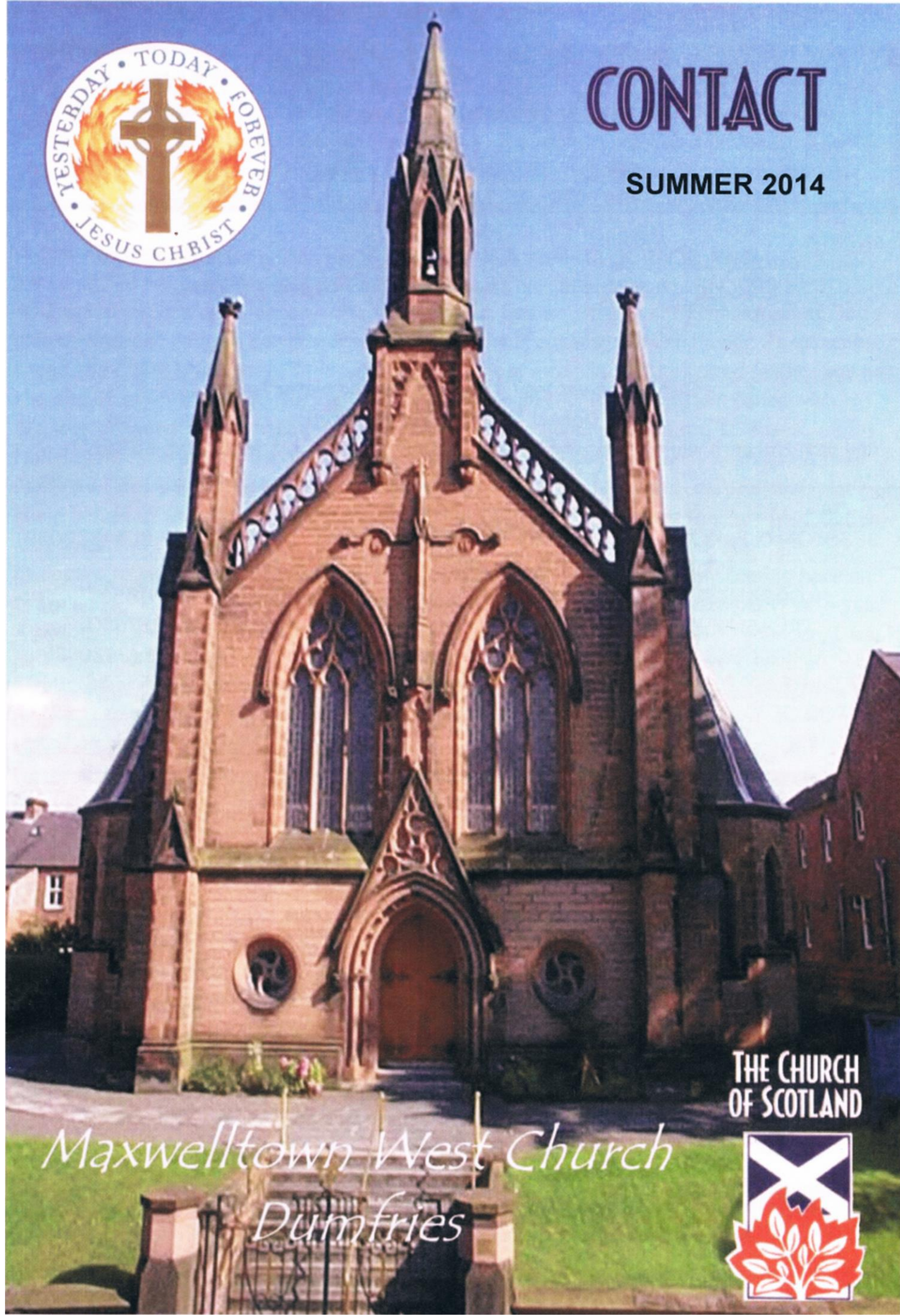


CONTACT

SUMMER 2014



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 1st June 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**
and pastoral care will be provided by Locum Minister, **Rev. Liz Mack**

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

21st November 2013: H. Oliver Currie, Dumfries

26th December 2013: Robert Cunningham, Thornhill

22nd January 2014: James McCrone, Dumfries

1st March 2014: John D. M. Brown, Dumfries

10th March 2014: Mrs Agnes Combe, Dumfries

12th March 2014: Mrs Ruby Law, Dumfries

29th March 2014: John Milligan, Dumfries

7th April 2014: Miss Margaret (Peggy) Gemmill, Dumfries

20th April 2014: Bill Newlands, Dumfries

New Members by Profession of Faith

20th April 2014: Cathán Henderson, Dumfries

20th April 2014: David Kirkwood, 10 Castle Douglas Road, Dumfries

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.*

Locum's Letter

My Dear friends in Maxwelltown West,

As I write, we are once more on the threshold of Easter - the great culmination of God's plan of love and rebirth for His Creation and we walk again in wonder beside Jesus as he faced the Cross at Calvary. It is with joy that we are convinced that Good Friday was not the end of everything but the life-changing new beginning for all who will follow Him.

We look forward to the triumphal greeting on Easter Sunday "The Lord IS Risen. Hallelujah!!!" To add to the joy we hope to have two new communicants professing their faith that day before God and the congregation, fulfilling the hopes and promises made on their behalf at Baptism. Then we share brunch after the service as the family of God in Max West.

It occurs to me that next Sunday will mark the third Palm Sunday of my coming here and I continually thank God for the fulfillment and blessing I have experienced being with you.

A couple of weeks ago Stephen said, "If you were 10, correction, 20 years younger, I would be happy to keep you as our Minister!! How nice was that - if only it were possible!

But it did make me think what does Max West offer to a prospective Minister and as I started making a list I was impressed and proud!

We are a welcoming, faithful, hardworking and generous congregation with a great support team. We have a brand new organ with an enthusiastic and talented organist, a crèche each week and a small but flourishing Sunday School staffed by Christian teachers. Over one hundred young people come into our premises every week through Scouting and Guiding, whose leaders, in the main, are members of the Church. What a contact there. We also have an After Eights group, a branch of the Guild and, for older members, a Good Companions group, a Social Team and Badminton Clubs to enhance fellowship, and a dedicated Parish Visitors Team to keep the housebound in the care of, and in contact with, the Church family. Our World Church team works hard to ensure that our two partner communities in Kenya are prospering. There is a study group during Lent and a bi-monthly Prayer group. We have good buildings, are well sited and are a financially solvent congregation. And, we are a congregation not sitting back resting on our laurels but always looking for new ways of outreach in the parish. Reading this and knowing the Church as I do - IF only I could apply, you would top my list!!!!

We have so much to thank God for here as we are richly blessed and whoever comes to carry on the work will share in and add to that blessing.

We look forward in faith, in love and prayer,

Liz

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session has met for two ordinary meetings, on 13th March and 16th April, since the last issue of "Contact" and a number of items were discussed.

Both meetings dealt mainly with routine items of business. However, one important issue discussed was that of safeguarding, a subject which will continue to occupy Session. Both meetings received progress reports from the Nominating Committee. The April meeting received reports on visits to the various Church organisations which showed them all to be in good heart. The reports as usual raised several items for discussion. These visits are an extremely important link with Session, providing it with an insight into the various groups linked to the Church and lets them see that Session is interested in their work.

T B, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on the 12th March 2014. The Rev Donald Campbell chaired the meeting with 31 members in attendance.

D McNay, the Treasurer, presented the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2013. Copies are available for anyone wishing to see them. 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. (*See back cover for colour photos.*)

H Johnson was appointed as a member of the Finance Committee.

D Miller gave a full update on the boiler replacement and presented the proposed Fabric Budget for the next year. This is expected to be £37,410 including the cost of the new boilers and we are still hopeful that the insurers will reimburse some of the £20,000 spend. However it does not include any work which may be required to the Manse when a new minister is appointed. A vote of thanks was extended to D Miller, B Wilson, I McLauchlan and D Wood for their time and input during the boiler replacement.

D Miller highlighted that he is the 'Acting' Fabric Convenor and we urgently require someone to take on the role of Fabric Convenor.

J Love has enquired from the other churches in the area what they charge for hire of their halls etc. The Court reviewed the Hall letting charges and decided that they are in line with others.

The installation of Broadband was discussed and it was decided not to proceed with this at present but it would be kept under review and open to discussion should a good case be presented as to its use within the Church.

B S, Clerk to Deacon's Court

World Church Team

Bondo News

Good progress has been made in Bondo since we last wrote for Contact. Winnie reports that the kale project is doing well despite the long drought which has resulted in returns being down by about 22%. However from the proceeds of the kale sales, two teachers have been employed at the Happy Tots School (set up by Winnie) and they have also managed to pay off the roof debt for the building for classes 1 - 3. The school is being registered with the Kenyan Government at a cost of ksh 60,000 (approx GBP 500) and this will be paid by instalment from kale sales. Each child in the school has also received a pair of plimsoles from the Red Cross through their anti-jigger campaign!!

Sharon is now improving after a spell of illness/hospitalisation and back to school although her performance has suffered as a result of her absence. The World Church Team is still supporting her by sending money to assist with her medication.

There has been a decline in the fishing project and this is causing major concerns regarding the livelihood of some of the locals.

Funding has been supplied to assist with setting up a library in the school and Winnie is keen to buy a selection of books, especially Bible Stories for the children.

We continue to value your support, as without this we could not keep assisting our friends in Bondo and we thank you for this.

R S

Mathia Faith Partnership

Our link with Mathia Church continues in faith. The congregation of our Kenyan partners write that "We feel that we have every good reason to share.. [the celebration of Easter].. with you." They continue to pray for us in our search for a new minister, "trusting in the Lord that He will take you through."

Previously, Mathia in Kiangai Parish, was one of 12 congregations looked after by the Reverend Erastus, who is due to retire at the end of this year. Now, after reorganisation, he has 5 congregations, and in the near future the Presbytery will move to a time of "the Right to Call", when every parish will be allowed to call a minister of their own choosing, with a ten year maximum tenure. In another initiative, the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa) office of the General Assembly has decided that an age limit of 35-59 years should be applied to the post of Synod Moderator.

Three quarters of the church building reconstruction undertaken at Mathia is now complete, and how big it looks too from the pictures we have received. A bigger church is needed for a growing congregation. Max West helped with cash donations to help purchase tiles and cement for their new building.

Our annual Bursary Fund of £1000 which assists Mathia young people with their higher education fees will have been sent for the coming academic year by the time 'Contact' appears. Over the years, this Bursary Fund has assisted a total of 18 young graduates. Higher education is much in demand in Kenya, as their young people seek to give their knowledge and talents back to their society.

Our main fund-raiser for our Kenyan projects, a Quiz Night, will have taken place on May 19th, when we hope that many of our supporters will have helped our fund-raising efforts.

Mathia congregation, through their Chairman and Senior Elder, John Njeru, who has visited us twice here at Max West, wishes us "All the best in all that you do. May God bless you" - a blessing which we, in return, send to our partners and friends in Mathia.

D J

Maxwelltown Free Church School 1847-1873



During the ministry of the Reverend William Brown Clark, the first minister of Maxwelltown Free Church (1844-1853), and the stewardship of Mr. Philip Forsyth, Session Clerk (1844-1873) the church set up a school in Maxwelltown.

In 1847 a building on the corner of King Street and David Street in Maxwelltown was purchased by the church for conversion into a School and Schoolhouse. The cost of the building and its conversion into a school was £363 paid for jointly by the Free Church, the Government and the Congregation of Maxwelltown.

The outline of the school is shown on the 1850 Town Plan.

The buildings can be viewed on Google Street View. They are now 2 small houses. The school was managed by a committee appointed by the Deacons' Court of the Church.

In 1847, the quarterly fees to be charged were approved by the Deacons' Court as follows:-

Reading	2/-
Reading and Writing	2/6d
Reading, Writing and Arithmetic	3/-
For the above with Grammar and Geography	3/6d
For Latin with all of the above	5/-
For Latin and Greek with all of the above	7/6d

The costs are quoted in old British money.

Provision was also made for the children of poor families to be educated at a reduced cost, or free.

The first teacher was Mr. Thomas Smellie. He was paid £30 per annum - half paid by the Church and half by the Government.

In 1851 John Thompson Smith was appointed as a Teacher at the school. He remained there until his death in December 1855, aged 32, from a heart attack. He died in the school house.

In 1853 an educational bequest was left to the Church by a Mr. John Carrick. The annual interest was valued at £76 12s 9d - 2/3 to be paid to the teacher and 1/3 to pay for prizes for the pupils.

In 1869 mention was made in the deacon's court minutes of cleaning and repairs to the school building.

In May 1873 the school and school master's house was transferred to the School Board of Troqueer.

In 1878 the School Board sold the buildings and after a dispute and reference to an arbiter, the church received £230 as settlement of their interest.

Some of the detail for this article was obtained from 'Maxwelltown West the Story of a Church' by A. MacLean B.Sc. I.A.S. (ret.) and Rev. H.G.A. Simmons. M.A.

B W

Appeal for Spare Copies of Booklets on the Church History

I would be pleased to receive any copies of the booklets on the history of our church. These are: 'The Jubilee Book 1866- 1916' and 'Maxwelltown West the Story of a Church'. I am also looking for a copy of the book 'Troqueer Parish Church' written by The Rev. J. L. Mangles B.Sc. F.S.A. Scot. published in 1971.

I intend to use these books to form a small library, along with any other archive material which I may find, to explain the origins and position of Maxwelltown West Church in the history and development of Maxwelltown.

B W

Hamish MacDonald has volunteered for the Commonwealth Games. This is his first report.

Commonwealth Games Report

So far, I have had what is called the Orientation meeting, in the new Emirates Stadium. This stadium is attached to the Chris Hoy Velodrome, near to Celtic Park, Parkhead.

Hazel Irvine from The BBC introduced the Clydesiders to the history and sports held in the Commonwealth Games. Alan Wells was there as well. Various sports were demonstrated and we saw the uniform for the first time.

We also saw the symbol. The outer ring is in 20 parts and signifies the XX Commonwealth Games. Within that ring there is a 17/20 ring denoting the 17 sports, then a further inner 11/20 ring, showing the 11 days of competition and finally the 'G' for the host city of Glasgow.

The mascot, which I must say is a lot better than the Olympic mascots, was designed by a teenager from a North Lanarkshire school.

The next visit will be to the Kelvin Hall to collect the uniform and the ID Accreditation. That will be on 20th May. Later that month, on 31st May, I will be at a Role Specific Training day, being held at Hampden Park. I will be linking up with the Optometrist I worked with in London. It is all very exciting again. Finally, the Venue Specific day has still to be arranged.

H MacD

Social Group

We had a very successful Easter lunch arranged by the Social Group, which was thoroughly enjoyed by about 80 people who attended. This was the third year we have held this event and it has proven to be very popular. The menu included a choice of three soups, bread, hot cross buns, tray bakes, tea and coffee. A big thank you must go to those who supplied all of the above food, served, washed and cleared up. The hall was particularly well decorated and our thanks must go to those who made the material bunting and the knitted rabbits and eggs. There was also an egg hunt in the church for the children.

The Social events are proving to be a very successful way of having fellowship with members of the congregation.

H MacD

What a happy event it was. As Liz said in her letter, there is plenty going on in this church and plenty of people willing to give of their time and talents to make it all happen. A big thank you to all of them and to Liz for her lovely Easter service.

The editor

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Brownies

This term we have been working on our Big Brownie Challenges to celebrate 100 years of Brownies.

The Brownies have made Chinese dragon boats, enjoyed Winter Olympics, designed a Room of the Future and made pancakes.

We took part in the Thinking Day Church Parade and learned about Egypt and the USA at our celebration of Thinking Day.

The girls were very pleased to be awarded the singing game and campfire trophies at the Music Festival and one of our two teams in the Country Dancing Festival was awarded the Brownie Shield.

Before the Easter holidays we held a Big Brownie Birthday Party to celebrate the 100th birthday of Brownies. We were joined by nine guests and enjoyed games and activities. Everyone helped decorate 100 cakes which were laid out to form a large "100".

A delicious buffet was enjoyed and the evening finished with our County Commissioner presenting the girls with two badges to commemorate the Big Brownie Birthday.

J McE, Brownie Leader

After Eights

Members of the After 8's have enjoyed another successful year with a varied programme, including seeing what it is like to have a "Personal Shopper" at Debenhams, learning about the good work of the Food Train and enjoying a Cookery Demonstration with sampling afterwards, to name but a few nights shared together in fellowship. Our concluding evening of the session is a meal at the Nith Hotel, Glencaple on 24th April at 7pm.

J W

Badminton Club

"It's better than the telly". This is often said by players sitting on the sidelines watching a game being played on the court. The club membership is pretty evenly divided between male and female and most of the games are mixed doubles. Games between well matched pairs can be exciting to watch, with the final result being impossible to predict. During the tea break it is always noisy as everyone sits round the table in the kitchen putting the world to rights or telling jokes. As well as playing badminton and table tennis, during the season there is also an annual dinner and a trip to Carlisle for ten pin bowling. These events are always well attended and great fun. We don't play over the summer months, but if anyone would like to join a cheery, sociable group and get some enjoyable exercise, come along to the main hall on the first Tuesday in September at 7.45pm when the new season will begin.

J M

Good Companions

We have had a varied Spring session, ending with our usual lunch. We will be recommencing late September/early October - date still to be fixed. Our numbers are shrinking, and we would love to welcome some new members in the Autumn.

S H

Scouts

We are currently working towards our Pioneering, Local Guide and Orienteering badges. We are hoping to arrange some outdoor activities based around these themes.

D MacPh, Assistant Scout Leader

Come People of the Risen King!

Are you needing an uplifting evening? I know I am.

If you do, then come to an evening with Stuart Townend at St. George's Church on Tuesday 3rd June 2014, at 7.30pm.

Stuart is a leading worship songwriter and has written numerous songs including 'Come, People of the Risen King' 'In Christ Alone' and 'There is a Hope'.

All of these have been sung in Max West as part of our worship by the Praise Group and the Congregation. Tickets are available (£10 each) from E Crossan. There is also a poster on the Church Notice Board.

E C

Check out his web site by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/about/biography>

Children's Corner

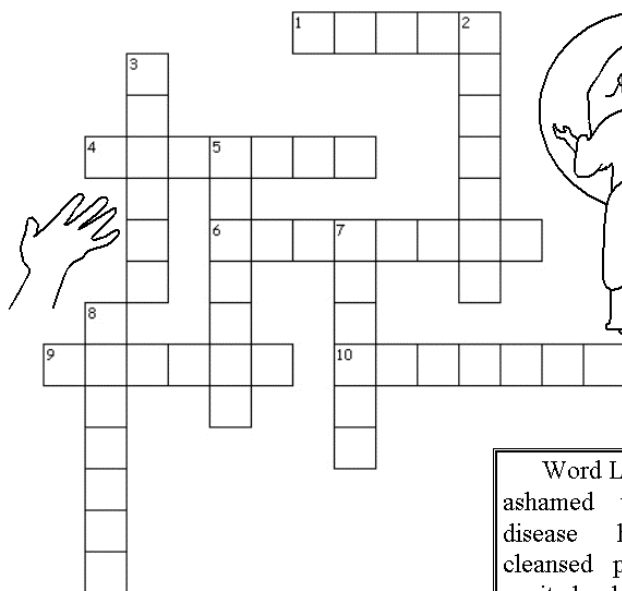
Welcome boys and girls to our Children's Corner. We have had a busy few months working through the Old Testament stories of Joseph and making a cool wall display. The boys and girls made fabulous photo flowers for Mothers' Day and gave all the ladies in the church an angel scroll. Rev. Liz was presented with a posy of flowers to show our gratitude for all that she does for us and our church. Easter Sunday saw our two Sunday club helpers Davie and Cathán join the church, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best in this important step in Christian life.

You were all treated to an Easter egg hunt in church afterwards. Thanks Faye!! A lovely surprise!! ☺

We have now made a start on the New Testament lessons, looking at Jesus the healer as well as the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. Jesus often spoke in parables, which were not true stories but Jesus made them up to teach us lessons about real life things. We will be looking at these over the next few weeks, before starting on our 'Fathers' Day' preparations for June.

We will also be looking at how Jesus healed 'the paralysed man' and 'the man with leprosy'. As Jesus healed by touch, God also is reaching out and trying to touch our lives. Think about how God has shown His love to you and your family throughout this week (through how others have treated you, nature, or kindness of a stranger.) Pay attention to how God is trying to touch your life and show you His love. **How can you show God you love him too? Write your ideas below:**

Jesus Heals Leprosy Crossword



Remember to invite your friends to join us in your Sunday Club. The more of you there are the more fun you will all have.

Chrissy, Davie and I look forward to seeing you there.

Dawn ☺

Word List:

ashamed	touch
disease	healed
cleansed	priest
excited	leprosy
humbled	afraid

Across

1. Jesus healed the man by a quick and miraculous ____.
4. Leprosy is a type of bacterial ____.
6. The man with leprosy was not only healed but ____ on the inside as well.
9. Jesus did this for the leper and didn't get sick himself.
10. Lepers felt this because of the disease and because others thought it was caused by sin.

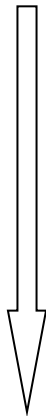
Down

2. The man was this before Jesus when he fell at his knees.
3. The man went to this person to get permission to live among others again.
5. Jesus asked the man not to tell others of the miracle but he was to ____.
7. Lepers weren't allowed in the city because others were this.
8. This is a disease that can change the way people look.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July		
6 th	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. P McKenzie
13 th	VACANT	Mrs. E Wallace
20 th	VACANT	Mrs. Goodwin
27 th	Mrs. N. Mc Cubbin	Mrs. L. Taylor
August		
3 rd	VACANT	VACANT
10 th	Mrs. A Howitt	Mrs. D. McWhirter
17 th	Mrs. E. Campbell	Miss Bryden
24 th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
31 st	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. C. Whipp
September		
7 th	Mrs. M. Stockdale	Mrs. J. Moffat
14 th	Mrs. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
21 st	VACANT	Miss M. Gemmill
28 th	Mrs. E. Riddick	Mrs. L. Archibald

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

And finally



The Church Boilers!

Few people will have missed the drama of the demise of our ancient but trusty boilers. Having served us well from many years, they finally 'gave up the ghost' and have now been replaced by three shiny new modern ones.

Just in case you didn't have the chance to clamber through the trap door in the corner of the hall and inspect them for yourselves, here are some pictures of what you have missed!



Let's hope they serve us as well as their predecessors!