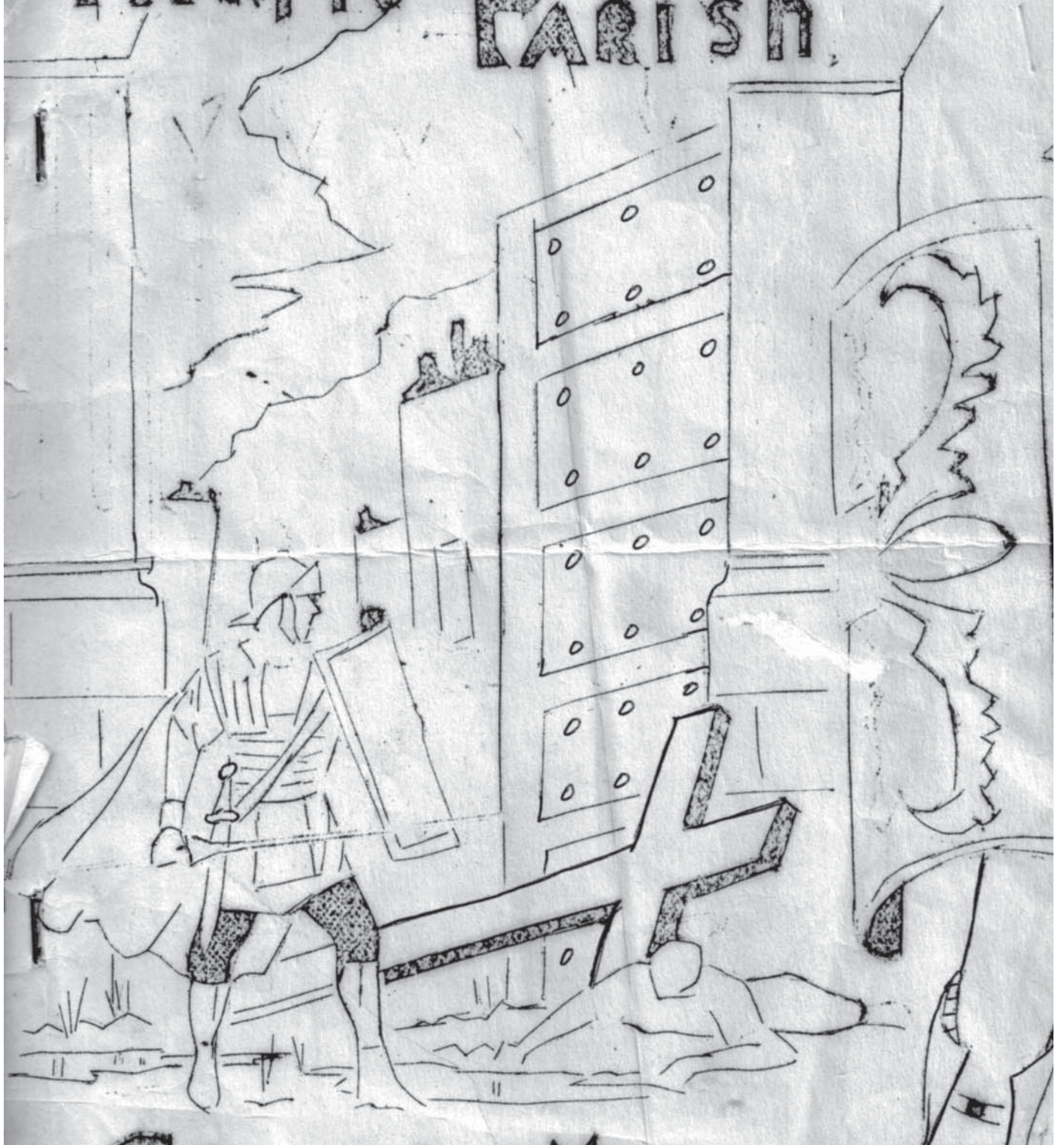


# HAGGS PARISH



Issue No. 2

June, 1965.

OFFICE BEARERS

<u>Minister</u>	Rev J. Robertson
<u>Session Clerk</u>	Mr. R. V. McKay
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr. B. Brownlee
<u>Clerk to the Board</u>	Mr. W. Ralston.
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Mr. J. McArthur.
<u>Church Officer</u>	Mr. D. Whyte.
<u>Keeper of the Cradle Roll</u>	Mrs. M. Taylor.

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THE CHURCH WEEK

<u>Sunday</u>	Morning Service 11.15 a.m.
	Evening Service 6 p.m.
	Youth Fellowship 7.30 p.m.
<u>Sunday School</u>	Beginners - During Morning Service.
	Primary & Seniors - 12.30 p.m.
<u>Monday</u>	Womans Guild - Every Second Monday.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Guildry - Greenwoods.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Robins & Guildry Company.
<u>Thursday</u>	Choir - Life Boys - Boys Brigade.
<u>Friday</u>	Youth Fellowship.

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YOUR KIRK SESSION

Mr. Bruce - Mr. Ralston - Mr. McKay - Mr. Kirk - Mr. Connel -  
Mr. Miller - Mr. Denniston - Mr. Fleming - Mr. Taylor - Mr. Duff  
Mr. D. McLauchlan - Mr. I. McLauchlan - Mr. Wilson - Mr. Leckie  
Mr. McArthur.

Pastoral Letter

The Manse,  
Haggs;  
June, 1963

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin this letter by quoting from the Session Clerk's letter in our financial report dated January 1963. Mr Mackay ended his letter with these words.....

" We now look forward to a long and faithful fellowship with our new Minister. We assure him of our full and loyal support in his work for the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom in our midst, and we know that you will respond readily, and encourage him by appreciating his efforts."

The first real test of the truth and worth of this statement came on Sunday 19th May, when I appealed to you from the pulpit for donations to start our Renovation Fund. I am left in no doubt as to your loyalty, when your response to this appeal has now almost reached £250. To all of you who contributed so generously I repeat my most sincere thanks.

The month of May is a month of male birthdays in our family. Duncan was born on the 4th, my Father on the 21st, myself on the 15th and our new son, David on the 22nd. The fact that David first saw the light of day in the Manse at Haggs has pleased us greatly. It means that for him and for his parents, the house here will for all time have a special place in our affections. Mrs Robertson joins me in sending our grateful thanks to the large number of you who sent us your good wishes.

The months and years ahead of us are going to be of vital importance in the life of our Congregation. I accepted the Call to be your Minister because I believed you to be a people with a future. As each month goes by I become more firmly convinced that this is true. The work waiting to be done is too difficult and too important to be left to a handful of people. I appeal to every member and friend in the area to join with us in the worship and work of the Church believing that 'Christ our Royal Master leads against the foe'. I look forward to leading you in this exciting period of your Congregational life, and I appeal for the help of the whole people, that we may live out what we recently sang in Church.

" Like a mighty army moves the Church of God".

Your friend and Minister,

Jack Robertson

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WEDDINGS

25th May 1963-----Ann Tuddenham and Robert L. Eaglesham  
22nd June 1963----- Elizabeth G. McFadyen and David F. Pearson  
8th June 1963----- Margaret F. Stephen and Duncan McFarlane

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It was most disappointing for the organisers of this function that so few parents showed interest in the Life Boy team. Under the chairmanship of Rev. J. Robertson, the evening commenced with the assembly then the raising of the flag. After the first hymn our minister gave a short prayer, then the proceedings got under way.

Under the leadership of Mr. McLauchlan, the boys gave a display of marching and counter marching, which, considering their age groups, was extremely good. Most of the onlookers were touched to hear the young voices in group singing. Varied games were played with all the vim and vigour of the lads' tender years. It became more of a party when some of the parents joined in some of the games. The expression on some of the faces at the balloon-bursting game will be long remembered.

Our minister gave a short talk on the subject of putting something into life before expecting to take anything out. He illustrated his theme by showing the boys a bankbook, let's hope for the ministers' sake, it was full. Mr. McLauchlan gave a talk on the work of the session then called on Miss Helen Erskine to say a few words to the team. Dwelling on their cleanliness and smart appearance, Miss Erskine told the boys to remember their motto and to carry it into every phase of their lives.

Four of the team, Robert Leadbetter, James Harkness, Roy Duff, and James Bailie were then transferred to the Boys Brigade Company. The Life Boy hymn was sung with gusto then Mr. Robertson gave the Benediction.

Reflections on this meeting were that it was a pity that more of the parents' did not come along and show at least a little interest in the youth organisations of our Church.

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Congratulations to the Youth Fellowship football team on their first game. A five to four victory over Stepps sets them on the road to more victories.

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### PEOPLE IN OUR Pews

Helen Erskine first squalled her way into this mortal coil at Castlecary Mill some number of years ago. Four years later her family moved to Higgs and every local will remember Erskine's house just by the main road. Our subject attended Longcroft School and was rather a keen member of the local Girl Guides. Leaving the environments of home surroundings for the first time, Helen went to Benny High School. Five studious years were spent in this temple of knowledge before Helen went to Falkirk High for another year of instruction in the various arts and crafts that make up a pupil's life.

Thinking that she had had enough of instructions, Helen thought it about time she was at the other end of the classroom. She applied and was accepted by Jordanhill Training College. After two hard, sweat and toil, years, Helen emerged into the world as a competent teacher, filled with the desire to impart her hard-earned knowledge to others. There followed a year of temporary situations in various schools until at last a vacancy turned up. Miss Erskine took up her first permanent teaching appointment at Larbert Village School. Happy in the work she was trained for, Helen settled down to the hard grind of teaching. Now our subject is at Denny Primary School and has been there for the past six years.

Away from teaching, Helen's main interests are Church work, Motoring and singing. Not so very long ago, she enjoyed a game of tennis or Badminton. To refer back to the interests, those of us who have listened to Helen singing must realize that she has been gifted with a beautiful voice. Our subject is ell travelled and has visited practically every Continental Country.

Posed with the question of what she would have liked to have done if she hadn't been a school teacher, Helen replied that she would have liked to serve in a shop.

Helen is not in the least interested in the male sex though she admits she can at odd times enjoy their company.

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### THE BEACHING REPORT

Despite all our prayers and hopes, the morning of the Sunday School Trip could not have been worse. Grey clouds pressed down over the countryside like a sodden blanket, dripping on everything underneath. Donning raincoats and burdened with umbrella's we dodged the puddles in our path as we wended our doleful way to where the buses stood like hulking monsters sheltering from the downpour. With the sombre odour of dampness permeating the interior of each bus we set off for our destination to an accompaniment of sodden tyres hissing on an equally sodden road.

Overcoming the apathy instilled by the weather some of the younger set livened up the proceedings with song. Many were started but very few finished, but then a bright gleam came into every eye. Away in the distance a spear of blue had penetrated the drab shield of grey. Suddenly a great slash of sunlight ripped the clouds apart, revealing to our gaze a tranquil, blue sky. The singing took on an added gusto and lips that were but a few minutes before, extremely doleful, curved into wide smiles. — The spirit of the Trip was awakened at last.

Like Jason in search of the Golden Fleece we wound a devious way towards our goal. Suddenly the town of Ayr showed up, away on our right. A million wavelets sent little daggers of sunlight at our eyes so that the town seemed invested with a halo of sparkling quicksilver. Soon we were part of this gilded town and we tumbled from the buses in much better mood than we had entered them.

The salty tang of sea air wafted into our nostrils, bringing with it a flush to the cheeks and an added lightness to the step. Men, women and children swarmed onto the beach, each family party burdened with an assortment of playthings. Pails and spades, bright beach-balls and colourful towels were much in evidence. Some, as if in a frenzy of exultation kneeled down then commenced to build weird and wonderful castles in the sand. Those slightly older were more content to sit and soak in the sun or to wander slowly round the shops in search of gifts to take back to those less fortunate than themselves.

Like all good things, the trip had to come to an end and it was

THE BEACHING REPORT (cont.)

with heavy hearts we watched the inexorable march of time. Now that it is all over we can look back with a measure of joy in our hearts to the day of the Sunday School Trip.

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CHURCH CHOIR

On Saturday 18th May, members of the Church Choir and friends held their annual drive. After having tea at the Tuftcombs Hotel, Biggar, they spent an enjoyable evening looking round the village and then returned home via Penicuik and Edinburgh.

I am very glad to say that since the printing of our first Church Magazine took place, members of the Choir have been very glad indeed to welcome a considerable number of new Choir Members but there is still room for anyone else who would care to join us and help our numbers to grow even more.

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O.E.S. - Parade.

The Cumbernuld Order of the Eastern Star held a Church Parade on Sunday 26th May. Their bright sashes added a splash of colour in the Church during the Evening Service. Two solo's were rendered by very accomplished singers. After the worship tea was served in the Church Hall.

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Keep Friday 21st June free. Members of the Youth Fellowship are holding a Grand Barbecue in the school playground. Tickets will be around 2/6d, and we can promise you your mone's worth. Put on your hob nailed boots and calico dresses and come along. Dance and swing the night away. Hot Dogs and Hot Music will be dispensed free.

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Look out for wonderful news of the Church's forthcoming Car Rally.

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VIEWS FROM OUR PEWS

A Protest against Blood Sports by David Connel

FOXHUNTING

This is probably the cruelest of all blood sports. The hunt begins with dogs barking and horns blowing in an attempt to scare the fox into the open. After this is done and the fox is driven into the open, the huntsmen and women chase after the poor animal with a pack of howling, barking hounds in front of them. This 'charging about' finishes when the fox becomes exhausted and is easy prey for the hounds. Various parts of the fox are removed and any person on his or her first hunt is smeared with the blood of the newly-killed animal. An evening of merrymaking follows to celebrate the day's victory.

In my opinion this is a cruel and vicious way to kill any animal, although the fox, can itself be a savage killer. However, no animal should have to die in this manner. Shooting is a cleaner method of destroying the fox, providing the right tactics are used and it is really necessary. Shooting the fox, say the persons for hunting, is an unsporting method and that during the hunt the fox enjoys it as much as anyone else. Has anyone heard a fox say so?

GROUSE AND DEER SHOOTING

These may be regarded as blood sports although I don't think grouse shooting is as bad as foxhunting. My reason for saying this is that many of the grouse are specially bred and kept protected until the shooting season opens and then only a limited number are shot. They are therefore in no great danger of being exterminated. Deer shooting is a different matter however as we rarely see these animals and this may be because they are so timid. It is also true though that many of our deer are being shot and in some cases the animal is only wounded and left to die in agony. This is due to the wrong type of guns being used. If people wish to shoot the deer or they have to be shot because of the damage they have caused, clubs should be set up to teach the correct method and equipment. There should also be a limit to the amount of deer shot, depending on the season.

I would therefore conclude that all of us should try to preserve all life in danger of becoming extinct, but if any animals, on account of the damage they do, need shooting, the killing of them should be kept down to a minimum.

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THE GREENWOOD

The members of the Guildry Greenwood completed their session with a picnic on Tuesday, 7th May to Arbuckle's Burn. Crisps, cakes, biscuits and lemonade were quickly disposed of. Games of rounders, hide and seek, etc. were enthusiastically participated in, then it was "Cheerio" till next session.

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### IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS

The visit of the Very Rev. Dr. A. Craig, M.C., D.D., to our Church on Sunday 7th July is now eagerly awaited. Dr. Craig is widely known as one of the outstanding Moderator's of the General Assembly. He was born 74 years ago in his Father's Manse at Kelso. His work has taken him to Edinburgh, France, Glasgow, London, India, America, Nigeria and Rome where his preaching has been of compelling depth and power. Sir Hector Hetherington writes of Dr. Craig, "He is quite simply, one of the greatest preachers of our time."

A. C. Craig was a well-loved Pastor in the U.F. Churches in Galston, Ayrshire and Hillhead, Glasgow. Glasgow University War Memorial Chapel was opened in 1929 and the Rev. Archie Craig became Chaplain where he served until 1939.

Throughout the war years, Dr. Craig served in the World Church from London where he was organiser for the British Council of Churches. Scotsmen everywhere hailed his return to Glasgow University where for ten years he was Lecturer in Biblical Studies, among is students was our own Minister. We are fortunate that an outstanding Churchman like Dr. Craig will lead us in worship and baptise the infant son of our Minister and his wife.

Again you are asked to note the date - Sunday 7th July, 1963.

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#### BAPTISMS

James Fraser Stansfield, c/o 170 Kilsyth Road, Haggs.  
Colin Brown, Canal Bridge House, Castlecary.  
Alexander Querrie Connel, 15 Allandale Cottages.  
Sandra Margaret Cumming, 6 Bankier Terrace, Banknock.  
Agnes Sarah Shearer Owens, 23 Castleview Terrace, Haggs.

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#### PEREAVMENTS

Mr. William Clelland, 8 Castleview Terrace, Haggs.  
In Canada, Roy Stewart, the 14 year old grandson of Mrs. Stewart of Bankier Terrace Banknock.  
Mr. Richard Swan, 84 Muir Crescent, Bonnybridge.

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#### PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday 2nd June we had a diversion from the usual Sunday School routine. For the previous two Sundays the lessons had been on missionary work in South Africa. We were delighted on this special Sunday to see a film strip of South Africa. The children enjoyed seeing the country they had been hearing about and thoroughly approved of this form of 'expression work'.

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