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The Church
of Scotland



THE LINK

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

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Haggs Manse
September 2009

Hi folks,

Welcome back after our rather wet Summer. I hope that the warmth of the welcome at Church has made up for the lack of sunshine on the outside.

Yesterday I travelled to Dundee with three of our Guild members. We were attending the Guild annual rally in the Caird Hall and we were greeted warmly by the stewards at the doors and by anyone we spoke to including other rally goers we met on the way.

It was a very enjoyable experience with wonderful singing both from a group who entertained us at the afternoon session and from the company gathered in the hall. But it was also a day with a meaningful message. We were told of the success of the support given to the Guild Projects over the past three years and one of the speakers told of what that support had meant to them. It wasn't just the money raised for them that had helped but knowing that they were being supported in friendship and prayer by Guilds all over Scotland.

The Guild theme for the next three years asks the question: What does the Lord require of you? And gives the answer from Micah 6:8 to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. This is a question and answer that we all need to consider if we are to be true followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Come and join us in our worship on a Sunday and in our other activities including the Guild where we share fellowship together supporting one another with friendship and in prayer.

God bless you all,

Helen F Christie

EDITORIAL

Yet another Summer has come and almost gone. Officially, Summer lasts until the end of September but I tend to think of it being over at the end of August. The weather has, to put it mildly, been mixed but I hope that everyone was able to find a few days of warm sunshine.

Every now and then I look back at previous editorials of the magazine and when I did this recently, I noticed that there is a pattern to their content. What they contain depends on the time of year in terms of our church calendar.

We seem to follow the same pattern year after year after year. We have predictable seasons and patterns in our Church life. We are creatures of habit repeating the same thing depending on where we are in our church year.

Does this sameness, this predictability, make us boring to others? Are we vibrant enough to attract and hold new members and young people to our church? Looking at our numbers and some of the responses to last year's Together We Make a Difference programme the answer would appear to be NO. We, and the church at large, are being constantly challenged by today's society to change, to be different, to be interesting and perhaps less predictable. These challenges we accept and our Kirk Session continues to look for ways to answer them.

And yet we need to be constantly reminding ourselves of the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus. We need to be predictable when it comes to witnessing for Him, worshipping Him and praying to Him. We need to develop and follow patterns of behaviour that will identify us as and therefore make us predictable as Christians.

Being predicable does not necessarily mean being boring. Services can be bright and happy and enjoyable without being too "gimmicky". Our Sunday School can be interesting and educational for our young people without deviating from the need to teach them about God and Jesus. The key ingredient that can make this happen is us and our attitudes to church and each other.

Jesus Christ is predicable. He is always there for us, prepared to listen to us and help us when we need Him. But he is not boring. Being a follower of Jesus should be challenging and exciting. It should bring variety and happiness into our lives. So let us all have another predictable but exciting year witnessing, worshipping and praying in the name of our Saviour – Jesus Christ.

Welcome back.

Jack Dunn

1st Hags Girls Brigade

The new session began on Tuesday 1st September
Explorers 5.30 – 6.30 p.m. P.1-3
Juniors 6.45 – 8 p.m. P.4-7
Brigaders 6.45 – 8 p.m. S1+

We have lost a few of the Explorers from last year as they have moved up to the junior section but we are hoping to increase the numbers over the next few weeks. Anyone who would like to help and has at least an hour to spare come along and lend a hand.

For any more information contact Liz Heeps on 07813857486

Keep Fit

Keep Fit is continuing every Tuesday 8 – 9 p.m. in the Church Hall. We have a regular attendance of 6+ every week and all money goes to the church and other charities. £2.00 per session. We use stability balls and if you would like to come along just let me know. Liz 07813857486.

If you would be interested in another class beginning during the day please get in touch and this could be considered. Great form of exercise. Let Liz know by calling 07813857486

Crossreach Catalogue. Now available in the vestibule.

Orders for Calendars and Christmas Cards to be given to Maisie Mortimer. Samples of cards on hand.

The Flower List

After the poor weather of our summer it is lovely see a palate of colour in our gardens and window boxes.

Our Church is adorned each week with flowers given by members and non-members and for this we are thankful to those concerned.

The new list for 2010 (yes it is getting near) will be compiled in December and if you would like to add your name to the list please see me or the Minister.

Best wishes to Jean and hurry back.

Moir Martin

Summer Sunday Club

Over the summer the youngsters have been busy making their own postcards from their holidays.

It does not matter whether you go far or near, we all need a rest and change of scenery but God does not rest.

While you were on holiday did you attend a different Church? Tell us about it at Sunday Club.

Moir Martin

New Co-ordinator for Church HIV/AIDS Project

We are delighted to inform you that the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project has appointed a new co-ordinator. Marjorie Clark took up her post in early August and is beginning to settle into her new role. Marjorie and Kate O'Brien, the Project's part-time Administrator, are based in the Project Office on the third floor of the Church Offices at 121 George St.

The Project Group has been busy over the summer months preparing information for congregational use, particularly in relation to 'Souper Sunday' an event endorsed by the General Assembly and scheduled for 10th January 2010.

Watch out for more information about this in the next month. The Project was also delighted to be one of the Guild projects for the next 3 years and 'A New Hunger' will help the Guild focus on the issues relating to HIV and food whilst also supporting partners in Scotland and overseas.

The HIV/AIDS summer newsletter highlighted some work of Project Partners and if you would like to receive this resource, please email Kate at the address below to go onto the mailing list. The Project staff and group members are always willing to visit your presbytery, congregation or group, please do not hesitate to be in touch, or to come in to the office if we can be of any help.

You can contact the HIV/AIDS project office on 0131 225 5722 or at HIVAIDS@cofscotland.org.uk

Harvest Thanksgiving Envelope. This year's Harvest Thanksgiving envelope appeal is going to the Vine Trust.

Please return filled envelopes to the Church as soon as you can.

For information on the projects of the Vine Trust please visit

www.vinetrust.org

Together We Make a Difference.

A gypsy child in Bulgaria has received the millionth shoebox from Blythswood Care's Shoebox Appeal.

Seven year old Maria was presented with the gift box after a concert in a rural village hall at week before Christmas last year.

Danny Muschate, Blythswood's head of fundraising, describing Maria as "overjoyed with everything".

"Maria is a bright girl but doesn't have much," he said. "She especially liked the colouring book and pens."

Maria's mother, Rosica, was pleased that her daughter received a matching scarf, hat and gloves, as she cannot afford to buy her winter clothes.

Rosica and her husband are both unemployed and neither can read or write.

Their household income of less than £50 per month goes entirely on food for their family of four children.

Blythswood Care's 2008 Shoebox Appeal raised 132,000 gift boxes, bringing the total since the appeal began in 1993 to 1,122,000. Boxes were sent to India and Sri Lanka as well as to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Visit www.shoeboxappeal.org

Moderator Memories

A former Kirk Moderator is one of the latest online entries to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, regarded as the greatest reference work on earth.

The Very Rev. James Whyte, who died in 2005, is one of a number of distinguished Scots to be added to the listing which is updated online three times a year.

The published Dictionary is now in 60 volumes and is contributed to by more than 13,000 authors all over the world.

Professor Whyte is remembered for the sermon he preached at the memorial service for the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster. His appeal against retaliation and violence "reverberated around the world and may have helped to inhibit hasty armed reactions" his entry states.

Following the Dunblane school tragedy, Professor Whyte, who was Moderator in 1988, was invited to preach at the memorial service in Dunblane Cathedral for the pupils and their teacher.

Geneva Celebrations

The Church of Scotland congregation in Geneva has found itself at the centre of global interest this summer as reformed churches around the world mark the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth.

As the English speaking church which still worships in the building that Calvin used, they helped to facilitate WARC Study Tour of 120 church leaders in May and a week long conference organised by "Calvin 500" from the United States in July.

The city itself has seen many activities as people gather both to celebrate and to re-evaluate the significance of Calvin's legacy.

Club's Gift to the Holy Land

A recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land took some strange luggage with it – 60 Dundee United football jerseys!

The jerseys, donated by Dundee United (nicknamed "the Arabs") were bound for East Jerusalem YMCA to help with their youth development programme. Rev. Stan Brook, Callander, led a team of pilgrims from churches throughout Scotland earlier this year.

The General Secretary of the "Y" Andre Batarseh had spoken to them towards the end of last year, and the need for equipment for the youngsters was raised. Mr Brook contacted DUFC Director, Derek Robertson, who discovered jerseys left over from a promotion two years ago. They were handed over during a tour of the TMCA and so the East Jerusalem branch of the Dundee United Supporters Club was born.

Back to Church Sunday

In 2004 two people were having coffee and dreaming of what they would like to happen in church. The outcomes of this was a pilot project of 168 churches in the Manchester area taking part in the initial 'Back to Church Sunday' Campaign. (B2CS) 800 people came back to church on that Sunday.

By 2008, the campaign had grown and been endorsed at a national level by the main Christian denominations in Britain and all over the world. Last year 3000 churches in Britain took part and 37,000 people responded.

B2CS is founded on the principles of Christian welcome and our God-given gift of friendship. At its heart is the invitation to encourage people to re-engage with God following the invitation of the disciples to 'come and see' Jesus.

In Scotland the campaign is being co-ordinated by Action of Churches Together in Scotland.

Responding to the call, congregations like Clarkston Parish Church, Airdrie have decided to make September 20th their Back to Church Sunday (the 27th is the national date but this is a bank holiday in Scotland). Following a very successful stewardship campaign last year focusing upon people's skills, the Kirk Session decided to make September 20 an opportunity for spiritual renewal to the regular church goer and those on the fringes of the church community. Session Clerk Margaret Paterson said: "We think it's important for us to use this opportunity to reconnect with those in the community, to let them know we are here and that God is part of their life"

Christian Aid Lunch –

All will be made welcome on
Sunday 4th October, after The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Costa Church

Ever heard of a cafechurch? It's the church for people who don't go to church, and it could be coming to a coffee shop near your quite soon.

Cid Latty is the network leader for cafechurch and is currently helping Scotland reap the same benefits that England has been enjoying for three years.

"Costa Coffee have given us permission to establish a church in every Costa in the UK. We currently have 44 in Britain with three established in Scotland and another in the pipeline.

"The Scottish ones are based in Shawlands and Newtonmearns in Glasgow and another in Erskine. Edinburgh are hoping to set up one soon and are currently in talks with Starbucks to see if they will help."

New BB Director

A Church of Scotland Elder has been appointed as the new director of the Boys' Brigade in Scotland.

Bill Stevenson is a well known face in the BB and has served recently as Treasurer of the Edinburgh, Leith & District Battalion. He has held many other positions within the Brigade including being a company captain, battalion secretary and president, and was on the UK Executive in the 1980s.

Bill is 48 and lives in Stenton, East Lothian. For the past 20 years he has been a manager with a software house specialising in work with housing associations.

Bill said "I am delighted to take up this post and I look forward to working with all the members of the Brigade in Scotland over the next few years. It is important that we remind people that the Brigade is a major player in Scottish Youth Work. At the same time we need to recruit new members and grow some of our companies. We have a terrific base to build on and I am sure we will be able to do this and raise the Brigade's profile with key decision makers."

Baptism

‘Suffer little children to come unto me’

June 28 Millie Johan Bryden Black
Aug. 23 Jack David Duncan

Marriage

‘Whom God has joined together’

June 11 Allison McNaughton to Allan Baird
12 Anne-Marie Smith to Graham Thomson
14 Catherine Gray to Dion Boucher
19 Jennifer Band to Phillip Sherry
20 Victoria Wilson to Grant Dawson
21 Alison Baillie to Peter Hanlon
July 5 Katherine Graham to Scott Jamieson
31 Caroline Proffit to Ross Paton
Aug. 1 Karen Moffat to Neil Brown
7 Lorna Rudge to Stewart Brydon
8 Rema Ayre to Jonathan Fairlie
9 Nicola Thomson to Craig Wilson
15 Gillian Bennie to Gregor Black
22 Angela French to Sean Turner
30 Fiona Jenkins to Diarmuid Collins

Deaths

‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord’

July James McLean Allandale
Les Bissett Bonnybridge
Aug. Mrs Caroline Kilgour Banknock
Mrs Margaret Walker “
Mrs Annie Blair Haggs
Alexander Abercrombie Banknock
Andrew Wilson