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## The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Linked with Denny Old Parish Church

Summer 2019

## Saying grace.

I have got out of the habit of saying grace before or after a meal.

I remember the one we had to say before our school dinner's way back in the early 60s.

*Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat,*

*Thank you for the birds that sing thank you God for everything, Amen*

Some funny ones I have found.

*"God of goodness, bless our food, keep us in a pleasant mood.  
Bless the chef and all who serve us, and from indigestion, Lord,  
preserve us. Amen."*

Our heavenly Father, we thank you for this food we are about to receive  
everything except the broccoli, the sprouts, the lumpy gravy we can  
leave. Amen

## Moira

## Deaths

"For ever with the Lord"

March Mrs. Anna Russell, Haggs  
April Mr. Allan Blair, Dennyloanhead  
Mrs. Ella McLeod, Bankview

## WE HAVE MOVED TO A UNITARY CONSTITUTION

In the spring edition of our magazine we talked about the planned move to adopting a Unitary Constitution when all of the business of the church would be handled through Kirk Session.

We are pleased to tell you that approval to move to the Unitary Constitution has been given by Falkirk Presbytery and confirmed by the Law Department of the Church of Scotland. The Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form), effective 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 has been received from the Law Department.

Accordingly, at our meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> April the existing Congregational Board was thanked for their work and then discharged. Congregational Board member Mrs. Beatrice Miller has been ordained and takes her place as a ruling elder on the Kirk Session. Other non-elder members of the Congregational Board will take part in Kirk Session meetings but without voting rights. All affairs will now be handled by the Kirk Session.

Murray McCheyne continues as Session Clerk and Sue Storrar as Deputy Clerk with support from others for select administrative activities. A property team under the leadership of Jack Dunn as Property Convener is established and is addressing repair and maintenance work on a structured program.

Our Local Church Review (LCR) is now complete and the Presbytery LCR team will present their report to Falkirk Presbytery at the June meeting. Arising from the review, the Kirk Session will consider a longer term proposal to develop the church into a multipurpose building available for community use throughout the week as well as for worship on a Sunday. This will help future proof our church as a community asset and maintain a place of worship at Haggs.

Our linkage with Denny Old Parish Church continues to develop and we now have joint communion services with one service held at Haggs or Denny on communion Sundays. Joint summer services will be held again this year with July services at Haggs and August services at Denny. All joint summer services start at 10.00 am.

Our Nominating Committee continue in their search for a minister for our linked charge and meantime Rev. Derek Gunn continues as our locum minister leading services at Haggs and Denny on Sundays and providing pastoral care as required.

**RMMcC May 2019.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Hags Boys Brigade

We had our Annual display and Parents evening on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Bankier Primary School when Jason Marr was presented with his Queens Badge by his Dad. Our closing Parade was on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Hags Parish Church when Jason was presented with his Queens Badge by Rev Derek Gunn in church. We are going to Glenrothes for the Queens Men Parade in June.

The session will finish with the Junior section annual weekend camp at Girvan on the first weekend of June.

I would like to thank Officers Katy Duncan, Sharon Fenney, Bobby Kelly, Alan Hobbs and Grant Kirkwood and Helpers Elaine Cameron & Claire Sherry for their help & support over the year. We wouldn't have a company without them all.

Do you know of any boys who would like to joint our company or any adults (Male or Female) who would like to help. Please contact myself, (John.fenney72@outlook.com or 07799145121).



Jason Marr being presented with his Queens Badge

**John Fenney Captain 1st Hags Boys' Brigade**

## Sunday Club

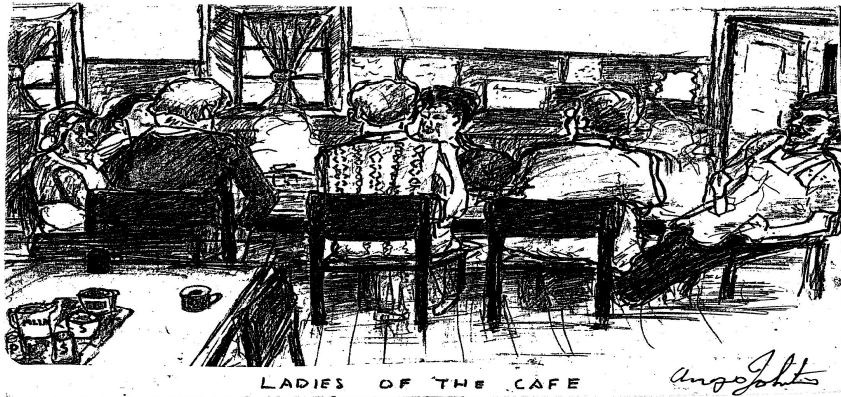
It is almost the end of another session for the young people of the Sunday Club. We served tea to over 60 people after Communion in March when we iced biscuits to eat. We have made weather wheels showing happy days and sad days. A happy day was enjoyed as Elizabeth was baptised then we heard the story of Samuel. Palm trees were made as we neared Easter when the Easter story was told. Easter eggs and even more Easter eggs were given. This week we read about Jesus calming the storm as we acted out being in a boat while being rocked back and forward in a storm. No one suffered from sea sickness and everyone landed safely back on dry land.

Prize giving is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June when the youngsters will receive a token of thanks from the church. The final Sunday Club this session is 30<sup>th</sup> June when we will have a break until August. To the adults who help with the young people, a big thank you for all you do to bring the story of Jesus Christ to them in a fun and interesting way.

Do not stop coming to church over the summer. There will always be something of interest for you to do.

Please note that there will be a Holiday club held in Denny Old for the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> August to which all children are welcome.

**Moira Martin**



**BBC Songs of Praise recording at Glasgow**

## **Cathedral**

Following a prompt from friends at Kilsyth Burns and Old Parish church for “enthusiastic singers”, I applied for tickets to participate in the recording of twelve well-known and much loved hymns in the iconic Glasgow Cathedral building. I was allocated four tickets so Sue, Jean and Frances Ann accompanied me to Glasgow on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May in time for the 6.30 pm start.

We were seated five rows from the front and had a clear view of the choir and the conductor, Andrew Forbes, who ensured that our three hundred voices were united in praise. The organist, Dr Malcolm Sim’s wonderful playing encouraged enthusiastic, joyful singing. We saw a familiar face, Rev Mark E. Johnstone, the recently inducted minister of the Cathedral, who was, at one time, the minister at Denny Westpark church.

Over the three hours the singing was rousing. We sang each hymn several times for optimum sound; sometimes in unison, sometimes in harmony. The Cathedral choir sang the beautiful words, “Deep peace of the running waves to you” in John Rutter’s “Gaelic Blessing”. We came away from the Cathedral with hoarse voices, but with lighter steps and joyful hearts. We had been part of something very special.

*(Many of the hymns will be featured in a programme from Glasgow to be scheduled on BBC 1 on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June)*

**Lorna Duncan**

**The Welcome In Café** – This sketch was drawn by Angus Johnson one day while Margo was working at the café. You may recognise some of the ladies present!

The welcome in café opened in 1994 as a place of outreach here at Haggs. Simple food and friendship was on the menu as a team of helpers set up the café. We had a cook, a supervisor and kitchen and serving staff. It was a friendly place where everyone had their job to do. Friendships were made over bowls of soup. In 2006 we closed the café. This was due to the lack of staff as many were ill and could no longer continue. We remember all those who have helped over the years, the servers, the kitchen staff, the boys for the heavy work and the customers who supported us for all those years.

**Moira Martin**

## **Christian Aid 2019**

**Christian Aid week 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May** – This year the focus of fund raising was to support mothers in Sierra Leone who lack basic maternity care due to escalating government debts following the Ebola crisis, and lack of trained staff or adequate health facilities.

Sierra Leone is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum, with 10 women dying each day giving birth.

This year we decided to try to raise money for the work of Christian Aid in different ways; not doing a door-to-door collection in the Hags area but joining with other like-minded local congregations. We organised a 'Bucket collection' at the end of the Christian Aid concert on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the Albert Halls, Stirling. The audience showed their appreciation after this excellent concert, presented by the Brightons and Gargunock Church Choirs, by generously donating £525 to Christian Aid.

Members at Hags also donated books for the Christian Aid Book sale at Trinity Church, Falkirk as well as giving in envelopes, sponsoring Bridge walkers and attending the Soup & Sandwich lunch.

Well done everybody: a total of £784.03 was raised for Christian Aid through your support and efforts. You have helped to give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

**The next Christian Aid fundraising effort will be the:**

**'Kelpies Canter' sponsored walk on 31<sup>st</sup> August.**

If you can help in any way then please talk to Sue Storrar or Jean McCheyne.

## **Hags Knitters**

Another 75 beautiful jumpers, cardigans and hats were sent from 'Hags Knitters' to the orphanage in Malawi this spring.

Unfortunately our contact who has dealt with the dispatch of these garments cannot organise future deliveries, so at present we have no means of getting more knitting to Africa.

Efforts will be made to set up another delivery route or find an alternative charity who would appreciate our knitting.

Thank you for all your hard work over the past two years. You will be kept informed of any further developments.

**Sue Storrar**

## **After Church Teas/Coffees**

During the course of last year we have enjoyed the fellowship of Teas and coffees after the Church and I would like to thank everyone who helped provide these and also everyone who came along for a few minutes of friendship and fellowship.

We intend to continue into July for the joint services with Denny Old here in Hags and if you can help in any way please contact Elizabeth Dunn.

We will be restarting at the beginning of September and look forward to seeing you then.

**Elizabeth Dunn**