

The Church
of Scotland



The Link
The Magazine of Haggs Parish Church

Autumn 2015

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Editorial

Having taken the decision that we shall link with Denny Old Church may I thank everyone for their continued faith and trust that Hagsgs Parish Church should continue to exist to praise our Lord in our community. Read all about the goings on in the next few pages.....

Jean McCheyne

On Sunday 4th October the congregations at Hagsgs and Denny Old Parish churches voted on the revised terms of linkage between our two churches. The totalled result from the two churches was a clear acceptance with 113 votes in favour and 2 against.

Subject to ratification by Church of Scotland authorities, our linkage is now established and this means that we can look forward to the next exciting chapter in our church life at Hagsgs as we work together with Denny Old. The first noticeable change will be the time of our morning services which from Sunday 11th October 2015 will be at 09.45 a.m. During the vacancy period until a new minister is appointed to the linked charge, worship will be led by our locum minister Rev. Sandra Mathers who will conduct services at Hagsgs and then later at Denny.

As we work together with Denny there will be challenges ahead. Our interim moderator Mr. David Nicholson will guide us through formal administrative matters but we, the membership, must be open and responsive to change and be prepared to play our part in developing a secure and happy future for both Hagsgs and Denny Old as we work together.

Murray McCheyne, Session Clerk (Pro Tem)

1st Hagsgs Boys Brigade

The Anchor Boys have started at Bankier School – with 7 boys – meeting at 6 p.m. on a Tuesday evening. The programme begins with a short game, Bible story, another game, refreshments, craftwork, game and finishes with a short prayer.

The Junior Section also meet at Bankier School but at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday evening. The programme is varied with opening service and inspection, maze marching, games, tumbling, tuck shop, craftwork and finishes with the closing service. We have entered one Battalion competition – the Alan Douglas – and came in 6th. The boys are going to the Science Centre on November 13th for an overnight stay with 400 Junior Section Boys.

The Company Section meet at Bankier School on Friday evenings at 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. We have entered national competitions and also Battalion competitions. The evening begins with opening service, drill, tuck shop, vaulting, badge work, games and finished the evening with a short prayer. The boys and officers would like to thank the Women's Guild for their kind donation of £255 from the Beetle Drive.

Captain – E. Firth

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Sunday 27th September coffee, teas and cakes were served in the Church Hall following the morning service. The sum of £340.25 will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you for your support in this worthy cause in whatever way you participated.

Fiona Schuit & Sue Storrar

Hope

Camp 60 was situated almost as far north in relation to Great Britain as one could imagine, on the tiny island of Orkney. It housed Italian POWs where in their spare time away from the building work on the causeways that were named “The Churchill Barriers”, they built their church, the one that we know as “The Italian Chapel”.

Two Nissan huts placed end to end were erected and the men went to work creating their own place of worship. A new commandant and a new priest had been appointed to the camp encouraging the men in this venture.

The Altar is a concrete block painted white. A painting behind it depicts Mary holding Jesus who has an olive leaf in his hand (the symbol of peace)

surrounded by angels. The picture was copied from a small one that one of the men carried with him through the war years. The entire building is painted and covered in beautiful pictures all done by one man, Domenico Chiocchetti.



The work on the chapel was done in the men’s free time as they were there as prisoners, put to work building the barriers from giant concrete blocks, which would act as barriers creating a system of defences to keep “Scapa Flow “secure. Among the prisoners were electricians, blacksmiths, cement workers and of course a painter. After the war the camp was abandoned apart from the chapel and the camp foundations as the prisoners were repatriated back to Italy.

In 1958/1959 Domenico Chiocchetti, the artist had been traced in Italy and he was invited to return to Orkney to see his paintings. The chapel was restored by him and local volunteers and which remains for all to see after 70 years as a reminder of these men’s strength of faith. “Where two or three are gathered in My name” comes to mind as I write this short story.

Moira Martin

The Guild

The Guild commenced on 5th October in the Church Hall. The Guild Convener from Falkirk Presbytery was present at this meeting.

It is with regret that I have to announce that from Christmas the Guild will be disbanding. Bea and Maisie are both unable to continue and no longer wish to hold their positions. Thanks goes to Bea and Maisie for all the work they have done for the Guild over the years.

Elma Findlay

Carpet Bowls

The carpet bowls have recommenced in the Church Hall at 12.30 p.m. on a Wednesday. Please come along and join us for some bowling, chat and a cuppa – a pleasant afternoon.

Elma Findlay

Praise Band

On Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday the Praise Band led the singing with some old favourites and some new songs. Rehearsals will soon be starting for the Christmas celebrations.

Elma Findlay

OTH Fitness

Zumba Monday Church Hall 6 p.m.

Friday Church Hall 11 a.m. for older adults

Pilates Monday 7.15 p.m. – 8.15 p.m. in Church Hall

Tuesday 8.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. in Church Hall

Pre-booked classes for 4 week blocks

For more info contact Liz Heeps on 07813857486

Sunday Club

Although our Sunday Club is small in numbers, we still have plenty to do! Each month we have a theme- this month we are focusing on trees, going from the leaves, branches and trunk, right down to be bits no one sees – the roots. This helps teach that Gods' love is all around even if you can't see it. Our thanks goes to Moira, Shona and Libby for their hard work and we also thank the parents and grandparents for bringing their children each week.

Shona Laird

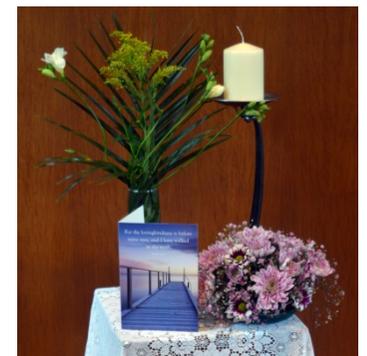


The Flower Festival

This took place on 21st to 22nd of August as the final event of the 175 celebration.

The exhibits and displays were a credit to all who participated, either in setting them up, arranging them, providing refreshments and assistance in many ways over the two days and to those who came along to support the event.

The displays ranged from wedding celebration to baptism. Prize giving to celebrating Communion and learning, music and all things Scottish were also very colourful. Easter to VE day and Harvest to sharing were also included with the young people of our church depicting all things small in their display and of course our own Haggs birthday display.



CHRISTIAN AID REFUGEE CRISIS APPEAL

The images of desperate refugees crossing the Mediterranean in unstable boats, or packed illegally into lorries, or protesting 'We are human beings too' in the port of Calais, are a distressing reminder of the shocking refugee crisis that led to the founding of Christian Aid 70 years ago in 1945.

Christian Aid is working with churches and other agencies in supporting humanitarian efforts taking place in Europe and the Middle East. These agencies are working on the ground now providing essential humanitarian supplies such as food, cooking fuel, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers and cash assistance, as well as psychological support for those suffering as a result of the conflict.

The numbers seeking refuge will grow as long as the conflicts in Syria and Iraq continue, and, as winter approaches in all countries of refuge, their needs will increase.

'ELEVENSES CAFÉ'

Although our morning service times have altered to the earlier time of 9.45am, we plan to still have our time for sharing food and fellowship regularly through the winter months following morning worship.

So you are invited to come to our 'ELEVENSES CAFE' in the church hall on Sunday 26th October and Sunday 6th December to eat the usual range of delicious soup, sandwiches and cakes - and perhaps sample some new items on the menu!!!

All the food is donated by church members and all the proceeds are given to worthy charities. The first 'ELEVENSES CAFE' proceeds will be sent to the Christian Aid Refugee Crisis Appeal.

Thank you for your continuing support.

How can we at Haggs Church help?

- **Donate:** Emergency Giving envelopes are available in the vestibule at the front door of the church and the proceeds from our first 'ELEVEN'S CAFE' on Sunday 25th October following the morning service will be sent to the **Christian Aid Refugee Crisis Appeal.**
- **Pray:** Merciful God,
We pray for all whose desperation leads them to the sea,
To undertake perilous voyages, often following dangerous journeys over land:
Those escaping brutal wars, those fleeing religious persecution.
Those escaping climate disasters and economic ruin,
those looking for hope in a hopeless situation.

May we look beyond our own fears and concerns
To the needs of those who have nothing, risk everything, and depend on the kindness of strangers.
May our hearts be opened, our leaders be challenged and our self-interest be called out,
In Jesus' name.
AMEN.

(More information is available from Sue Storrar or on www.christianaid.org.uk/refugee-crisis)

Deaths

'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord'

July Mrs Jean Cowan Falkirk
 Mrs Catherine Hoggan Dennyloanhead

September Miss Agnes Clelland Banknock
 Mr Robert Duncan Haggs

Rev. John Holland also died in September. Rev.Holland was the Minister in Haggs Parish Church from 1976 until 1983