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The Church
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THE LINK

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

**The Manse
September 2010**

Hi Folks,

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening
1 Samuel 3:9

At the beginning of this month I attended a conference in Dundee entitled Living Beyond Loss. The object of the conference was to help professionals in a Healthcare Setting in their care of people who were bereaved

There were a number of interesting and informative Seminars and workshops but just now I want to focus on the dinner we shared on the Thursday Evening. You may think this is because I enjoy food and yes the food was good. But my focus is on a point made by the After Dinner Speaker : The Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan in an interesting and entertaining speech he emphasised the need to listen. We are able to care for others more effectively when we take the time to listen.

In the busyness of our lives it is important to take the time to listen. It may be for an hour on Sunday morning here in Hags Church listening to God's word in the worship. It may be over a coffee with a friend or on a visit to a housebound neighbour we can show we care by listening.

We have reached that time in the Church year when all the activities are resuming after the Summer break and I wish you well in the new session. Our Harvest Thanks-giving Service is being held on 26 September. We continue to support the Vine Trust with a monetary offering instead of produce.

Come and celebrate all God's gifts to us.

**God bless you all
Helen F Christie**

EDITORIAL

Once every year the Church has an Elder's Service which is thought out and presented by Elders willing to participate in any way.

Today we had a thought provoking lesson for the children - based on communication with these unfortunate miners trapped so far underground in Chile.

The children participated well in the service and were obviously listening for at the end of the service they came back into Church to let us see the work they had carried out at Sunday Club - displaying pictures and thoughts and prayers for the men underground.

We had a sermon reminding us that we are not alone and that communication with God is a two way thing. No man (or woman) is an island we all need each other - Together We Make a Difference.

Elsewhere in this magazine this theme pops up again, showing us what can be done when we work with each other in the love of God.

We are about to restart Clubs and meetings for the coming winter. Let us give thanks for the people who are organising these days and evenings and give our support to them.

You will find some dates for your diary which will be added to as time goes on.

Jean McCheyne

Harvest Festival

Again this year Hags Church will be supporting the work of the Vine Trust through donations in the envelope provided with this newsletter. Please return these to the Church on Harvest Sunday or as soon as possible thereafter. We have agreed to support the worthwhile work of the Vine Trust which can be found at www.vinetrust.org/ on your computers.

Jean McCheyne

September 2010

- 1st 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 7th Girls Brigade restarts
- 19th Confirmation & Baptism, Sunday Club restarts
- 26th Harvest Festival

October 2010

- 3rd Communion 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- 4th Kirk Session Meeting
- 6th 2 pm. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 10th Guild Opening Service
- 10th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 17th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 24th Lorna Duncan in pulpit
- 24th Bible Sunday
- 31st Uplift of Blythswood Shoe Boxes

November 2010

- 3rd 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 7th Soup and Sandwich Lunch after service for C.A.
- 14th Remembrance Sunday
- 28th 1st Sunday in Advent
3 p.m. Remembrance Service for the bereaved

December 2010

- 1st 2 p.m. Service at Bankview Nursing Home
- 19th Gift Service
- 24th 7 p.m. Family - service at Head of Muir
- 24th 11.30 p.m. Watch Night Service at Haggs
- 25th Christmas Day Service
- 26th Lessons and Carols

The Sunday Club

We finished last session with a very successful trip to Almond Valley Heritage Centre, in Livingston. Our numbers have increased and we now have pre-nursery, junior and senior groups (our pictures are in the church for your enjoyment). We finished the last session with almost 20 children.

I (Shona) would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped us throughout the last year. Our roles have all changed as I am now Superintendent/teacher, taking over from Drew, as he is now the organist. I will now be taking the Senior Club in bible study, Moira is now leader for the Junior group, and has the assistance of Libby. Our Pre-nursery is small in number with mums and grans always on hand to help, however if anyone would like to become a regular helper with the Sunday Club, or even want to help on an adhoc/standby basis please see Shona or Moira, as when we have a full Sunday Club we do need to split to different locations, and additional help would be appreciated.

We will start this year with a new program following the church calendar, and we will continue to support the Vine Trust, whilst learning a lot more about what they do and how we can help.

We hope also to take part in some of the Sunday Services, and the Seniors are keen to use technology to enhance their learning.

As we start this year, The Lord says:

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you”.

Psalm 32:8.

**Shona Laird,
Sunday Club Leader**

Poet's Corner

Quit Supposin' (Helen Steiner Rice)

Don't start your day by supposin'
That trouble is just ahead,
It's better to stop supposin'
And start with a prayer instead.
And make it a prayer of thanksgiving
For the wonderful things God has wrought
Like the beautiful sunrise and sunset,
God's gifts that are free and not bought.
For what is the use of supposin'
The dire things that could happen to you
And worry about misfortune
That seldom if ever come true?
But instead of just idle supposin'
Step forward to meet a new day
Secure in the knowledge God's near you
To lead you each step of the way.
For supposin' the worst things will happen
Only helps to make them come true,
And you darken the bright happy moments
That the dear Lord has given to you.
So if you desire to be happy
And get rid of the misery of dread
Just give up supposin' the worst things
And look for the best things instead.

Submitted by N. Ure

Summer Fun Day

The Summer Fun Day, at the Archibald Russell Centre, in July was held indoors due to inclement weather. (Now there's a surprise!) Spirits, however, were not dampened. Four tables were set up with donations of baking, books, bric-a-brac, tombola and lucky ticket prizes with each table attracting quite a few visitors. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way to make the day a success. Together We Made a Difference!

Carol Richmond.

Exercise Classes

Come along to the Zumba Class on a Monday evening in the Church Hall between 6 and 7 p.m. or on a Tuesday in the Hall there is an Exercise Ball class between 8 and 9 p.m. Both classes are run by Liz Heeps and are designed to get your fitness levels up - work at your own pace.

37 Club

The 37 club for the gentlemen of the church will resume fortnightly meetings on Tuesday 5th October at 7.30 pm in the Maclean hall.

It is hoped to have a varied program of activities similar to last year. Gents, do come along - you will be made most welcome.

We don't take life too seriously and we do enjoy the friendship together.

Murray McCheyne

The Guild

Once again the annual meeting of the Church of Scotland Guild was held on Saturday 28th August 2010 in the Caird Hall in Dundee.

Representatives came from all the Guilds in Scotland as well as visitors and representatives from fifteen organisations. The theme this year was "Grace and Mercy". The Hall was packed to capacity and three members of our Guild attended with 2,000 other women and men. It must have been an awesome sight from the platform.

The National Convener, Helen May Bayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the hymn "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven". Everyone seemed to be in good voice.

The convener said that her first duty was a very pleasant one - to thank the retiring convener for all her tireless work over the past year and present her with a gift in appreciation.

In replying the retiring Convener said she had had a wonderful year, visiting Guilds and meetings the length and breadth of Scotland. The hospitality and friendship she had been shown had been second to none. She thanked everyone for her gift and wished the present convener and her committee every success in the ensuing year.

The first speaker was introduced, The Right Reverend John Cairns Christie, the Moderator of the General Assembly. He spoke of his Point of View on the Theme. It was most interesting and I am sure that it gave everyone present food for thought. He stressed "Be compassionate and loving at all times".

Lesley Bilinda - Christian Writer was the next speaker and she was wonderful, having to overcome her grief in losing her husband The Rev. Charles Bilinda and many other family members and friends who were murdered in the Genocide which swept through South Africa in 1994. She now works for the Tutu Foundation UK seeking to reduce conflict amongst young people in the UK. She has written two books "The Colour of Darkness" in 1996 and "With What Remains" 2006, both well worth reading.

There was a news update at this point and the offering was collected

and presented to the National Convener with prayer.

There was a break for lunch and we all enjoyed the sunshine outside. We went to a Church which was serving tea and coffee and we all had our own snacks.

The meeting resumed again at 2 p.m. and we had a musical interlude. The group who entertained the company were called "Prior Engagements" There were four in the group led by Frank Prior and they are based at Longniddery Parish Church, East Lothian. They were certainly different and perhaps were not everyone's cup of tea, however, they were well received.

The Organist who led the praise was Stuart Muir who is Dundee City Organist and Pastoral Musician at St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. All the hymns we sang were well known and his accompaniment was magnificent.

Elaine Duncan was our last speaker. She is Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society, which celebrated 200 years in 2009. The focus of Elaine's work has always been to encourage people to know God better as they interact with his word. She said fresh air, exercise, good coffee, stimulating friends and food go into making a good day. Elaine was originally from Cumbria, now lives in Glasgow, works in Edinburgh and supports the Rugby team there. She was wonderful and she had us all enthralled, in fact, you could have heard a pin drop at one point.

Alison Angus - Vice Convener led the closing worship and prayer in the singing of "To God Be the Glory".

It was a perfect ending to a fantastic day in every way.

The meeting was recorded, cameras everywhere. We have placed an order for the video which will be shown at our guild meeting during Guild week in November.

It was a wonderful experience to be one of the audience.

Bea Miller

Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

June 27 Caitlin Sally Skelton

Thanksgiving

June 27 Lewis Skelton

Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

July 17 Alison Proffit to Alan Calder

20 Sheila Clark to Garry McGoldrick

23 Laura Wilson to Gordon Freedman

24 Julie Anderson to Mark Hutcheon

25 Nicola Gray to Ross Adamson

Aug 27 Alexis Freeburn to Stuart Samson

28 Charlene Ferguson to William Eadie

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

July Mrs Helen Donaghue Bonnybridge

Mrs Rae Johnstone Banknock

Aug. Alexander Ratcliffe Dennyloanhead