



## The Link

The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Linked with Denny Old Parish Church

Winter 2018

**Locum Minister:** Rev. Derek Gunn  
Tel: 01324 610349

**Session Clerks Pro-Tem:**

Mr R. M. McCheyne  
36 Hazel Road  
Banknock  
FK4 1LQ  
Tel: 01324 840137

Mrs Sue Storrar  
2 Cumbernauld Road  
Longcroft  
FK4 1QJ  
Tel: 01324 840757

**Clerk to the Congregational Board:**

Mr B. Richmond  
1 Hazel Rd.  
Banknock  
Tel. 01324 840761

**Beadle:** Mr E Martin  
39 Cruikshank's Court  
Denny  
FK6 5DU  
Tel: 01324 820736

Web site: [www.haggschurch.org.uk](http://www.haggschurch.org.uk)

email: [haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:haggschurch1@yahoo.co.uk)

Magazine Editor: Mrs Jean McCheyne  
email: [mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mccheyne@blueyonder.co.uk)

Scottish Charity Number: SCO14536

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR FELLOW TRAVELLER

I take this opportunity to thank many of you – on behalf of Pat and myself - for flowers and cards received from many of you on the recent occasion of our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Your welcoming kindness to Pat and I has been very much appreciated. Thank you.

Around the time that you will be reading this, it will be over 100 years on from the ending of the First World War on 11 November 1918 and 11 November 2018 will have been marked by services at War Memorials, in Churches and at Civic events and we have done so with a service at Longcroft War Memorial and in our worship at Church. We were pleased to welcome representatives of BB, GB and Scouts at both these commemorations. Nothing of these celebrations were there to glorify war though we do give thanks for the courage of those who have fought in that war and in others for the sake of those who are vulnerable and exploited.

We may have different thoughts about Remembrance, some thinking it is time to forgive and forget; others thinking that only by remembering do we stand any chance of avoiding the carnage that is the truth of that war. So how do we remember? Let me suggest that we might have used the time of the two minute silence in two ways. In the first minute to think back and give thanks for bravery and courage and remember all who lost loved ones, whose lives were never the same afterwards. In the second minute, we might have looked forward in hope that we can learn to live in peace in a world which has respect and justice for all; that the destruction and pain of war will be over.

And for us as Christians perhaps we need only look forward a few weeks to the day that we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace into our world – the day that we know as CHRISTmas. Let us look forward to the renewal of our understanding of the first and still the best Christmas gift, the giving of God in human form in that child in the manger.

This Christmas, let's try to invite as many as we can to the greatest Birthday party that we can celebrate. As there will not be a further magazine before Christmas I take this opportunity to wish you a very blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Your Minister and friend,  
Derek

### Church Diary:

#### Service times at 11.15 a.m. unless otherwise stated

**28<sup>th</sup> November:** Blue Christmas in Denny Old Church 7.30p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Soup/Sandwich lunch for Vine Trust after Church

**9<sup>th</sup> December:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Gift Service

**16<sup>th</sup> December:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Family Service

**23<sup>rd</sup> December:** Christmas Sunday Service

**24<sup>th</sup> December:** Watchnight Service 11.30p.m.

(Refreshments from 10.30p.m.in MacLean Hall)

**25<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Day Service at 10.30 a.m. in Haggs Church

**30<sup>th</sup> December:** End of Year Service



## MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS A UNITARY CONSTITUTION

As you will know at present the church is managed by two different bodies – the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session. The Board deals more with the practical management of the church buildings, maintenance and fundraising activities. The Kirk Session deals more with the spiritual aspects of supporting worship, services and church organisations and activities.

All of the members of the Kirk Session are also on the Board, although some Board members are not Elders. At present two separate meetings are held – one for the Board followed by one for the Kirk session and there is often an overlap in the matters to be dealt with at the two meetings. The number and duration of these meetings puts a burden of time on all the office bearers and also on any new minister that will come to our church in the future.

The Kirk Session is therefore planning, with support from the Church of Scotland, to merge the two bodies into one through a Unitary Constitution. You will be given more information about this proposal early in 2019 and the congregation will be given the opportunity to express their views. A vote on whether or not to adopt a Unitary Constitution at Hags Church will be intimated, and then taken by the whole congregation. Any changes to the constitution will then need to be ratified by Falkirk Presbytery and the legal department of the Church of Scotland.

We trust that you will engage in this process and express your views for the future management of Hags Parish Church.



### **The Sunday Club**

The Sunday Club needs young people to be able to survive. Like most other churches our numbers have dropped drastically. We need YOU to bring your children to church. The Christmas story will be told as usual this year, but in a bit different format due to the shortage of young people in church. Please come along on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> for 'Pass the Christmas Parcel' when the congregation and the children will take part in telling the story of the Greatest Gift ever.

Moira Martin

### **Carpet Bowls:**

The Carpet Bowls is still being enjoyed by all who play. It is a pleasant afternoon which finishes off with a cup of tea or coffee. If anyone feels like joining in it is held in the Church Hall on Wednesday afternoon at 12.30. The Christmas lunch this year is at Castlecary Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2019.

Elma Findlay

### **Blythswood Shoe boxes appeal.**

Thank you all for the generous donation of 46 boxes from Hags Church. These boxes may be all that a child or adult gets for Christmas.

Merry Christmas and thanks.

Moira Martin



## ***Christmas Greetings***

Elizabeth and Jack Dunn wish everyone at Haggs a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

A very Happy Christmas to everyone at Haggs from Evelyn Goble

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all from  
Jean and Murray McCheyne

Wishing you and your family peace and love this Christmas, and good health and happiness in 2019 from Sue Storrar

Maisie Mortimer wishes everyone Peace and Joy this Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year from Fiona Schuit

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2019. Elma Findlay.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2019 from Ernie and Moira Martin.



## ***Christmas Greetings***

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Betty Crosbie.

Bea Miller wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Marion and Archie Campbell wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2019

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year from Gwen Hamilton and Family with lots of love.

Nan and Allan Young wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Isabel Shearer.

Carol and Brian Richmond send best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Blessings at Christmas and health and happiness from Lorna and David Duncan

### Haggs Knitters

Thanks again to all our busy knitting, crocheting and sewing members who have responded so generously to the appeal for poppies for our Remembrance banner and jumpers, hats and blankets for babies in Malawi. Our new Remembrance banner was dedicated in church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November and will be on display throughout the month.

Some of the knitting for Malawi will be shown at church at the Gift service on December 9<sup>th</sup> prior to the collection for dispatch to Africa in the New Year.

Thank you for giving your time and talents to make such wonderful gifts.

Sue Storrar



### UNICEF Jar of Grace

#### For Every Child In Danger

During Advent our focus is on the coming of the Jesus into our world as a poor and vulnerable child.

Unicef makes sure that more of the world's poor and vulnerable children are fed, vaccinated, educated and protected. They have worked in over 190 countries to influence laws, policies and customs to help to protect children. They are going to continue this work until the world is a safer place for ALL our children.

Unicef receives no UN funding and relies entirely on voluntary donations to fund the vital work of protecting children in danger, transforming their lives and building a safer world for tomorrow's children.

Will you please support UNICEF to protect children again this year? Say a prayer for these vulnerable children and fill a jar with coins during the Advent season. Jars, labels and Gift Aid forms are available in the church vestibule.

The Jars of Grace will be collected at the end of December and a Soup & Sandwich lunch for UNICEF will be held in January.

Thank you again for your support –your donations will help to keep children safe and warm this winter – Sue Storrar

### **CrossReach Christmas Angel Appeal**

CrossReach is there when others aren't. We spend a total of almost £2m annually in running our community based services for children and families. Every year we rely on financial gifts from generous supporters to provide life-transforming love and care. This year we are looking to raise an additional £200,000.

CrossReach is the Church of Scotland's charity. It is your charity.

We know you support us with your prayers and we feel upheld in our work by these. Please build on that support by making a donation and becoming a "guardian angel" for those in need in Scotland.

Whether you choose to donate or not, we invite you to pray for the work of CrossReach.

Please place your donation in the Angel box in the Vestibule.

Thank you. Maisie Mortimer on behalf of CrossReach.

### **Christian Aid**

Thank you for your generous support throughout 2018. Haggs Church has given £2,600 for the work of this charity.

### **Deaths**

***'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'***

October: Mr. J Leishman Bonnybridge

November: Mrs. J Abercrombie Haggs