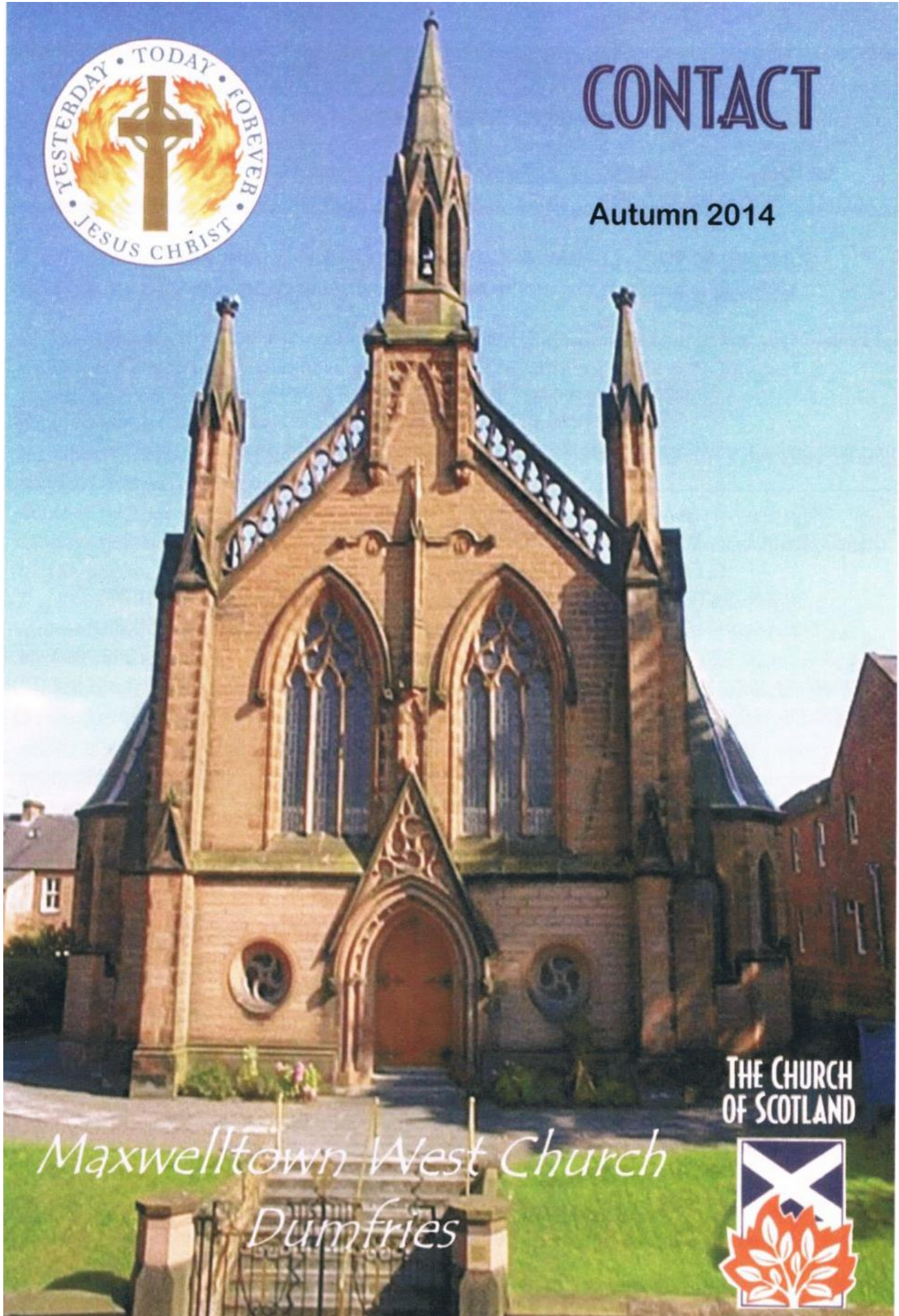


CONTACT

Autumn 2014



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 7th September at 11.00am and 3.00pm (in Hall)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (J-Max & K-Max): 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

During the vacancy, the Interim Moderator is **Rev. Donald Campbell** (tel. 252965)
and pastoral care will be provided by Locum Minister, **Rev. Liz Mack** (tel. 264847)

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mr. B Shepherd

TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

20th April: Mr. William J. Newlands, Dumfries

7th May: Mrs Mary Hamilton, Dumfries

9th June: Mr. Ian Wilson, Dumfries

14th June: Mrs Jean Webb, Dumfries

27th July: Mrs. Violet Saunders, Dumfries

Members Lost by Transference

Mrs M McCall Watson, (to St Michaels South)

Mr. G Purcell & Mrs E Purcell, (to Lockerbie)

New Members by Transference

Mrs J Bigham, Dumfries. (from Lochmaben)

MAXWELLTOWN WEST MISSION STATEMENT

*Maxwelltown West Church seeks to be a place of welcome to all in our parish;
a centre of Christian worship and fellowship. We seek to provide a framework for family life and a place
where young people may be nurtured in Christian values.*

My Dear Friends in Max West,

If I learned anything by sitting for 7 hours a day for a week in June it was just how BIG a country Canada is. I could have gone to John O'Groats and back each day just travelling from one east coast city to another. Scotland could probably fit into Ontario alone about 3 times!!

I suppose living in a small country tends to make us a little insular and it's not easy to see the BIG picture of life beyond.

Could it be that we also have a tendency to do that in Church and even in our faith? We forget that we are a part of a world-wide Movement of Christian Believers in every part of the globe.

I visited the Chalmers Church in Quebec to see where it was the first Minister of Maxwelltown West had been tempted to leave here for (see the separate article and pictures for more details.) It made me realise what a small world it is but what a huge part in its development Scots people have played. Every time I opened my mouth, the Canadians latched onto the Scots accent and proudly claimed a Scots ancestor. How willing our forebears were to step out bravely into the unknown and what an impact so many of them made. It makes us ask ourselves what kind of impact we are making as a Church in our community and beyond. Are we willing to put our faith on the line and go beyond our comfort zone to be missionaries for Christ wherever we have the opportunity?

This summer we have been looking at some of the Psalms. These wonderful, openhearted conversations with God, where joys and sorrows, hurts and heartaches, hopes and fears, praise and worship, the whole BIG picture of human living, is spelled out without censor! God so knows the BIG picture and amazingly He wants us to play our part in it, but He needs us to talk to Him and listen to Him and be prepared to act for Him.

Let us prayerfully open our minds and hearts to His Calling and His Guidance as Lively Living stones in Maxwelltown West. We truly believe He needs us all here to further the work of His Kingdom. Let us look forward with courage and commitment.

As ever, with love and prayers,

Liz

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 10th June 2014.

D McNay, the Treasurer, presented the financial report for the 5 months to 31st May 2014. The accounts remain in a healthy state, but we should not be complacent as we still have to replace the cost of the new boilers. Rosemary Slack reported that the Fabric Fund Box Count in March amounted to £635.74.

David Miller reported that the Fabric Committee had completed its annual review and that the buildings and grounds were generally in a good condition. It is hoped the high level work to remove weeds etc. on the spire will commence shortly.

R Slack has resigned as the Finance Convener with immediate effect and a vote of thanks was extended to her for her work and dedication in over 10 years of service to Maxwelltown West Church.

We now have vacancies for the positions of Finance and Fabric Conveners, also for the Flower Rota Organiser and Offering Duty Supervisors. A small committee of D Fraser, E Riddick and D Rosie has been formed to find replacements.

One of P Hyles's daughters is raising sponsorship for an Overseas Aid venture organised by the High School and is hoping to possibly organise a coffee morning or other events. If anyone knows of possible sponsors please contact him.

The organists are looking into erecting a screen/curtain around them. This is not to hide, but they become distracted by movement in the congregation.

We are looking into the possibility and costs of extending the sound system as it has been reported that members at the rear of the church are having difficulty hearing.

Those designated to welcome visitors should remain at the front door until the first hymn to greet any late comers, as some are reluctant to come in if the door is closed.

Following discussion and a vote, it has been decided that future meetings of the Deacons' Court will commence at 7.15pm. This will take effect from the November meeting, as the September meeting will need to accommodate a Kirk Session at 8.00pm.

B S, Clerk to Deacons' Court

Dumfries Christian Network

The Dumfries Christian Network (DCN) has kindly offered their support to backing a production of a passion play in the centre of Dumfries following the Walk of Witness next Good Friday - April 3rd.

A small group from various churches are planning this event and are seeking support and help from members of DCN churches. They are currently putting together promotional material which will be available for members to view sometime in the near future. They will also be providing a sign up sheet for volunteers so that they can gauge the support and skill mix that would be available to put the whole play together.

Please give this appeal serious consideration and if you feel you are able to assist in any way please add your name to the sign up sheet when it becomes available.

J L, DCN Max West Representative

Maxwelltown West and the Chalmers-Wesley Church in Quebec

How strange and small a world can it get? As you know, Bob has been researching the History of Maxwelltown West Church and discovered that the first Minister as a Free Church was the Rev. W. B. Clark, born in Biggar. After graduation, Mr. Clark served in several parishes, including Half-Morton where he married Jane Brown of Edmonston.

After the Disruption he became first Free Church Minister of Maxwelltown West where he, in his own words "lived in great happiness and comfort, in a good Manse and a large and beautiful garden planted with the choicest fruit trees in the midst of a satisfied and growing congregation!"

BUT, in Canada the presbytery of Montreal needed a Minister for the new Free Presbyterian Chalmers Church in Quebec and failed to attract one. One of the Elders, a Mr. Gibb, originally from Carluke, Lanarkshire (6 miles from where I was born!) offered to find one and repaired to Scotland and convinced Rev. W. B. Clark (so happily settled in Maxwelltown West) that he was really called to Chalmers in Quebec. So that very year, in autumn 1853, the Clark family set off for Canada, to become Minister of the Chalmers Church in Quebec.

Since my journey in Canada allowed 2 days in Quebec, I emailed Mrs. Shirley Nadeu, with whom Bob has been communicating about our mutual histories, and asked if we might meet.

Happily she was more than willing and I was given a warm welcome and the grand tour of their lovely Church, now united with the Methodist Church and re-named the Chalmers-Wesley Church. I did suggest that since

they had snaffled the Max West Minister we might decently do the same with theirs. Sadly he had just returned to Switzerland. Like us they are now in a vacancy!!!

It is quite a remarkable story though and I was delighted to be able to go in person and strengthen our liaison. I took some pictures which are on the back cover of this magazine.

Mrs. Nadeu and me at the Communion Table (note she lit a candle specially!) Their impressive organ - the stained glass windows came from the Methodist Church and the view from outside.

Liz

Social Group

To date, during 2014, The MaxWest Social Group, participated in one event:-

Easter Brunch

The Easter Brunch, which was held on Sunday 20th April 2014, was again a success with over 100 members of the congregation and visitors enjoying soup and bread, tea and coffee with traybakes.

The Easter craft and egg hunt went well. There were fewer children this year and they all went off with a huge stash of chocolate.

It has been suggested that next year we may not have an Easter Brunch but have a brunch on a different day, perhaps a "Birthday Party" at Pentecost.

Details will be advised when this event has been finalised.

Future events

Games and Fun Night

A Games and Fun Night will be held on Saturday 20th September 2014. at 7pm.

Details will be advised when this event has been finalised.

Christmas event

There will, again, be a Christmas event. This will be further discussed with a view to coordinating with the Sunday School and members of the congregation, prior to finalising the details.

The Social Group continues to evolve with the main aim of the members to develop friendship and fellowship amongst all those individuals who are associated, in any way, with Maxwelltown West Church and to provide a warm welcome to visitors.

The next meeting of the Social Group will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 7:30pm and all individuals, even if not a member of the Social Group, are welcome to attend and submit ideas.

We will welcome all individuals who wish to join or assist the Social Group in any way.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the Social Group or can offer any assistance or ideas can contact the undersigned in the first instance.

I MacP

Second Commonwealth Games Report

By the time you read this we will have seen a most exciting and well run games.

P Jardine is also a volunteer assigned to the Bangladeshi camp.

I will be working in the Athletes Village built out of Dalmarnock.

On 20th May my friend and I met up at Kelvin Hall to collect the uniform and ID accreditation. We were first through and so were very quick.

The Role Specific Training took place at Hampden Park. When I arrived all the car parks were open and by the end of the day, they were all fenced off.

I met other medical people there - doctors, dentists, physiotherapists and radiologists to name but a few.

There was a discussion about the games and our roles. In the afternoon we split into groups and had scenarios to follow about medical encounters.

The last visit was to the village on 15th June. After a talk from Health and Safety and others, we had a guided tour of the village and the Polyclinic, set up in a huge tent. The area for the Optometry department was not as palatial as the London 2012 Polyclinic.

I will be working from 25th-28th July and again from 2nd -5th August. It will be an exciting time again. I will also get to work with a colleague with whom I worked in London.

Once again accommodation is self-funded, but I am lucky to be staying with a friend for the first shifts and Volunteer Scotland has provided me with accommodation in halls at Murano Street. So, thank you to those involved.

27th July: Two days done and two to go on this cycle. Have met Patricia Jardine in the village - off to collect her athletes. Met and dispensed Kip Keino on my first day - very interesting chat. A much smaller Optometry Department this time - only one Optometrist, one Dispenser and Ophthalmologist on each shift.

H MacD

Erin Hyles's Tanzania Challenge

In her bid to raise funds for this once in a lifetime trip to volunteer for a month in Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, Erin, along with her dad, will take on the challenge walking the 55 miles of the Annandale Way which follows the river Annan which runs softly from the Beef Tub at Moffat to Annan.

It is a big ask for a teenager to raise £3800, but Erin is determined to help these poor communities (where only 12% have access to toilets), along with the opportunity to work on wildlife conservation projects, as she is a keen animal lover.

Friends, family, work colleagues, businesses, Dumfries and Galloway public, you can assist by sponsoring on the form on the wall in the Simmons Hall. Here there are more details of Camps International who are running this in conjunction with Dumfries High School, or even better enter a team of 4 to 6 (there are some family friendly sections - Hoddum to Annan). We are asking each team to raise £100, so not a big ASK!

There will also be a coffee morning on 30th August at 10am in the Church Hall. Tickets, priced at £3, include drink and cakes, bric-a-brac, tombola, loom bands and, hopefully, a Fair Trade stall. Donations and volunteers will be most welcome and we are open to having other craft, WaterAid stalls.

Contact them by email for team registration pack:

linda.hyles@me.com or paul.hyles@scottishwater.co.uk

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Guild members have had a welcome break during the summer after an interesting programme last session. The first meeting of the new session of the Guild will be on 7th October, when Ian Wilson will talk to us about his North Pole Expedition. The Leadership Team have prepared a new syllabus which we hope our members will enjoy. The Head of Estates and Property at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary is coming to talk to us about the new hospital and we have some other interesting speakers lined up.

We are a friendly group who meet monthly, usually at 7.30pm, and we would welcome new members of any age. Anyone wishing to come along will be made most welcome,

E R, Guild Secretary

Good Companions

Our Autumn Session commences on Wednesday 24th September at 2.00 pm. Members are reminded that the new subscription system commences on that date. If any of our more mature members are free on alternate Wednesday afternoons why not come along and join us – it is nothing too demanding!

S H

Scouts

The Group has reached the end of another session with the annual barbecue in Mabie Forest.

We also held the AGM at that event, so that there would be parents in attendance.

As Group Scout Leader, I must thank all of the leaders for their leadership. There have been new leaders as well - D MacPhee and C Flint. Young helpers with the Cubs are A Little and C Bremner. J McNaught is with the Cubs, S Sinclair with the Scouts and B Carr, J McKinnell and N Stitt, plus others, with the Beavers.

Congratulations to Bruce for attaining a first class honours in education.

The Group will be celebrating 60 years at Maxwelltown West Church this year. We are also having a fund raising event - a Craft Fair in the church hall on Saturday 6th December.

The Group wish to thank the Church for the use of the Halls on a regular basis.

H MacD, GSL.

Brownies

This year the Brownies have been working on various challenges. These have included making and racing Chinese Dragon boats, Winter Olympics and learning about the last 100 years of Brownies.

For Thinking Day, we thought about Brownies, especially those in Egypt and USA and enjoyed activities connected to these countries.

In March, the Brownies took part in the Dumfries Music and Country Dance Festivals and were pleased to be awarded three trophies for their singing game, campfire and country dancing.

We held a Big Brownie Birthday Party at the beginning of April, when several guests joined us. Everyone enjoyed activities to celebrate 100 years of Brownies. This included icing 100 cakes which were then displayed in the shape of 100. Messages of congratulations were received from the UK Chief Guide and the Scottish Chief Commissioner and the Brownies were presented with two special badges to commemorate the event.

Six Brownies and a Leader joined the Dumfriesshire County Pack Holiday in May at Netherurd, Blyth Bridge.

The weekend celebrated the Big Brownie Birthday and included a party, crafts and a campfire (in the rain!)

The Pack would like to congratulate Charlotte (an ex brownie and then Brownie helper) who was chosen to carry the Queen's baton along Dumfries High Street. The Brownies were excited to see her in the newspapers and on TV. We would also like to congratulate Steph, our Assistant Leader, on the birth of Olivia, and Senga, our previous Assistant Leader, on the birth of Elsa, both in June.

Brownies resume their Brownie Adventure on 26th August. Should you wish any details about Brownies, please get in touch.

J McE, Brownie Leader

After Eights

The new session of "After 8's" commences on Thursday 25th September at 8pm in the Centenary Hall. Our first speaker is Leigh-Ann Brady, who will tell us all about the "Animal Hospital". We also have a speaker on "Devil's Porridge" in October, Floral Cupcakes in November and our Christmas Dinner on 11th December. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join us for fun and fellowship and a nice cup of tea!

J W

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls to our children's corner. I hope you have had a lovely summer so far and are raring to go for our next Sunday Club which starts on Sunday 7th September at 11am. Your leaders this year will be Davie and myself (Dawn) along with some of our youth helpers. We are looking forward to welcoming back our regulars and meeting some new boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 12 years. If any of your friends wish to join us, please encourage them to come along. They will be made very welcome and we have loads of cool activities organised for you all.

Since you are all off on holiday, why not try out this cool recipe to create 'rice krispie earths'. They are very tasty and can be made using the microwave instead of the cooker if you prefer. Make sure you ask Mum or Dad to help you.

Rice Krispie Earth Recipe

¼ cup margarine

½ tsp vanilla

Green and blue food colouring

40 regular marshmallows

6 cups rice krispies

Melt margarine and marshmallows over a medium heat in a large pot (or in the microwave). Stir in vanilla and rice krispies. Divide the mixture into 2 bowls. Add green food colouring to one and blue to the other and stir both well. (Use a metal spoon to avoid staining your Mum's wooden spoon. Take a scoop of each mixture and mash them together into The Earth. Set the balls aside until completely cool and ready to eat. ENJOY!

In the beginning there were no blue skies, green grass or boys and girls. There was nothing at all. But then God began to create. God spoke and out of nothing came the sun, moon, the earth, the mountains, the valleys, the plants and the animals. God's loving hands created everything around us. If you want to read about this amazing story you can look it up in your bible in Genesis Chapter 1.

Creation Poem

Day one brought heaven, earth and light

It must have been so very bright!

Day two God made the clear blue sky

A place for many birds to fly

Day three brought land apart from seas

With all the plants, grass and trees

Day four shone forth moon, stars and sun

The work of God was not yet done

Day five we see the fish and birds

God did all this with just His words

Day six God formed all beasts and man

To finish His creation plan

Day seven was especially blessed

A day for worship and for rest

Creation story

How many different words of 3 letters or more can you make from the above words?

G	S	D	F	T	H	H	D	U	T
S	N	N	A	H	S	T	E	L	H
W	U	I	A	Y	I	R	T	L	G
I	E	N	N	E	F	A	A	I	I
N	O	O	M	N	C	E	E	G	N
B	I	R	D	S	I	O	R	H	M
R	E	S	T	E	D	G	C	T	G
S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	O	Y
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	D	B	P
W	D	Y	M	A	N	K	I	N	D

Try this word search and find and circle the following words:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| ANIMALS | BEGINNING | BIRDS |
| CREATED | DAY | EARTH |
| FISH | GOD | HEAVENS |
| LIGHT | MANKIND | MOON |
| NIGHT | OCEANS | RESTED |
| SUN | | |

If you need any information about Sunday Club you can contact me or Davie. We look forward to seeing you all. Hope the sun continues shining on you all.

Dawn ☺

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
October		
5 th	Mrs. H. Cross	Mrs. L. Hyles
12 th	Mrs. M. Allison	VACANT
19 th	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
26 th	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. Carruthers
November		
2 nd	Mrs. B. Walker	Mrs. A. Milligan
9 th	Mrs. H. Johnson	Mrs. M. Coulson
16 th	Miss S. McDowall	Mrs. S. Robin
23 rd	Mrs. L. Hyles	Mrs. H. Cross
30 th	Mrs. B. Shearer	VACANT
December		
7 th	Mrs. H. Campbell	VACANT
14 th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. Cameron
21 st	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. S. Brown
28 th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. S. Brown
January '15		
4 th	Mrs. J. Sloan	Mrs. A. Dunbar

If you would like to take a vacant date or help to arrange church flowers, please contact A Dunbar

