

The Church
of Scotland



The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Winter 2012

Merry
Christmas

A decorative graphic of holly leaves and berries is positioned between the words "Merry" and "Christmas".

Winter 2012
Haggs Manse

Hi Folks

*'Joy to the world, the Lord is come
let earth receive her King'*

As I write this note there are only 38 sleeps till Christmas, the shops are full of Christmas decorations, the TV is full of gift adverts and I have seen my first decorated house of the year, all before we have even reached the 1st Sunday in Advent.

Advent, a time when we prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ, the prince of Peace. A time when we share special services. A memorial Service at 3.00pm on 2 December when we have a time of quiet remembrance for friends and family no longer with us.

The Annual Gift Service on 16 December when our Youth Organisations share their talents, and the gifts give some joy to families and older people in our local communities.

The following Sunday we have the 'Big Sing' a service of traditional and modern carols led by our Praise Group and Choir, and finally we reach Christmas Eve when we hear again the Christmas Story and our offering is given to the work of Christmas Aid. So as we share in worship during the month we also share of the joy of Christ with others.

This year as we prepare for Christmas let us remember the land of Christ's birth where once more violence has broken out. While we wonder what to give as a gift to our family and friends let us take time to pray that the joy of peace may come to the Holy Land.

May God's blessing be with you all this time.

Helen F Christi



Editorial

While on holiday this summer Murray and I went into the Cathedral at Cologne to get out of the sun and see what treasures this Church had! There was a golden shrine at the far end of the building which was commissioned around the year 1200 to house the bones of the Magi. These relics which were brought from Milan to Cologne in 1164 remain there to this day, in this beautifully decorated golden shrine.

“On entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. *Matt. 2:11*

The following prayers accompanied a leaflet I received –

Lord and God!

You created us for a lifelong journey to you.

Each one of us takes a different path over mountains and through valleys, through joy and sorrow and need.

May the three Holy Kings guide us in our wanderings, as their faith, knowledge, and determination guided them through many perils on their journey to you.

They say you, knelt before you, offered up their gifts, and paid homage to you.

They were filled with the joy of finding you.

Lord and God!

We thank you for granting us the freedom to seek and find you, our life's goal.

Grant us the faith, strength, and trust we need to follow in the path of the three kings.

Give us courage when we are at risk of taking easier but false paths.

Let us experience the joy of being with you at the end of our journey, so that we may be eternally surrounded by your love.

We ask this,

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the destination of every pilgrimage.*

By Bernard Henrichs

Merry Christmas to you all.

Jean McCheyne



Christmas Greetings:

Gwen Hamilton and family wish you all a Happy Christmas and healthy, prosperous New Year.

Maisie Mortimer wishes all her friends a Merry Christmas and Good New Year.

Hope you all have a Happy Christmas and good wishes for 2013 from Elma Findlay.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and prosperous and health new year from Nan and Allan Young and family.

Happy Christmas to everyone and a peaceful, healthy year ahead from Jean and Murray McCheyne.

Nan and Garry Ure wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from Elizabeth and Jack Dunn.

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year from Fiona Shuit.

May you and your family find peace and joy this Christmas – Love Sue Storrar

(This year I will not be sending local Christmas cards but will give a donation, through 'Blythwood Care'. This gift will provide a sewing machine for a widowed woman in India, who finds it very difficult to make a living. A sewing machine can help her to support herself and her children.)

Thank You: We received a card from Myra and Ken which read -
“We both want to thank everyone at Hags Parish Church for their kindness of visits and flowers following our transplant operation. We are both well on the road to recovery,” Myra and Ken Robbie

Church Diary 2012-2013

December 2012	
1 st	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Church open for viewing of windows – Teas/coffees in McLean Hall, Christmas stall.
2 nd	1 st Sunday in Advent/Soup and Sandwich Lunch 3p.m. Memorial Service
9 th and 16 th	9.30 a.m. Head of Muir Services
16 th	Gift Service
19 th	6 p.m. Carol Singing at Bankview Nursing Home
23 rd	11 a.m. Big Sing
24 th	7 p.m. Family Service at Head of Muir 11.30 p.m. Watch Nigh Service at Haggs
25 th	Christmas Day Service
30 th	Lessons and Carol Service
January 2013	
	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
6 th	Informal Communion
13 th	'Souper Sunday' for HIV 9.30 a.m. Service at Head of Muir
20 th	9.30 a.m. Service at Head of Muir
February 2013	
	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
	9.30 a.m. Head of Muir Service
March 2013	
	2 p. m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
3 rd	Sacrement of Holy Communion
10 th	Church ASM and Mothering Sunday
24 th	Palm Sunday/Soup and Sandwich Lunch
25 th – 29 th	Holy Week (Services tba)
29 th	Good Friday
31 st	Easter Sunday
April 2013	
	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
	9.30 a.m. Head of Muir Service
May 2013	
	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
12 th – 18 th	Christian Aid Week
	9.30 a.m. Service at Head of Muir
June 2013	
	2 p.m. Wednesday Service at Bankview Nursing Home
	Sunday Club Prize Giving Service (tba)

The Guild

On 25th August three of our Guild members attended the annual meeting in Caird Hall, Dundee. A most enjoyable day.

On 30th September the Guild Dedication service was held in Church and the following day we held our first meeting with the Minister as our speaker.

On 15th October we had a video about Oberammergau and on 29th October we had a Hallowe'en Tea.

Guild week is from 18th November – 25th November and the Guild will be serving tea and coffee in the Church Hall after the Service on 18th November.

The Christmas lunch will be at the Railway Inn on 17th December.

Dates for your diary:

18th January 2013 – the 37 Club will be the guests of the Guild and the event will take the form of a Scots Night with the Zetland Singers. Come along and bring a friend and wear tartan. Tickets will be on sale later.

18th February 2013 – will be our annual Beetle Drive in aid of Driving Force and there will be tickets on sale nearer the date.

A big thank you is extended to all who support us. We will always be happy to welcome any new members. Our meetings are every 2 weeks on a Monday at 2 p.m. in the Church Hall.

On behalf of the Guild I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Elma Findlay

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowling is still being enjoyed by all who attend. If you want a fun afternoon come and join us on a Wednesday in the Church Hall at 12.30 p.m., also time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Our Christmas lunch is to be held at the Cornhill, Bonnybridge on 19th December.

Thanks to Bea Millar for all the work she does and to Maisie Mortimer for looking after our money! Wishing everyone Peace at Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elma Findlay

Praise Band

On September 30th the Praise Band joined with the congregation for Harvest Celebration with some new pieces and some old favourites.

At the moment rehearsals are in progress for the Church Service on 23rd December when again there will be some new additions and some traditional carols. Thanks to Winnie McMillan for her hard work keeping us up to scratch. On behalf of the Praise Band have a very Happy Christmas and Good wishes for 2013.

Elma Findlay

Yoga for All

The yoga sessions in the church hall on Thursday evenings (7-8.15 p.m.) are inclusive to all – regardless of age, sex or physical abilities.

Participants feel the benefits to their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing from joining in these non-competitive, friendly and relaxing sessions.

We will finish for the Christmas break on December 13th and restart on January 10th. New members are welcome to come along in the New Year.

OM Shanti – Peace be with you all.

Sue

Storrar.

The Sunday Club

We have had an extremely busy start to our programme this year, having visited the Safari Park where we all, including the adults had a great time. **No** children were fed to the lions and **no** adults were abandoned on Monkey Island, in fact we all returned tired out but happy. It seems such a long time ago now but we have embarked on our new programme following the same theme and teaching of the church services. Our weekly collection for “The Vine Trust” as we sing, “Hear those pennies dropping” followed by a short prayer read by one of the children. We have stories, crafts and bible lessons depending on the age group in attendance.

Currently we are making our next banner to present to the church at Christmas called “AUTUMN”.

A special thank you to everyone who helps and supports us and A Happy Christmas from all at The Sunday Club.

Shona Laird

Girls Brigade

Explorers

The girls continue to enjoy their evenings although we could do with a few more girls (P1 and P2)

We have a warm up game. Big A, Little A, is a favourite then a short Bible story or message, followed by a craft session then more games time permitting.

Our theme is “**ALL THINGS PINK AND BEAUTIFUL**” so as you can imagine everything is pink. We have featured Angelina Ballerina, dressing dolls, made butterflies, pink shades of course and colourful masks as well as iced biscuits with gooey pink icing.

We went to an Explorer’s fun day at Dunblane where we got the chance to join a bell ringing group, made masks and learnt action songs.

M. Martin (Lieutenant)

S. Hobbs (Officer in Charge)

37 Club

The 37 Club for gentlemen meets fortnightly from October to March at the MacLean Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm. We are a small group who enjoy fun and fellowship together and we would gladly welcome new members. Here is our program for this session.

16 th October	Opening meeting
30 th October	At home - Cards & dominoes
13 th November	Pool at Falkirk
27 th November	At home - games night
11 th December	Talk by Brian Richmond
18 th December	Christmas Dinner with our ladies.
8 th January	At home
22 nd January	Haggis Bash
5 th February	Ten pin bowling
19 th February	Games night
5 th March	Visit to Scottish Power Grid Control
19 th March	Gentlemen's Dinner

Gentlemen, do come along and join us.

Murray McCheyne

UNICEF UK'S 'Jar of Grace' Appeal

Every year 1.2 million children worldwide are trafficked and exploited for manual labour, forced into marriage and used for sexual purposes. But with the support of our church, UNICEF UK can help these children and ensure that they have the chance to grow and thrive into healthy adults.

Over the past few years, during the season of Advent, our church has supported the UNICEF UK's Jar of Grace. It is easy – just take an empty jar or a UNICEF collection box and every time you have enjoyed a meal take a moment to think about vulnerable children in the world and put your loose change into the container.

We can help children who are caught in the cycle of poverty, child labour and illiteracy. We can make sure they have the life-giving opportunity to go to school and be taught in a safe environment.

Please give a little each day during Advent to support this appeal. All donations will be collected at the beginning of January by Sue Storrar, to be sent to UNICEF.

Sue Storrar

Christian Aid

Anyone watching the unfolding news in the Middle East will be aware of the escalating violence and conflict that is bringing misery and fear to many innocent families living in the Holy Land region.

Facing restrictions on travel, and limited advice and medical support, Palestinian families struggle to access vital medical care. A shortage of specialist doctors, and ambulances regularly held up at checkpoints, mean medical resources are often unavailable.

Volunteer doctors, working for Christian Aid partner Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI), tirelessly cross the strained divide between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, determined not only to provide critical medical care where it is most needed, but to challenge perceptions and build peace.

Where children have only seen conflict and unrest, PHRI is bringing a glimmer of hope to families and communities so that one day Israelis and Palestinians may see their health and hearts healed.

Please be part of a story of healing in this Holy Land this Christmas. Donations given at the 'Soup and Sandwich' lunch after church on Sunday 2nd December, and the proceeds from the Watch Night service collection on Christmas Eve, will be given to Christian Aid.

A Holy Land Prayer

Shining God,
even the darkness is not dark to you.
Shine in our darkness, light of our lives.

When people walk in the grey gloom of poverty and loss,
when pain drains the colour out of life,
when neighbours are paralysed by the darkness of fear,
may your light and purpose bring hope and healing,
and the birth of a child bring joy.

Shining God,
even the darkness is not dark to you.
Shine in our darkness, light of our lives.
Amen.

Sue Storrar



The winter magazine would not be the same without the following :

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)

Baptisms

“Suffer little children to come unto me “

18 November Kerris Karen Walker

Marriages

“Whom God has joined together”

7 September Teresa Cowie to James Wilson

Deaths

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”

September

Robert Conn Allandale

October

Eddie Patton Banknock
Mrs Isobel McMillan Newcarron

November

John Mortimer Head of Muir