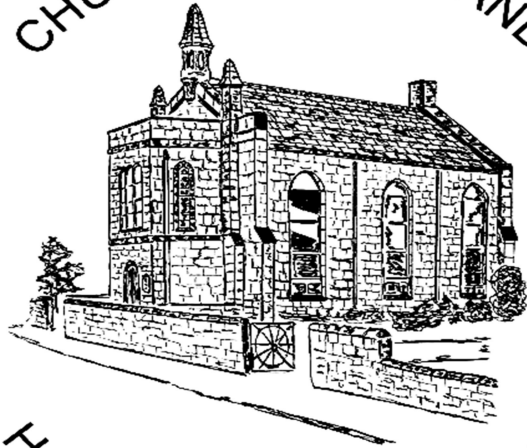


CHURCH of SCOTLAND



HAGGS PARISH CHURCH

The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church
Linked with Denny Old Parish Church
Autumn 2017

Lest we forget

500 years ago, on 31st October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (or issues) to the door of Wittenberg church in Germany. This action lit a flame of truth which was to spread across Europe and the world.

THE REFORMATION HAD BEGUN.

While we in Scotland must give thanks for Luther's actions, we can never understate the influence he had on others and in particular Jean Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli internationally and on Hamilton, Wishart and John Knox here in Scotland.

The establishment of the Scottish kirk and the Protestant faith shaped our nation, being a huge influence on society in general and in particular our worship, work ethic and education .

Today, the situation has changed dramatically. Churches that once were full are almost empty.

Kirk membership has fallen and attendance at worship even more.

Our faith is regularly criticised or ridiculed by our media and politicians.

We have clergy of our own denomination who worship at the altar of social acceptability and political correctness.

We have no one to blame but ourselves, we let this happen.

Martin Luther gave us the true message of the gospel that salvation is in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone made possible because Jesus died on the cross and rose again.

The passage from Jeremiah 18 v 15 tells us "my people have forgotten me and deserted the ancient paths to walk in their own ways". How true.

I ask you all to note Luther's words " here I stand, I can do no other" and stand up for your reformed faith.

Defend it against its enemies, they are not hard to find.

Submitted by George Hoggan

Christian Aid

*If you can't stand still while people live in poverty, walk with us.
Come and join in the 'Kelpies Canter' walk at the Helix
Park, Falkirk on Saturday 30th September – starting at
10.30am.*

A walk for kids, youth groups and families with face painting,
games and our very own Kelpies mascot.

5k & 9k routes.

Adults:£3, Under 16s: £1.50

Fundraisers: FREE

Sponsor forms available from Sue Storrar
(telephone 01324 840757)

Indoor Bowling

The Bowling commenced on 6th September. It is held in the
Church Hall from 12.30 p.m. We are always happy to welcome
new members and maybe some gentlemen might be interested in
joining. It is not too serious and we have a cup of tea/coffee and
a chat afterwards.

Bunny Drive

Maisie Mortimer successfully ran a Bunny Drive on 28th August
which was well supported and enjoyed by all who came. Thanks
to everyone who helped and for donations. £360 was raised
and will be given to the BB to help with the upkeep of their
minibus.

Blythewood Shoe Box Appeal

Filled shoe boxes are required once again for those in need.
Leaflets are available from the Church which list the items for
the box.

If you are in any doubt about giving please read on:

Shoebboxes 25 years on !!

*I was having a wonderful summer holiday in Croatia. By
the fourth day I was tanning nicely so we rented bikes and
took a beautiful cycle route along Rovinj's wooded and
pebbly coastline. Disaster struck as the wheel jammed into
the metal frame throwing me over the handlebars and
breaking my clavicle.*

*Jan, our rep was just superb throughout our whole ordeal!
He dropped everything and got me to hospital in Pula, he
hurried things along, kept in regular contact and arranged
for food to be in our room for our late return.*

*For the rest of the holiday he was so attentive and we got
to know him quite well. He shared anecdotes from his
childhood growing up in the Croatian warzone. Although
Rovinj was not targeted as Dubrovnik was, he had stories
of Serbian planes flying low overhead, mainly around meal
times, causing families to panic and run for cover. He
remembered travelling to a wedding in Zagreb and his
mum telling him not to look out of the car window. He did.
He saw the carnage of a village on fire and people
running, distraught in the streets.*

*Jan was three then and received a shoebox at Christmas
for the duration of the conflict. He loved them but had
some advice for us: "Less toothpaste, more candy"! This
was the first time I had cracked a smile since my mishap.*

When I got home, I sent a thank you tartan shoebox to Jan, It contained Edinburgh rock, shortbread, Mrs Tilly's tablet, whiskey, a loch ness monster and the smallest toothpaste ever! Jan collected it en route to his mother's. They shared the spoils and reminisced. His mum got his old shoeboxes from the loft and he found his pale blue toy car, which was never far from his side during the war years. One of the boxes contained the address of the sender. He planned to contact them to let them know just how much their caring meant to him.- Morag McIlwraith.

Sunday Club

In June we had our outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park. Eight young people along with parents and leaders boarded the BB minibus but we had not travelled far when there was a problem with the bus. Alan Laird managed to get us to the services at Stirling where Ernie picked up three of the drivers to return to collect their cars from the Church then come back to collect us.

We continued in cars, a little late but we all had a great day out in the sunshine.

Parents had been advised by text, that we would be later coming home.

The next day was our prize giving when the Sunday club took part in worship. The young people read the lessons and said the prayers. The Rev. Mathers presented the prizes and a small gift was given by the two eldest children. The Sunday club leader thanked the Minister and members of the congregation for their continued support of the youngsters who are a credit to our church. We have a Sunday Club to be proud of.

Over the summer months activities for our younger members were made available.

We begin a new session and are in the process of making up our syllabus and have a puppet show planned for Communion Sunday when the children will be in the hall, 8th October.

Thanks again to the leaders, Shona, Libby and Judith.

Moira Martin



We are back meeting every Tuesday in the Church hall, from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. I am delighted to say that all the girls from last year have returned after having a great summer holiday, and it's wonderful to see them all. We are hoping to get a few new faces as well, as we launch our G Bees campaign. As you will no doubt be aware of by now, Julie has left us to become the Captain of a Grangemouth company, and we wish her well for her new role as Captain there. The Girls Brigade Headquarters have acknowledged my captaincy and have issued me with my Captain badge. I look forward to working with all the girls and know our GB's will continue to flourish. We have our enrolment and dedication service on Sunday 22 October '17. We will be hoping to hold a couple of fund raising events throughout this session to boost our funds. If you want any more information or would like to join us in a more active role with the GB's please contact Shona on 1sthaggsgirlsbrigade@gmail.com

CrossReach Christmas Cards:

Order book and catalogues are in the vestibule for anyone wishing to support this good cause. Maisy Mortimer will be happy to take your orders.

Dates for your diary:

- 1st Oct. Church Services start at 9.45 a.m.
- 8th Oct. Communion Sunday 9.45 a.m.
- 15th Oct. Harvest Thanks Giving Service (gifts will go to the Falkirk Foodbank)
- 22nd Oct. Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade Service
- 5th Nov. Joint Service with Denny Old at Denny Old Church 11 a.m.
- 12th Nov. Remembrance Service 9.45 a.m.
- 29th Nov. Blue Christmas Service at Denny Old 7.30p.m.
- 10th Dec. Christmas Gift Service
- 17th Dec. Nativity Service
- 24th Dec. Christmas Eve morning service 9.45 a.m.
- 24th Dec. Christmas Eve Service. Conducted by Lorna Duncan Coffee/Teas from 10.30 p.m.

Please be aware that from Sunday 1st October, Hags Church Sunday morning services will start at 9.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.
Denny Old Services start at 11.15 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

MacMillan Cancer Support

On Sunday 1st October we will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Church hall following the morning service. Sandwiches and cakes, as well as tea and coffee, will be available for a donation towards MacMillan Cancer Care. There will also be a 'Lucky Ticket' draw, with tickets available prior to the coffee morning and on the day.

Please come along and support this worthy cause to fund MacMillan nurses and help support people when they need it most.

Any donations of prizes for the draw can be placed in the box in the front vestibule of the church. Also any donations of baking on the day would be most appreciated.

Thank you. Sue Storrar

'Hags Knitters'

Now the autumn evenings are drawing in it's time to get out the knitting needles and wool and start knitting again for babies in Africa.

The pattern for knitted jumpers and hats is in a bag hanging in the vestibule. Please take a pattern and start knitting more of the brightly coloured clothes for babies supported by the Orphan Care programme in Livingstonia, Malawi. Any donations of Double Knit wool can also be placed in the bag for the knitters to use.

The knitting will be uplifted at the beginning of December.
With thanks- Sue Storrar

Congratulations to Archie and Marion Campbell on their Golden Wedding in September.

Another Tomorrow

There's always another tomorrow,
However hard the day
There's always an end to sorrow,
Time wipes our tears away.
There's always a reason for living,
Though sad your heart may be.
There's always another horizon
Beyond the one you see. Anon.

Calm me O Lord as you stilled the storm.
Still me O Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease.
Enfold me Lord within your peace. Anon.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments that take our breath away.

Baptism:

'Suffer little children to come unto me'

Niamh Georgia Todd 9th July 2017

Funeral:

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

July - Mrs Janet Maden, Coneypark, Banknock
August – Miss Ann McNiven, Longcroft

Locum Minister: Rev. Sandra Mathers
01324 872253

Session Clerks Pro-Tem:

Mr R. M. McCheyne
36 Hazel Road
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Mrs Sue Storrar
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Mr. J Dunn 12 Almond Dr. Banknock Tel. 01324 840763	Mr B. Richmond 1 Hazel Rd. Banknock 01324 840761
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