



The Link

**The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Linked with Denny Old Parish Church
Spring 2017**

Dear Friends

This week we've heard the announcement that in Scotland we'll soon have our own TV channel. Already the pundits are hard at work wondering if this will draw playwrights and others who've emigrated to England back to their homeland to produce drama and other programmes with a specifically Scottish flavour. Already there are quite a number of 'Scottish' comedies, travelogues etc. on TV, but one wonders how a whole channel, presumably destined to run 24/7, is going to be filled, and what will be the moral, ethical and intellectual level of the content – will the producers aim for what is generally known as 'quality programmes' or will it be the lowest common denominator which already seems to account for much of the content on TV already.

Of course we all have different tastes and what suits one is anathema to the other. I enjoy thrillers (as long as they're not too bloodthirsty!) but my husband loathes them. Constant news programmes would suit him down to the ground – believe me, you *can* get too much of a good thing.

In many homes nowadays the TV is on from morning to night – sometimes as an antidote to loneliness – the sound of voices interacting brings a feeling of company for the person on their own; sometimes for the person who's confined to their bed or a chair it brings interest and entertainment, but for others it's purely the noise they need – they can't cope with silence and yet silence itself can be healing, providing a place of rest and refreshment for us physically, mentally and perhaps especially spiritually.

The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 23 that God leads us "beside quiet waters, and there "He restores my soul." We regularly hear that more and more people, even young children, are

suffering from stress. I wonder how many of them would benefit from regular times of quietness, separated from their phones, tablets and all the modern gizmos that are “must haves” for any self-respecting young person – and older ones too.

In Psalm 46, much of it paints a picture of noise and uproar first of all from earthquake and roaring water then later from war, but in verse 10 God speaks and tells us “Be still, and know that I am God.” It’s in the stillness and silence, that we are enabled to hear God’s voice and be counselled and guided by Him.

As individuals, as a congregation, as Christ’s church both in local community and nationally, we would be well advised to obey God’s voice and “Be still …..” and listen to Him. It’s then and only then that we can be sure that we are walking in right paths – His paths.

At this time as a congregation it is especially important that you ensure that you are not just *talking* to God but *listening* to Him as you seek His will for your future. That responsibility is not confined to the Nominating Committee – everyone has a part to play.

I trust that as we begin our journey through Lent – a time of quietness and listening – that leads to the glory and celebration of Easter, that all of us may take time to be still before God and listen to Him.

I pray that each of us will be renewed and refreshed as we seek God in the stillness and quietness, and thereafter as we walk in obedience to Him, that we will indeed know the glory and wonder of Easter in our own hearts and lives.

Blessings to you all

Sandra Mathers

Locum Minister

Gods Wonderful World

My favourite season of the year is spring. It never fails to amaze me when snowdrops peep through the cold hard winter earth or the buds appear on seemingly sleeping or dead trees and hedges after the long dark days of our Scottish climate.

The wonder of these seasons is not an accident; it is Gods forward planning that has given us these wonders and delights for all to see and appreciate.

This is Gods wonderful World, for all of us to see and enjoy.

FIND THE SPRING FLOWERS.

UPTLI

TULIP

PDORNSW

SNOWDROP

CCSURO

CROCUS

SORMERIP

PRIMROSE

DOFLADIF

DAFFODIL

THE SUNDAY CLUB

We may be small in number but our enthusiasm is great as we look forward to spring.

We have seven young people attending every week with another four visiting with grandparents on occasion. A programme is planned on a monthly basis with older children reading the Scripture passages for that morning.

Last month we used the theme “Foundations of our faith” when we made coloured bricks and were involved in building on a strong foundation at the Children’s address. The young people enjoy being in Church which we should encourage.

We have tried plaster moulding to make hearts, and the final theme we will be using is “hiding Gods word in our hearts”.

Please keep our young church and our helpers in your prayers as we approach Easter.

Shona, Moira, Libby and Judith.

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowls continue on a Wednesday afternoon in the Church Hall at 12.30 p.m.

We are small in numbers but those who play enjoy the afternoon. If you would like a pleasant afternoon come and join us and you will be made most welcome. A cuppa and a chat are also on the agenda for the afternoon.

Elma Findlay

Christian Aid 2017

In 2017, we celebrate 60 years of Christian Aid Week, our diamond anniversary.

Christian Aid Week began 60 years ago to support the work churches in Britain and Ireland were doing with refugees in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Today, tens of millions of people across the globe are also fleeing their homes because of war, conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

Christian Aid Week unites more than 20,000 churches determined to walk with our global neighbours in need. We will not turn our backs on today's refugees. Sixty years on, we still believe in life before death.

Will you join us this year, whether by sharing a lunch after church, collecting money or participating in a sponsored walk?

Here are some dates for your diaries:-

Saturday 22nd April – Forth Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk

Christian Aid Week – 14th – 20th May

Saturday 30th September – Kelpies Canter Sponsored Walk

Thank you for your support in the past and if you can help in any way in 2017 then please contact Sue Storrar or Jean McCheyne.

A Pattern for African babies affected by HIV virus

New born HIV affected babies from the African continent, many of whom are sent home wrapped in newspaper for warmth, need our help.

We are asking for your help in this effort by making small jumpers and hats to send to these tiny babies. You can help by either knitting these items or by donating Double knit wool, or doing both. A pattern for knitters and a bag for donated wool will be in the vestibule. Knitters please take a pattern, or if you can donate wool please put it into the bag. We will collect all finished items to send off by Easter time.

Baby Jumper Knitting Pattern

Knitted all in one. Use Double knit wool, Size 5mm needles (tight knitters), or 4.5mm (loose knitters)

Cast on 44 stitches (leave long thread for sewing up). Work 18 rows in K.2, P.2 rib.

Work 30 rows in stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl).

Work sleeves – Cast on 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows, at the same time, change to K.2, P.2. and rib 22 more rows.

Neck opening – Next row: Rib 21, cast off 26, Rib 21. Next row: Rib 21, cast on 26, Rib 21.

Work 22 rows in K.2, P.2 Rib. Cast off 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows.

Work 30 rows in stocking stitch. Work 18 rows in K.2, P.2 Rib.

Cast off.

Please stick to pattern as it is proven to work. Stripes and bright colours are fine.

Small hat

Use Double knit wool and Size 4.5mm needles.

Cast on 50 stitches and work 10 rows in K.1, P.1 Rib for the band.

Then work 8cms from the band in your own pattern.

Next row: (K.1, K.2 together) – repeat to the end. Purl 1 row.

Next row : (K.2, K.2 together) – to end. Purl 1 row then thread wool through stitches and sew up.

A big thank you from the babies of Africa Boys Brigade

The Anchor boys have been meeting at Bankier School on Tuesday evenings from 6.15pm to 8pm, we have 5 boys in the section They enjoy themselves doing games, craft work and bible stories. They went to Zoolab in Larbert Halloween party, attended the opening, Remembrance and gift services. For their Christmas outing they went to Adventure Planet and to the Battalion Fun day in January and are looking forward to going to our annual Turnabout service in the Falkirk town hall on Friday the 3rd of March.

The Junior Section also meet at Bankier School on Friday evenings from 6.30pm to 8pm., we have 18 boys in the section this session. Friday evening activities include opening service, maze marching, games, craft work and tumbling plus tuck shop. We have taken part in battalion competitions Alan Douglas Trophy where we came first, Spiritual we came 8th, 5 aside football at Carronvale and are still to take part in the Swimming, Maze marching and Sports. The section attended the same services as the Anchor boys and will be taking part in the Turnabout service as it is 100 years of the Life Boys. For their Christmas outing the boys went to Air Space in East Kilbride. The boys also went to Stirling Astronomical Society where we saw the Wallace monument upside down and the boys enjoyed a short talk about the universe. The boys will be going to Girvan for their annual camp the first weekend in June.

Three members of the staff, Katy Young, Sharon Fenny and Bobby Kelly completed their youth training course and Katy did a First Aid course. Grant Kirkwood has completed the first stage of KGV1 course for officers at Carronvale and will complete the course in the summer.

Thank you to all the officers for all their help and support this year.

A special thanks to Colin Meek for all the help and work he has done for the company for the past 30 odd years we wish him well in the future.

Captain Ernie Firth

Vacancy Update March 2017

In our ongoing vacancy situation our Interim Moderator chairs our Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings and guides us through procedural matters relating to our linkage with Denny Old Parish church. Rev. Sandra Mathers leads our worship with our service time this year at 11.15 a.m. and also caters for pastoral needs in the community.

Our linkage with Denny Old has developed over the past year through joint meetings and services. A joint team from Denny Old and Hags has been working together to find a new manse for our linked charge and, after looking at a number of possibilities, arrangements have been made to purchase a 5 bedroom detached house in Singers Place, Dennyloanhead. The existing Denny Old manse has been sold and the Hags manse is in the process of being sold so we should be able to purchase the new manse without the need for a mortgage or bridging loan.

As our Nominating Committee actively seeks a minister for our linked charge the life of our church continues. We thank everyone who supports our church at Hags and also contribute to our outreach projects including Christian Aid, Vine Trust, Church of Scotland HIV project, Food Bank and many other worthy good causes.

As ever, we must all rise to the challenges that come before us in our journey of faith for our linked churches of Denny Old and Haggs. Please do continue to support your church by coming to our services and taking part in church life. Everyone is very welcome.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk, pro-tem

Thank You

Fiona Schuit would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards, flowers and baking received at her time of sadness recently. This was much appreciated, thank you.

Positive Count

Count your blessings instead of your crosses,
Count your gains instead of your losses,
Count your joys instead of your woes,
Count your friends instead of your foes,
Count your courage instead of your fears,
Count your laughs instead of your tears,
Count your full years instead of your lean,
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean,
Count your health instead of your wealth,
Count on your God instead of yourself. Anon.

Baptism:

Ava Frances Henderson, born 05.12.15 daughter of Philip and Kristia Marie Henderson living in the Philippines

Funerals:

December 2016 Mrs Annie Walls, Falkirk.
Baby John BW Batchelor (5 hours old),
Banknock
Mrs Hannah Clark, Banknock

February 2017 Mrs May Munn, Glasgow
Mr John Campbell, Haggs

Diary dates and Seivices

Haggs Parish Church Annual Stated Meeting will be held after morning service on Sunday 12th March at 12.30 pm in the Church Hall.

A get together evening to raise funds for our church and for Strathcarron Hospice is arranged for Saturday 18th March at 7.30 pm in the Archibald Russell Centre. It will be an evening of music, dancing and fun. Bring your own refreshments, a glass and snacks. Donations for prizes would be appreciated. Tickets costing £10 are available from Jean Proffit, Liz Heeps and Sue Storrar.

A joint service with Denny Old will be held on Sunday 19th March at 11.00 am at Denny. There will **not** be a service at Haggs that day.

Holy week Services all at 7.30 pm

Monday 10th April Denny Old
Tuesday 11 Denny Westpark
Wednesday 12 Denny Baptist
Thursday 13 Bonnybridge
Friday 14 Dunipace

The Good Friday Walk of Witness round the Denny churches will start from Denny Old at 10.30 am.

Easter Sunday morning breakfast is at Dunipace Church

Easter Sunday Service will be at Haggs Church at 11.15 a.m.



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