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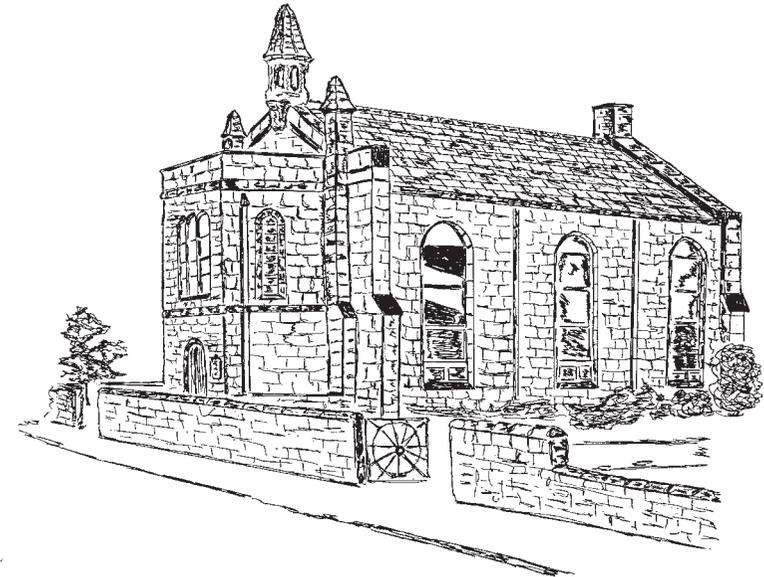
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**THE LINK**

**The Magazine of Hags Parish Church  
Autumn 2007**

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

Autumn 07  
Haggs Manse  
Sept 2007

## Hi folks

For everything its season  
and for every activity under heaven its time  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

We are now approaching the Autumn Season once more and all the church activities are recommencing after the holidays. I wish you all Gods blessing on your activities in the new session.

At the end of August there was an opportunity to exhibit the wealth of talents given to individuals in our church and wider community and it was indeed a rich and mufti faceted display.

One of the displays gave me my heading for this letter as it was a collection of clocks. On the Saturday evening I had returned to the church and in the silence of the sanctuary heard the melodious sound of clock chimes and on the Sunday morning we took time to give thanks for all the activities represented in the displays.

Time, in this 24\7 world there never seems to be enough time. Sundays are as full as the other days of the week, shopping, working, playing. We always mean to find the time to come to worship but life gets in the way. I don't know about you but as a youngster I didn't notice the tick of the clock in the sitting room until it stopped. Clocks need power to continue operating, our spiritual being needs God's power to continuing growing.

This Autumn take the time to come and join us to sing, to pray to listen to God's word and to renew your spiritual batteries for the week ahead.

God bless you all

**Helen F Christie** (*Minister*)

## Editorial

Summer, such as it was is almost over. The nights are drawing in, I don't have to rush home on a Friday to cut the grass and tidy the garden, nature is beginning to shut down and move into autumn. We hope that, despite the weather, you managed to take some time to relax, to unwind, to switch off from the cares and concerns of our daily lives.

But not everyone stops during the Summer. One such group is our property committee and friends. This loyal group has been busy maintaining the fabric of the church, the hall and the manse. Some of their work is apparent to us, much of it is not. Without them we would incur large bills, which would affect our financial status.

On behalf of the congregation we would like to thank them for their efforts which help us to maintain a presence in the community by making our buildings available for worship and use.

At the end of August, I attended two events, which were connected with our Church. One was a Ceilidh dance held by the Boys' Brigade to help celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Haggs Company. The other was the Crafty Talents display held in the Church.

The first event attracted about two hundred people and was a very successful evening. The second attracted about thirty people and, whilst those who attended enjoyed the event, it was not the success we hoped it would be.

Having attended and enjoyed both, two words came to mind - enthusiasm and apathy.

The dictionary defines enthusiasm as: passionate zeal for a person or object: religious fervour

It defines apathy as: want of feeling: indifference.

Did I detect religious fervour at the dance and apathy at the Crafty Talents display? I am not sure but one thing I am sure of - there is a lot of indifference to much that we do in our Church. We rely on a core group of people to support many of the events that take place. We lack fresh faces and new ideas to help us move forward. Yes our congregation is very good at providing financial support when we need it but financial support is not the same as religious fervour.

We need to ask ourselves – what would Jesus have us do? I think that the answer is that He would want us to show religious fervour by actively supporting His church in the many things that it does in His name.

We all need to be enthusiastic in His name and for His sake. Our religious fervour should be apparent to all in everything that we do both within the church and the community at large.

**Jack Dun**

## **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007**

This General Assembly took another history making step with the election as Moderator of the Rt Rev. Sheilagh Kesting, the first ordained female minister to fill the role. Prince Andrew, Duke of York was the Lord High Commissioner and addressed the Assembly at the opening ceremony which I unfortunately was unable to attend.

For me the General Assembly began with the Service of Worship in St Giles on the Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May. I was seated beside a member of St Giles who invited me to remain for the Communion Service and sent her greetings to our congregation. The worship on the Sunday and at the beginning of each day was for me an important part of the Assembly whether hearing the predominantly male voices singing the unaccompanied psalms or singing more modern hymns.

I was there as a commissioner to consider the reports presented by the different councils and bodies of the church. These were in some cases very weighty documents in more ways than one but for me came alive when commissioners spoke from the heart from personal experience. Whether it was a farmer reminding us of the need for fair trade for our own dairy farmers or a delegate from Basra thanking the Church of Scotland and its chaplains for their support.

As you will have no doubt already have heard the Presbyteries under the Barrier Act rejected last year's affirmation by the Assembly that ministers be allowed to mark civil partnerships without discipline and equally that ministers may decline to do so without prejudice. Later in the week we heard a report on same sex relationships as an issue in theology and human sexuality prepared by a working group representing a wide range of theological views and we now have a study pack available to help us look at this issue.

The Church of Scotland Guild convener Lesley McCorkindale reported that over £200,000 had already been raised for the six new projects in the current three year cycle. She also spoke of a resource pack on human trafficking which we have available for study

It was an Assembly in which we saw agreement on a joint statement between the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland but also had someone evicted from the visitors gallery for heckling.

The Assembly reminds me that I am not only part of Haggis Parish Church but also part of the wider Church in Scotland and throughout the world.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Hags Boys' Brigade – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A thank you to all who have given us names and addresses, we have sent out information to all but unfortunately all have not replied as yet. If you still know of past members give us their names and addresses and we will contact them.

Within the company we are asking the boys to design a badge that can be used for the Logo of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Company.

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

The Junior Section is up and running with 18 boys. Most of the boys have their uniforms and are looking very smart!

We will have a full programme again this year with games, arts and crafts, music, figure marching, PT and Tumbling, Football and swimming. We will enter all the usual Battalion Competitions. We currently have 5 officers and some boys from the Company section will join us working towards their Queens Badge.

If you know of any boys in primary 4,5, and 6 who would like to join us please bring them to Bankier Primary School, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. They will be very welcome. We look forward to a productive and fun filled year.

**Morag Wales, Officer in Charge.**

## **Flower Rota**

Thanks are once again given to all who donate the flowers by means of the flower list. If you wish to add your name to the list or change any of the information please let me know.

Sept.: Georgie & Alastair, Mrs J Potter, Mrs McFarlane.

Oct.: Mrs M Walls, Georgie and Alastair, Mrs A Welsh, Mrs J Goble

Nov.: Mrs D Christie, Mrs E Herbert, Mrs A Gallacher, The Guild

Dec.: Mrs R Heeps, Mrs J Waddell, Mrs B Crosbie, Mrs J. Leishman, Mrs E Martin

**Moira Martin**

## **Amazon Hope:**

After watching the Amazon Hope films I was in awe of the wee man from Bo' Ness with the big heart and his amazing sense of humour and dedication. Some of his sayings were a tonic. One of his prayers before a meal was "Thank you for the food and for providing the anti-dote if required" I liked his down to earth approach and his ability to make things happen. A true story of Christian commitment.

**Moira Martin**

## **Our own Amazon Hope Noah's Ark:**

This has been lovingly made by Angus Johnston and sits in the Church quietly being filled by our members as they remember the suffering of the street children of Peru. Thank you to all who donate to this wonderfully worthwhile cause.

**J. McCheyne**

# CRAFTY TALENTS DISPLAY







**Baptism**      *'Suffer little children to come unto me'*

1 July Douglas Stuart Patton  
 26 Aug. Ben Currie

**Marriage**      *'Whom God has joined together'*

9 June. Katrina McDonald to Darren Young  
 29 June Helen Marshall to David Keenan

1 July Moira Boyd to Alan McArthur  
 15 July Linda Gemmell to Richard Erskine  
 22 July Laura Hendry to Dean Irving

4 Aug Jane Armstrong to Stewart Marshall  
 17 Aug Lorraine French to Alan Russell  
 17 Aug Fiona McGrory to Arthur Mulgrew

2 Sept Pamela Gray to James Murray  
 6 Sept Susan Barratt to Scott Shields

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

June.  
 George Whyte Bainsford  
 Ronald Abercrombie Hags

July.  
 Mrs Margaret McGrandles Denny  
 Thomas Robertson Bonnybridge  
 Mrs Adela McCallum Banknock  
 Samuel Black Camelon  
 Mrs Phyllis Duncan Bankview

August.  
 Mrs Jean Millar Banknock  
 Baby Taylor Boness  
 Mrs Wilma Perrott Allandale