this is what he had in mind."

Copenhagen 'A Tragedy' Following the failure of December's UN climate summit in Copenhagen to agree a fair, ambitious and effective outcome, Christian Aid's senior climate change advocacy officer Nelson Muffuh said: "This is a tragedy that will harm the many millions of people in developing countries who are already suffering the effects of climate change.

"We hoped that sanity would prevail but powerful nations didn't come to negotiate. They came to play hardball. Lives will be lost as a result. Already more than 300,000 people a year die as a result of climate change. That number will go up." The failure was the inevitable result of rich countries refusing adequately and fairly to shoulder their overwhelming responsibility for global warming he added.

MINISTER'S REPORT 2010

During 2009 we continued our mission to serve God through Christ in this parish through our worship in Haggs Parish Church and the Archibald Russell and our different groups which are open to the community.

Our Statistical Return for the year shows that we continue to share in the joyful times in people's lives with 9 baptisms 2 of which were adults; 6 professions of faith and 31 weddings. Sadly there were also 29 funerals of which 4 were for our own members.

Our roll at 31st December 2009 stands at 277.

Once more as you will see from our financial statement we have managed to finish the year in the black without touching the money we had in our reserves. We were able to do this through your generosity in your giving in the offerings and through donations from our organisation. But also because of the money we receive back from HMRC through gift aid and also because our organists have not taken any payment for their music at Sunday services. May I thank you all for your support and a special thanks once more to Marion Campbell our treasurer for all her hard work.

As a congregation we have continued to support our charities through out the year. Supporting those close at home through our Harvest goods and Christmas Gifts and further afield through Christian Aid, Vine Trust, Sea Sunday, Aids Appeal and the Shoe Box appeal. In this way we continue to show God's love in our actions.

Over the year in our worship we have welcomed the congregation of St Luke's to Haggs for the Christian Unity Service and once more have shared our Holy Week Services with Bonnybridge St Helen's. This year we have seen the dedication of our new sound system in memory of Bill Harvey and two beautiful glass panels in memory of Ian Hamilton and we shared in Renewal of Vows of Angus and Margot Johnston. Once more it was a pleasure to welcome the local Scouts along with our own Boys and Girls Brigade to our Remembrance Parade.

Over the year the Boys and Girl's Brigade leaders encourage the members to attend our special services and take an active part when they are present and this is very much appreciated by myself. Our Sunday Club though small in numbers are always welcome in our worship especially with their contributions at all age services and it was a great pleasure to see two of their number make their profession of faith in November.

Advent and Christmas were busy as usual with a Back to Church

Sunday on Advent Sunday followed by a Remembrance Service for the Bereaved. Then we had an Aids Service, the Gift Service, Carols at Bankview Nursing Home and Bonnybridge Hospital. In spite of the weather we also had a good turn out for the Christmas Eve Services. An added bonus for us in the Christmas season was our Big Sing on Sunday 13 December led by our choir and our praise band. This year we decorated the church in the theme of Christmas Carols and my thanks go to all who participated

Returning to our Youth Organisations my thanks once again to the leaders because if it was not for their dedication our mission to the youth in the parish would not be possible. And for some of the Boys Brigade leaders that extends to some of the not so young in our congregation as they operate the mini bus on a Sunday morning as the Boys Brigade contribution to the Church. My thanks to you all.

The Church is not just for a Sunday we have our Guild giving friendship and service mainly for the women although it is open to men but they have the 37 Club to suit their needs. Then we have different types of Keep Fit and our Carpet Bowls looking after physical well being and on the spiritual side we have our Bible study group. For those interested in the musical side of life we have our Choir and our Praise Band / Group and their contribution to worship has been greatly appreciated.

The Church could not function without the help of certain people working in the background. The Property Committee, Colin, Ernie and Tommy, for all that they do enlisting others when needed, thank you. To Andy Gilmour thank you for the garden.

Thank you to our church cleaners, our flower providers and to Moira and our flower arrangers. A special thanks to Lesley and to Drew for their music. And as you enjoy your tea and coffee after Church give thanks for those who have organised it and served it, and my ever faithful Church officer Tommy Mortimer..

Then there are our elders in the Kirk Session and members of the Congregational Board where I am ably assisted by Jack Dunn and Murray McCheyne as acting Session Clerks and Drew Christie as Clerk to the Board. Thank you all for your support. But most of all thanks go to you the congregation for your continued support throughout the year. Let us continue in our mission to bring God's love through Christ to our Parish and to support one another in fellowship and in prayer.

Flower List

This year has seen a reduction in the names on the flower list as people have moved on to higher service.

If you would like to add your name to the list by donating flowers for the chancel of our church, please see me at church or telephone me on 01324 820736.

To the members and friends of Haggs Church who faithfully provide the flowers each week. Thank you from the Minister and Congregation.

‘Remember we all stumble, every one of us.
That’s why it’s a comfort to go hand in hand.’
Emily Kimburgh, 1899-1989

Moira and Jean

Website

The Website has now been in existence for three years.
Could I ask the various organisations to read their pages and regularly submit information to keep them up to date.
The website is: - www.haggschurch.org.uk

Ernest Martin

Sponsored Walk

Two of our members Jean Proffit and Liz Heeps are taking part in the Tiara sponsored 10 mile walk in aid of Strathcarron Hospice on 8th May 2010. Please give them your support as they have been training very hard. If you feel you would like to sponsor them, they have forms available for you to sign.

The Church of Scotland
Ministries and Mission Contributions 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important

that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation’s Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurer send to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how your congregation’s contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. This cost is the total for stipend and employer’s national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with then years’ service.

Congregation:	Contribution
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Haggs	£25,427
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Parish Ministries (87%)	£22,121
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The cost of ministry in your parish is £39,100

The support you receive from other

Congregations towards the cost of

Your minister is:	£16,979
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Mission and Renewal (5.5%)	£1,399
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This supports the Church’s work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.

Support and Services for Council and

Congregations (7.5%)	£1,907
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This provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet Funding our Faith, which is available free to all congregations.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon D Jamieson

Head of Stewardship

More articles from Life and Work March 2010

Haiti: Drop the Debt Within a week of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal raised over £3 million from the Scottish public.

The earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, had struck near the capital Port-au-Prince on January 12, leaving up to 200,000 dead and 1.5 million homeless in the western hemisphere's poorest country.

Save the Children's Douglas Hamilton, speaking on behalf of the DEC in Scotland, said "We continue to be stunned by the generosity of the Scottish public. As the full scale of the tragedy continues to unfold we rely on the generosity of donors.

"Despite continuing logistical and communications challenges, our member agencies have been working round the clock to meet the needs of the Haitian people but there is still a huge amount of work to be done.

"However, vital aid is starting to get through in larger quantities, with some hospitals and clinics starting to receive life-saving medical supplies, food and water".

Christian Aid, whose own premises in Port-au-Prince were destroyed with two staff trapped in the rubble for a number of hours (they survived, shaken but unharmed), launched a petition urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do all he can to get Haiti's \$890 million international debt burden cancelled immediately.

Paul Brannen, Head of Advocacy and Influence for the charity, said "We know that people in the UK care deeply about the horror and devastation which have engulfed Haiti, because they have given so generously to the DEC Appeal for the country.

"This petition is a further opportunity for the public to support the people of Haiti, by adding their voices to the call for the country's massive debt to be cancelled now.

"The petition also calls on Mr Darling to ensure that all money given

to Haiti in future, for emergency relief and development, is in the form of grants and not loans."

www.dec.org.uk

www.christianaid.org.uk

Home Closure

CrossReach has announced the 'reluctant' closure of a residential care home for adults with learning disabilities in Glasgow.

Florentine House will close on June 14. CrossReach's director of Adult Care Services, Calum Murray, said: "We have had to inform our staff and the relatives of service users that, due to financial pressures, we can no longer provide the service at Florentine House. "While the service meets the National Care Standards, the building is outdated and requires significant investment. The global financial situation has affected our ability as a charity to fund such investment to assure the quality we insist upon."

He added that meetings would be held with service users and relatives to ensure a 'seamless transition' to 'suitable alternative arrangements' for their care and support.

Baptism**'Suffer little children to come unto me'****Nov. 22 David McKechnie Currie****Dec. 27 Sophie Louise Henderson****Marriage****'Whom God has joined together'****Nov. 26 Eileen Wolfenden to Douglas McEwan****Jan. 30 Flora Hinshelwood to David Strachan****Feb 27 Laura Duncan to David Mckean
28 Morag Findlay to William McIntyre****Mar 5 Leigh Acey to John Martin****Deaths****'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'****Nov. Mrs Agnes Welsh Banknock****Dec Mrs Margaret Chalmers Head of Muir****Jan Alexander Penman Bonnybridge
 John Sherry Coneypark
 Mrs Isa Malloy Dunipace
 Samuel Black Grangemouth****Feb Mrs Mary Clarke Banknock
 Alexander Cumming Head of Muir**