

Haggs Manse  
May 2014



## **The Link**

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church**

**Summer 2014**

Hi Folks,

*Sing to the Lord and praise Him!  
Proclaim every day the good news  
that He has saved us. Psalm 96:2*

During the month of May we have held our Stewardship Season. This year we have focussed on the theme of the talents we have been given by God and how we can use them in the service of God and our neighbours.

Christian Aid week fell during this month and some of us used our gifts in making soup for the annual lunch or in collecting around the parish to support our neighbours in need overseas. It was also the time of the parents' nights for both the Boys and Girls Brigades and we enjoyed watching them displaying their talents.

Music played a large part in the celebrations with people choosing their favourite hymns to be included in the services and on the last weekend we held a Music-a-thon which once more showed the musical talent that we have in Haggs Church. The event was enjoyed by all who attended and I wish to thank all those who gave of their time and their talent.

As your thoughts turn to the long lazy days of summer remember to continue to give thanks to God for all that has been given to you especially the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Take time to come and sing to the Lord.

God bless you all and enjoy the summer.

**Helen F. Christie**

## **Presbytery Plan**

It is some time since you had an update on the Presbytery Plan for our area and, in particular, on the future of Haggs Parish Church when our minister retires in 2015 – that's next year.

At the beginning of discussions with local churches and with presbytery in 2012 we had hoped to be able to keep Haggs as a single charge with our own minister when Helen retires. This would preserve our identity, maintain our place of worship and let us continue to serve the community as before.

We do know that the number of ministers serving Haggs, Bonnybridge, Denny and Dunipace is to be reduced from 5 to 4. There are fewer people entering the ministry and there are many ministers approaching retiral. There are simply not enough ministers for every church as a sole charge. Denny Westpark has been vacant for over 3 years, and although they have only recently been given permission to call a minister, there has been no applicant so far. The local situation is now more difficult with John Murning leaving Denny Old Parish Church to go to Paisley.

Another factor is finance. The full cost of a parish minister is £40,411 per year. Add to that a contribution for mission and the total cost to finance a minister of our own would be £46,990. Our total income last year was only £41,500. We do pay our allocation of £24,404 to the mission and ministries fund but, as you see, this is just over half the full cost of a minister.

In summary, there are not enough ministers to go round and we cannot afford a minister for Haggs as a single charge.

After many meetings with the local churches, and with input from Presbytery, it has been decided that the best all round solution for ourselves and for the area is that we be linked with Denny Old Parish Church.

Haggs Church was an extension from Denny Old when founded in 1840, so we will have come full circle.

This will be a deferred linkage that will come into effect only when Helen retires.

We have been in linkage before with Dennyloanhead so it is not all new.

We will have a minister shared with Denny Old. We will continue to have a place of worship at Haggs.

We will have representation on the nominating committee for selection of a new minister.

This can be initiated after John Murning leaves and Presbytery give the go ahead. We do not have to wait till Helen retires.

We will be cited to be represented at Presbytery on 17<sup>th</sup> June when the proposals will be confirmed. Brian Richmond, our presbytery elder will attend as he will be the only one permitted to speak on our behalf.

There will of course be changes and we will all need to be adaptable and responsive.

We will be going forward in a new ministry with all its challenges and potential and we will all have a part to play in this.

We look forward in faith together.

**R. Murray McCheyne**

## **Editorial Comment:**

As you will see from the contents of this magazine everyone has been very busy recently. We should thank the Lord for the ability to work and also the opportunity for rest. Have a great summer.

**Jean McCheyne.**

## **Carpet Bowls**

The Carpet Bowls have finished for the season, we will keep you updated when it will resume.

The drive will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> May and we are going to Gretna and Moffat.

**Elma Findlay**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Haggs B.B. Anchor Boys**

Another successful year for the Anchor Boys with a steady number of boys attending each week including boys attending from neighbouring villages.

Each week brought new challenges for the boys with games and crafts designed to develop confidence and team building which will stay with them all their days.

The boys have enjoyed outings which included trips to Adventure Planet Soft Play area, TurnaBBout and with the benefit of a new minibus a trip to Colzium in Kilsyth.

All this has been made possible by the Officers and the people who contribute their time to keep this worthwhile organisation a desirable place to attend for the boys.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Haggs BB Junior Section**

The new session started well and we currently have 6 boys on the role. They have taken part in various activities towards gaining their badges including learning about different celebrations held during the year, the B.B., biscuit/cake decorating, crafts and new for this year, the recorder. At Christmas the boys went to ~Adventure Planet and a good time was had by all.

This session some of the boys represented us in the Alan Douglas Trophy and the Junior Section Spiritual Competition and although we did not win any trophies the boys enjoyed themselves.

They attended the TurnaBBout event held in Falkirk Town Hall and had a great time especially when the youth band appeared.

During the Easter break the boys went to Palacerigg Country Park for the evening and saw some of the animals – they even got to feed the fish, then played in the park.

Instead of attending camp this year the boys will be going on an outing.

Thanks to Alistair and Jack from the Company Section for their help this year and also to George, John, Sharon and Ernie.

**Sandra Moffat, Officer.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Haggs BB Company Section**

12 boys have been attending Friday night and Wednesday club nights as well as many Battalion and National Competitions.

This year we have attended Church at our opening parade, harvest, remembrance and gift service at Christmas also TurnaBBout – which is a mix of Christian music, sing-along and magic acts.

Four boys are progressing through their Queen's Badge and hopefully will achieve their badge next year.

The Battalion Competitions we took part in included Badminton (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Swimming (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Vaulting (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), First Aid (3<sup>rd</sup> place), Chess (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place), Cross Country individual winner at intermediate and in the main BB events improving to 3<sup>rd</sup> in Drill and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Pulpit Fall. Two boys represented Falkirk Battalion in the National Cross Country.

Hopefully a weekend camp will take place in Girvan from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Thanks is due to all Officers for their hard work throughout the year. Also thanks to all parents and Church members and organisations who have helped in raising funds for the new minibus.

**Colin Meek – Officer in Charge.**

### **Sunday Club**

We have again had a fun filled session with arts and crafts, bible studies, learning about prayers and hearing Bible stories. We are going to Deep Sea World in North Queensferry for our annual trip but it may not happen until the end of summer due to other commitments. Our thanks go to all who help and to the congregation for bringing young people into our church.

Shona would like to thank all who help her, Moira, Libby and Nan. We are still collecting for the Vine Trust in our weekly collection and will be donating our contribution at the end of this session. We will restart after the summer holidays. May the sun shine always on our back and move us forward in the faith of our God.

**Shona Laird.**

## Christian Aid Week 2014

All of our helpers continued working hard during Christian Aid Week - May 2014 - to collect, count and send to Christian Aid, the proceeds from the Door-to-door collection, the Bridge Cross Walk and the Soup and the sandwich lunch. We would like to thank everyone concerned for their on-going support.

The amounts collected were:-

Door-to-door collection .....	£ 1,287.61
Bridge Cross Walk.....	£ 551.00
Lunches and donations .....	£ 315.63
Total .....	£ 2,154.24

Church members used their 'Talents' this year to support Christian Aid as part of the Stewardship Season. As well as collecting in our own parish, we also supported a joint church collection effort for Christian Aid at the local Sainsbury's store in Denny.

We continue, with Church members' support, to collect an amazing amount for Christian Aid each year – with support from Christian Aid, displaced people and those living with conflict are given help and hope to rebuild their lives. Let's give thanks for the peace that we enjoy. Pray for all those living in areas of conflict, and for peace and freedom to be brought to the whole of God's world.

## Praise Band

The Service of Pentecost on the 8<sup>th</sup> June will be taken by Mrs Lorna Duncan and the Praise Band will be assisting with the music. We have a varied programme of old and new items. Thank you for your support.

**Elma Findlay**

## Church History

As part of our preparation for next year's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations we are updating the Church History which appears on our website.

We are therefore looking for photographs, programmes, newspapers, brochures, in fact anything at all about the Church and this community.

If you have anything and would like to lend it to us please contact Jack Dunn (01324 840763). We will copy or scan it and return it to you. Our hope is to prepare a booklet for distribution to the congregation with perhaps a display in the Church Hall.

**Jack Dunn**

## The Guild

The Daffodil tea was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> and it was a lovely afternoon of friendship and chat with tea and coffee and home baking enjoyed by all who attended.

Our last meeting was on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This was the AGM when our funds were disbursed.

£200 was sent to each of our projects namely Mary's Meals, Making a difference in Liberia and Ministries Council, Passage from India.

There was £100 donated to the Church and £100 to the Mini Bus Fund for the Boys Brigade.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in all our events. We are indebted to you all, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you also to Bea and Maisie for the amount of work they do over the year, it is most appreciated by all.

A lunch will be held in August – details to follow later.

**Elma Findlay**

## LET IT SHINE!

### STEWARDSHIP SEASON –MAY 2014

#### The following events took place to celebrate Haggs Church 'TALENTS' Stewardship Season in May 2014:

- An opening service took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May based around the theme 'All are Welcome in this Place' – involving members of the congregation in readings, prayers and favourite hymns. The new banner was dedicated as part of this service.
- The stage area in the Church Hall has been freshly painted with the curtains cleaned, and a new back-drop installed. The hall and kitchen have also been given a spring clean and the notice boards brightened up with new displays.
- Christian Aid 'Soup & Sandwich' lunch, that took place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May following morning service, was well attended and raised £140 + £170 in Gift Aided donations.
- Christian Aid Week door-to-door collection in the area raised £1462.61, and our helpers also supported the Christian Aid collection at Sainsbury's in Denny that raised £330.
- 2 half barrels for either side of the church door were planted up with spring/summer plants on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May to add to our beautiful church gardens.
- A 'Music-a-thon' with live music took place in the church hall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (from 5.00pm – 10pm) and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May (from 9.00am – 1.00pm) This was an enjoyable event that brought the congregation together in a fun way.
- Refreshments of teas/coffees/filled rolls were sold on Friday evening and a 'Coffee Morning' was held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May. A 'Lucky ticket' draw also helped to raise the sum of £300 for church funds.

A big 'Thank You' to all who came along to support any of these events. Many of our members used their talents to 'Let it shine', making these events a success and showing the love and support we offer to others at Haggs Church.

**Sue Storrar**

## More than Gold

With this copy of the magazine you are receiving a copy of the booklet entitled More than Gold. This booklet has been published by the Scottish Bible Society to help celebrate the Commonwealth Games which are taking place in Glasgow in July.

It includes the witness of five modern day athletes, who explain how their life has been influenced and inspired by a sixth person Jesus Christ, whose life was chronicled by Luke.

These five people have come to believe that their faith in Jesus Christ is worth more than winning Gold medals.

Please accept this gift from Haggs Church. Please take time to read it and, as you watch the Commonwealth Games and appreciate the skills and talents of the competitors, remember that for us all, our faith in Jesus sustains us and is worth More Than Gold.

**Elizabeth Dunn**

## Teas & Coffees

During the course of the last session we have enjoyed the fellowship of teas and coffees after Church. This time of coming together has become a regular part of our Sunday worship and we would like to thank everyone who comes along for a few minutes of friendship and fellowship.

We would especially like to thank everyone who has made this possible by setting up tables and making the teas and coffees for us to enjoy. We will be restarting at the end of August and look forward to seeing you then.

**Elizabeth Dunn**

## Baptism

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

May 25 Peyton Christina McNiven

## Marriage

'Whom God has joined together'

Mar. 28 Claire Scally to Fraser Hutchison Forbes

## Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

Apr. Mr Archie Stewart Banknock

May Mr Walter McQue Banknock  
Mrs Sheena Welsh Longcroft  
Mr Jim Goble Banknock

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