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THE LINK

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Christmas 2009**

Haggs Manse
November. 2009.

Hi folks,

The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them John 15:13.

As I write this letter we are in the season of Remembrance when we take time to consider the cost in human life given so that we may enjoy the freedoms that we often take for granted. One of these freedoms being the right to worship together here in Haggs Parish Church.

Once more we approach the Christmas Season with all its celebrations but most importantly with its fundamental message that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. The baby born at Christmas is the Christ who died on the cross to give us freedom, the freedom of salvation.

So as we have freedom to worship and the reason to worship and to celebrate why not come and join us over the Christmas season. This has been the year of the Homecoming in Scotland and you are invited to come home to Haggs Church for a special service as we celebrate the beginning of Advent on Sunday 29th November.

On the same Sunday at 3.00pm we have our annual service of Remembrance for the Bereaved a time of quiet reflection for those who need it, a time to give thanks for the memories.

There are other services of celebration during the month of December and unlike the Inn in Bethlehem there is a place for you.

God bless you all this Christmas and in the New Year.

Helen F Christie (*Minister*)

EDITORIAL

Sometimes I struggle to find the words for the magazine Editorial. Not so with the Christmas Edition. The Christmas story speaks for itself:

CHRISTMAS

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judaea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked “Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east and we have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them “Where will the Messiah be born?”

“In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote”:

“Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.”

So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”

And so they left and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

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The magazine committee wishes you all a very happy and spiritually uplifting Christmas.

Jack Dunn

Haggs Church Calendar for 2009-2010

November 2009

- 29th - 1st Sunday in Advent
 - UNICEF Jar of Grace Appeal
 - 11 a.m. Back to Church Service
 - 3.00 p.m. Remembrance for the Bereaved

December 2009

- 6th - 11.00 a.m. Aids Service
- 13th - 11.00 a.m. Gift Service
 - 7.00 p.m. Christian Aid 'Big Christmas Sing' (Praise Brand)
- 24th - 7.00 p.m. Head of Muir Family Carol Service
 - 11.30p.m. Watch night Service
- 25th - 11.00a.m. Christmas Service
- 27th - 11.00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

January 2010

- 3rd - 11.00 a.m. Informal Communion
 - Christian Unity Service at St Luke's
 - (date to be arranged)

February 2010

- 21st - 11.00 a.m. 1st Sunday in Lent

March 2010

- 7th - 11.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. Communion Services
- 14th - 11.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service
- 28th - 11.00a.m. Palm Sunday Service
- 29th - Beginning of Holy Week (Services to be arranged)

April 2010

- 2nd - Good Friday
- 4th - Easter Sunday

May 2010

- 9th - 11.00 a.m. Christian Aid Service & Lunch
- 9th - 15th Christian Aid Week

June 2010

- 20th - Sunday Club closing Service

July 2010

- 11th - 11.00 a.m. Sea Sunday Service

August 2010

Usual weekly Services

September 2010

- 19th - 11.00 a.m. Harvest Festival Service

October 2010

- 3rd - 11.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. Communion Services

November 2010

Guild Week (dates to be arranged)

UNICEF Jar of Grace

During the month of December could you please put your loose change into a jar or a collection box for UNICEF.

This year's Jar of Grace donations will go towards UNICEF's Children's Emergency Fund, which ensures a rapid and effective response to disasters. The funds enable UNICEF to provide life-saving assistance such as clean water, medical care, food, protection and education to the children who need it most.

More information and collection boxes are available from Sue Storrar.

Christian Aid

You are invited to the Big Christmas Sing 2009 at Haggs Parish Church on Sunday 13th December at 7 p.m. with "The Praise Band". Join us with your favourite carols and Christmas songs.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality.

We urge you to join us.

Please give generously to the retiral offering after the Watch Night Service, every pound counts. Thank you.

Sue Storrar

Some words for New Year

The Gate of the Year

I said to the Man who stood at the gate of the year - "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied - "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

1st Haggs Girls Brigade.

Christmas party this year will be on Tuesday 15th December from 6pm until 7.30pm

The Christmas card collection will be on Sunday 13th & 20th December - suggested price per card 15p. The gift service this year will be held on Sunday 13th December at 11am

We have a large company this year of 24 girls, of which are 5 Brigaders.

All the girls and officers would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Keep Fit

Meets every Tuesday at 8-9pm in the church hall - all proceeds go to charity and the church.

The class is a stability ball class and everyone will be most welcome. Please get in touch with me if you don't have your own ball. Liz on 07813857486.

New "Zumba" class started in the Church hall every Monday from 6-7pm it's fun, exciting, different and easy you won't know you are exercising - for all levels of fitness.

Bonnybridge Driving Force

Bonnybridge Driving Force is a group of local volunteers who aim to provide a free, friendly & reliable means of getting cancer patients (registered at the Bonnybridge Health Centre) to and from hospital appointments & treatment sessions. They try to make the experience as pleasant & stress-free as possible. This is a self-funding organisation. If you can help in any way or would like to access this service please contact Dr B McCallister on 01324812315.

Christmas Greetings



Jack and Elizabeth Dunn wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

To all of our many friends, all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Nan & Garry Ure

Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year to all.
Evelyn and Jim Goble

Have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy happy 2010 from Archie and Marion Campbell

Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and good health in the New Year,
Elma Findlay

Best wishes for a very joyous and happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year with love from Gwen Hamilton and family.

Jean and Murray McCheyne wish you all joy and health at Christmas and 2010

Christmas Greetings from Moira and Ernie Martin

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends in Hags,
Maisie and Tommy Mortimer.

May peace be with you all – Christmas Greetings from Sue Storrar and Family

Best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year from Fiona Shuit

Jean Leishman wishes all her friends at Hags a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Our thanks for the gift of Gods love

All over the world at this season,
Expectant hands reach to receive
Gifts that are lavishly fashioned,
The finest that man can conceive
For, purchased and given at Christmas
Are luxuries we long to possess,
Given as favours and tokens
To try in some way to express
That strange indefinable feeling
Which is part of this glad time of year
When streets are crowded with shoppers
And the air resounds with good cheer.

But back to each tinsel-tied package
Exchanged at this gift-giving season,
Unrecognised often by many,
Lies a deeper, more meaningful reason,
For born in a manger at Christmas
As a gift from the Father above,
An infant whose name was called Jesus
Brou giving,
And unless we make Christmas a pattern
To be followed in everyday living.

Helen Steiner Rice.
Submitted by Nan Ure

What does the Lord require of you?

Church of Scotland Guild members have raised more than £750,000 for the six projects they have partnered over the last three years.

The grand total of £779,358, split between Borderline, Christian Aid, CrossReach, the Leprosy Mission Scotland, the Lydia Project and Scottish Love in Action, was unveiled at the annual meeting of the Guild in Dundee in September.

Delegates also unveiled their three-year theme of “What does the Lord require of You?” (taken from the book of Micah) and unveiled the six new projects which will be supported by the Guild over this period.

The new projects are:

Mission Aviation Fellowship with their Mission Run project in Madagascar, bringing physical and spiritual aid to those cut off in remote communities.

The World Mission Council’s Interfaith Support Project in Israel and Palestine.

CrossReach’s On the Other Side project at Perth Prison, an initiative which works with prisoners’ families to try and reduce reoffending in the future.

The HIV/AIDS Project’s new appeal A New Hunger, which aims to provide grants to partner projects to allow them to raise funds to buy food and improve the nutrition to improve the outcome of those undergoing treatment for HIV-related illness.

International Justice Mission (Terrify No More), a special project which operates specifically in Cambodia to help girls forced into prostitution and who cannot rely on the authorities for assistance.

The Ministries Council project, A Place for Hope, which is an initiative dedicated to helping individuals and congregations grow through the pain of conflict.

Extract from Life and Work

Baptism

‘Suffer little children to come unto me’

Nov. 1 Roxanne Kimberley Walker

Marriage

‘Whom God has joined together’

Sept 12 Joanne Ferguson to John-Casey Auld
24 Linsey Ann Walker to Donald Allan

Oct. 2 Donna Lavery to Donald McAllister
4 Michele Burke to Kevin Shepherd
11 Laura Hynd to Ross Cornfield
16 Paula Duncanson to Paul Lorraine
17 Deborah Anderson to David Don

Deaths

‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

Sept. Baby Kian McDiarmid Shieldhill

Oct. James Black Dennyloanhead
James Wallace Bonnybridge
David Revells Seafar
Mrs Jane O’Hara Camelon