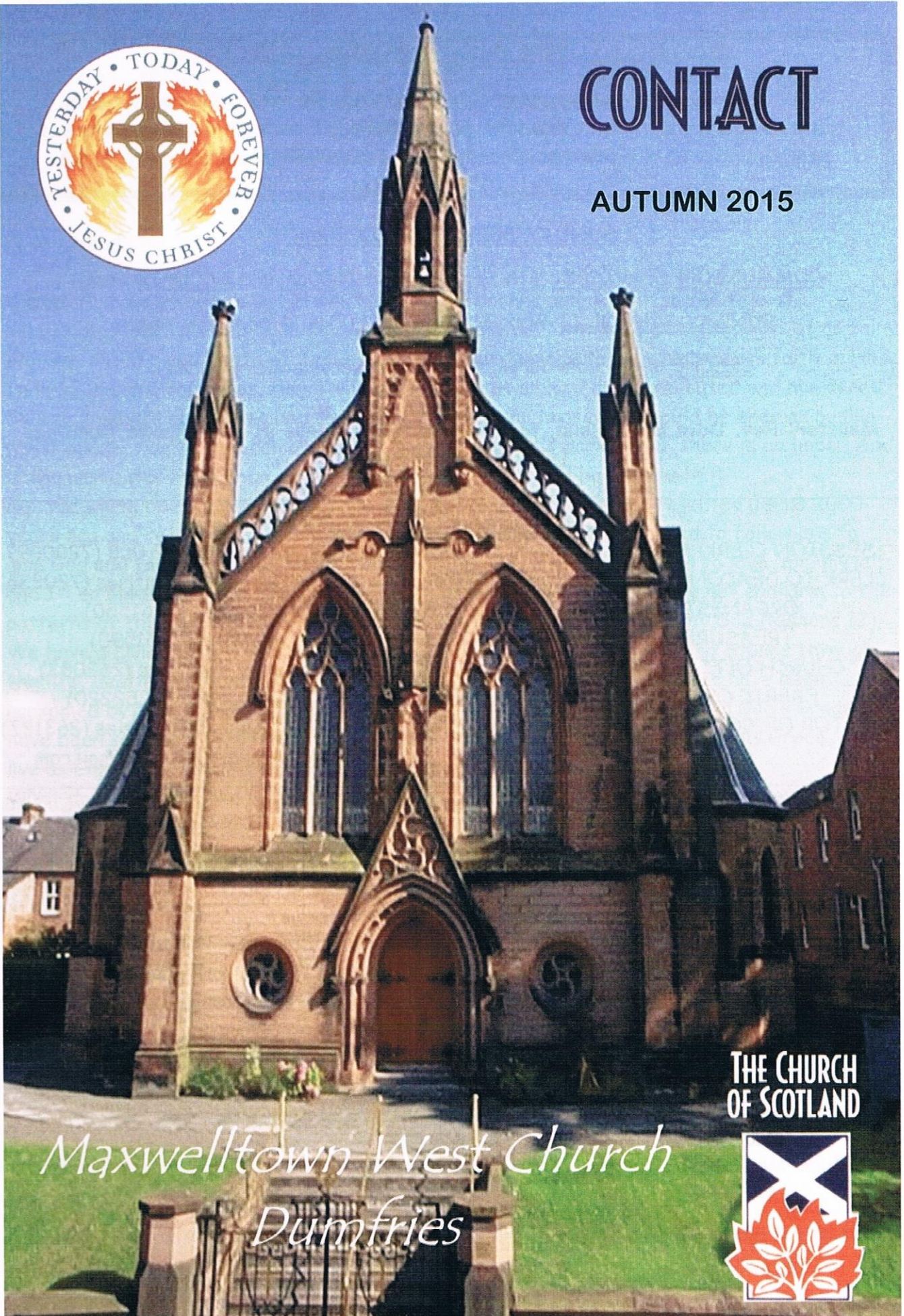


CONTACT

AUTUMN 2015



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

Tel: 01387 255900

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 6th 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.

Minister: Rev. Dave Sutherland, Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH (tel: 247538)

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden, Dumfries CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. J Wood, Dumfries

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie, Dumfries TREASURER: Mrs. L Hyles, Dumfries

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson, Dumfries FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings, Dumfries

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

27th April: Mrs. Anne Laurie, Dumfries.

17th May: Mr. Douglas L. Barbour, Dumfries.

28th June: Mrs. Christine Train, Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

New Members by Transference

24th May: Mr. R Crosbie & Mrs. A Crosbie, Dumfries.

Transfers Away

16th June: Mr. R Shepherd & Mrs. M Shepherd, Dumfries.

Baptism

19th July: Sophie Rachel McNay, daughter of Robert and Rachel.

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.*

Dear Friends,

We seem to be living in a world which is getting darker and darker as the tide of secularism rises. Church is being considered irrelevant, the Bible being thought of as fairy stories, the life and death of Jesus Christ ridiculed as are those who profess faith in Him. Indeed, in some countries, those who confess Jesus as lord are persecuted and murdered. Church numbers are falling and the Church of Scotland nationally could be seen as pulling itself apart. For the church and faith, according to this dark world, there is no hope. And if the world was right then we should just give up now and be done with it.

But the world does not see our God as we can see our God. People rejected Jesus 2000 years ago and reject Him still today. The commandments we are called to follow are to love God and to love our neighbours whilst the world's commandment is to love "me, myself and I": an inward looking self-justifying way of living. We are called to not conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed through being renewed by God (Romans 12). We have a Living Hope which calls us to a way of Holy Living, being Living Stones through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have been ransomed by the precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter chapters 1&2), by and in God's Grace we have been set apart, redeemed for His ways and not the world's ways. In His Grace, we live as Christians building Christian family and community.

What does that mean in practical terms for us, called to be church here at Max West?

A vision for the future:

- We wish to call a minister who can combine modern vision with the ability to communicate with and enthuse young and old, members and non-members alike.
- We seek a minister who will provide compassionate care alongside enthusiastic outreach, making the church work for everyone in the community, all ages and interests.
- Maxwelltown West has a strong, committed church membership which is open to change.

Some challenges:

- To move confidently into the future.
- To continue to work closely with neighbouring churches of all denominations.
- To continue to be open to new forms and styles of worship.
- To encourage an active involvement in the life of the Church.
- To involve the local community more closely.

The vision and challenges are part of the Parish Profile and what I responded to and felt called to. They do not speak of staying the same, doing what we've always done or continuing as we've been. Rather, they speak of change, of moving together to build Christians, Christian family and community in order to serve God in this parish and this town. I'm happy to move forward with this but I can't and won't do it on my own. We are a family of God and to build that Christian family, we can enjoy the social events organised by the Social Group, such as the Ceilidh on 5th September. I'm looking to develop Fellowship dinners with guest speakers and a Men's Fellowship. The tea and coffee after the services is an important way of building family and fellowship as well. We are a family of God and to build that Christian family, there will be a Bible Study beginning in September as well as prayer meetings and regular prayer points for us all to pray about: everyone can pray.

We are a family of God and to build that Christian community, we are looking to run Messy Church for families in the community. (See separate article.) But we also need to look at ways of developing Children's ministry apart from Messy Church, including the children and young people who are part of the Scouts and Guides at Max West. We are a family of God and to build that Christian community we need to be out there in the parish and working with other churches and Dumfries Christian Network.

We are a family of God and to build that Christian family, we look at different ways of worship: the Praise Group, Hymn for the Month, different structures of prayer, utilising and developing the audio-visual capacity. There does have to be a balance and although worship isn't the same as it was, I don't intend to make huge changes to the order of service on a Sunday at 11am.

All this and celebrating the worship of God in this place for 150 years!

There is a Living Hope which calls us to a way of Holy Living as Living stones as a Christian community in the community.

With every blessing,
Your minister, Dave.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a different way of “doing” or “being” church. Its focus is to work with all ages who have an opportunity to explore Bible stories through craft, story and song and finishing with a meal together. The session lasts between 1½ to 2 hours and does not need too many volunteers to run it. However because the idea is that a family moves through the different crafts together, there is not such a great need for the same numbers of volunteers as running a holiday club: the family adults are responsible for their own. The crafts, song and story and the meal all follow the same biblical theme.

Messy Church does not run as the 11am Sunday service but operates at a time and day which is suitable for as many people as possible. We hope to run Messy Church over a number of months and are exploring the possibility of being in Laurieknowe Primary School as well as in the Church.

See also www.messychurch.org.uk or speak to Dave if you have any questions in the meantime.

Bible Study

There will be a fortnightly Bible Study beginning on Wednesday 9th September and will follow the Essential 100 series: a journey through the Bible in 100 readings. This will run throughout the year although taking breaks at various times. It will also occasionally include other speakers. More information will be intimated in due course.

Back to Church Sunday: A Season of Invitation

Back to Church Sunday has been running for about 10 years now and is the last Sunday of September. The idea is that people are invited back to church: people who are out of the way of coming to church for whatever reason are invited back to specific services. This has now been extended to a season of services throughout Autumn: Back to Church Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance, First Sunday of Advent and Christmas Services.

So how would it look if each one of us was to invite someone back to church during a season of services here at Max West, especially as we celebrate worshipping God for 150 years on the same site?

What I’m asking everyone to consider is who they could invite back to church on the following specific Sundays:

- **Harvest – 27th September**
- **Remembrance – 8th November**
- **First Sunday in Advent – 29th November**
- **Christmas Services: 20th December, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

If we all invited just one person back to church then it would make a difference. By the way, don’t worry whether or not the person you invite will say yes or no – just extend the invitation and allow God to work.

Path of Renewal

The Panel of Review and Reform of the Church of Scotland is progressing an initiative called the Path of Renewal. The proposal is to look for 20 congregations from a range of backgrounds who will undertake a process of renewal and re-focusing. They would be seen as the “ground breakers” who others will follow (and from whom others will learn.) This involves helping congregations to transition from maintaining current patterns to one which seeks to take account of context with a missional approach.

An initial assessment and discernment process will be followed by a 2-3 year period when input would be provided to help congregations and ministers develop a missional approach.

The desired outcomes are:

- Ministers equipped to lead through transition and in missional churches.
- Congregations with a missional focus and a team approach to ministry.
- The development of new local leadership.
- The development of a proven approach to transitioning churches from which others will benefit.

Max West has been nominated by Presbytery to go forward to the next round of the selection process. Whether we become a pilot congregation will not be known until early 2016. You will be kept updated about developments.

Service to mark 150th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone

“For the Lord hath chosen Zion, he hath desired it for his habitation.
This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.” Psalm 132: 13 &14.

These verses were read by the Minister as the foundation stone of this church was laid on Thursday 6th July 1865. The Minister, dignitaries and members of the congregation had walked down from their original church building further up Laurieknowe (now occupied by Budget Tyres) to the site of the new build. And so about 10:50am on 5th July a young piper led the Minister and members of the congregation from Budget Tyres to the current building where we joined the rest of the congregation to worship God.

During the service, prayers were offered and Scripture was read by members of the group which has been appointed to oversee all the activities to lead up to the anniversary of the opening of the building which took place on 1th November 1866. One of the praise items was “Amazing Grace” which was led by our organist, accompanied by the Minister who played bagpipes. After the dedication of the offering, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright then offered a prayer to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone and to dedicate the living stones who are the congregation.

Former Treasurer David McNay

When Reverend Dave Sutherland asked me to write one or two words for Contact, as a tribute to the work David McNay undertook for MaxWest as Church Treasurer, I readily agreed as I am aware of the amount of time and dedication it takes to undertake that role and am in awe of anyone who takes it on for their ability and true dedication to the job.

David took on the role of Treasurer 6 years ago, taking over from Jack Beggs in March 2009. Very much as I would have expected of him, David fulfilled the role tirelessly, with consummate ease and competence until, sadly, he had to resign due to health problems. During that time he balanced the books, produced the accounts and kept all of us informed of the financial position of the church with straightforward simplicity that allowed us to fully appreciate where we stood financially.

Is that all I have to say? What do I really think about David McNay? It is rare that we get the opportunity of telling a person what we really think of them these days unless it is for all the wrong reasons, so what a chance this is. I have known David for some 20 years, first as business Banking Manager to my company, then as a Rotary Colleague then as a friend and member of Maxwelltown West Church. I have come to know him, as many in the church do, as an All-round Good Chap. I know that’s a rather old fashioned expression but it is one that I, being a little old fashioned and certainly rather old these days, use all too infrequently, for it conveys, to me, someone who is One of The Best.

That’s exactly what I, and many other members of Maxwelltown West Church, think of David McNay and his service to the church as Treasurer - One of the Best! We wish you all God’s love and support in your recovery to full health and strength again David and thank you for all your work in the Church, both in the past and in the future.

D W

Christian Aid News

This seems to be a bumper year for anniversaries and in 2015 Christian Aid is celebrating the 70th Anniversary and for the Dumfries & District Committee its 60th.

We are delighted that Maxwelltown West has been asked to host a service of celebration on the afternoon of Sunday October 11th and we hope many friends and supporters will join us. It may seem strange to celebrate the continuing need for Christian Aid, but we would like to thank everyone locally for all that they do and have done in the past 60 years and to recognise the benefits Christian Aid brings to those in immediate need and to help communities plan a better future.

We hope to have a display and if anyone has any photos or memories to share I would be delighted to hear from you.

H J

News from Mathia

“The climate is very cold at the moment and we are on heavy clothes...” So writes John Njeru, Senior Elder of Mathia Church, in his latest email to us. Rather like a Scottish summer then!

Also, John writes, “Mathia P.C.E.A. Kiangai Parish would like to express its warmest appreciation to you, our friends in Maxwelltown West, for the support shown towards our partnership. We pray that our God will reward richly each and every member of your church for their support. Indeed this unity is God-given and we pray that it may last forever..... We wish to congratulate you on the 150 years anniversary celebrations in your church. We wish you all the best as you commemorate this important occasion...”

In fact, John and his church are celebrating an important occasion in *their* lives. Their new church building is nearing completion after many years of hard work. This is a much bigger building than the one we visited at the start of our partnership – a much bigger building needed to accommodate a growing congregation.

In his emails John always shares with us a reference to a Bible passage that is being used at that time. Nehemia 2, verses 17-20 seems appropriate at this time in our partnership.

Reverend Harrison T. Kogu was inducted as the new minister of Mathia Church on 31st May. We sent our warmest congratulations on his appointment and look forward to our continuing partnership with his growing church.

The annual Bursary Award which we send to Mathia was received at the beginning of this month. This is a sum of £1000 to be used to enable Mathia students to undertake higher education. This year we received an additional request to sponsor a student who did not meet the present criteria. Money was required for Derix Gichohi to complete his final semester. The World Church team decided to extend the help to any student with an educational need and that we ask the Mathia community to decide how best to allocate the Bursary funds, not just for higher education. This decision will go to September’s Kirk Session meeting for approval, before we can confirm this to John. Fundraising for next year’s Bursary Award begins at Christmas. Look out for our Gift Catalogue.

Psalm 100 verses 1-5 would seem to be an appropriate way to bring our news from Mathia to its conclusion. This passage from the Psalms was used in this week’s worship in their newly-completed church building. God’s blessing to them all.

D J

Progress is continuing in Bondo with business enterprises and education. We will have more information from Winnie for the next edition of Contact in December.

After Service Teas

Last years’ after service teas raised £500 and it was agreed to divide it equally between the charity ‘South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital’ and Bible World, which the Dumfries Christian Network are involved in. L Hyles presented the cheque to Leigh Ann who then explained just how the money would be used. She was extremely grateful for the donation as the existing buildings/pens were built in 2001 out of wood and are now in need of repair. This will be expensive. She also said how busy the hospital was at present, due to the variety of wild life she was helping. Leigh Ann also trains volunteers to help at the hospital and updates us regularly on Facebook. (See photo on back cover.)

Thank you to all the people who helped with the teas and coffees after the services and your work really does help others.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Brownies

After Easter, the Brownies enjoyed evenings with a variety of subjects such as endangered animals, food craft, butterflies and global grub and we had two Tuesday meetings outside the hall. The girls enjoyed a walk over five of the bridges of Dumfries, answering questions based on what they could see as they walked along.

We also held a sponsored walk in Mabie Forest and the Brownies raised the fantastic sum of £473.95. The girls chose the charities and cheques have been sent to British Heart Foundation, Nith Inshore Rescue, Water Aid and Yorkhill Children's charity.

A Girlguiding Dumfriesshire County event was held at the Barony College in June and the girls were able to meet new friends from other Units. We finished the term with a buffet and said goodbye to nine girls who have moved on.

Brownies resume on 25th August when we look forward to welcoming some new Brownies

J McE, Brownie Leader

Good Companions

We start our Autumn session on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.00 pm. We would love to welcome new members, so if you are interested, have a word with me or just come along.

Advance Notice: On Wednesday 21st October, Erin Hyles will be telling us about her visit to Tanzania, and if any members of the congregation would like to attend this meeting you will be very welcome. *S H*

Scout Group

The session came to the end on Monday 22nd June, with a barbecue in Mabie Forest. It was our chance to again hold the AGM, when most parents would be there. Thanks to G Abrines for chairing this although he is also Treasurer. Also thanks to I Skilling for being Secretary. They are both prepared to do one more year and then step down.

My thanks go to all of the leaders for their work every week. We could be looking for new Beaver leaders at Christmas. Any new budding leaders would be welcome. We start back on the first Monday in September.

H MacD

After 8's

The last evening of the session in April finished with a "South Pacific" evening. Mrs. R Slack showed us her holiday slides taken when she and her husband Ian visited the South Pacific Islands and the whole evening was themed around that. Members of the committee worked hard to furnish the hall with flowers, decorations and memorabilia and the tables were brightly decorated for everyone to enjoy a delicious buffet supper provided by Mrs. L McTurk. (See photo on back cover.) A date for your diary! Thursday 24th September 2015 at 8pm sees the start of the new session of After 8's. Please come along and hear interesting speakers, enjoy meals out and enjoy the friendship and fellowship of this enthusiastic group. *J W*

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
October		
4th	Mrs. H. Cross	Mrs. L. Hyles
11th	Mrs. M. Allison	Mrs. O. Woods
18th	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
25th	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. Carruthers
November		
1st	Mrs. B. Walker	Mrs. A. Milligan
8th	Mrs. H. Johnson	Mrs. M. Coulson
15th	Miss. S. McDowall	Mrs. S. Robin
22nd	Mrs. L. Hyles	Mrs. H. Cross
29th	Mrs. B. Shearer	VACANT
December		
6th	Mrs. H. Campbell	VACANT
13th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. Cameron
20th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. S. Brown
27th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. S. Brown
January		

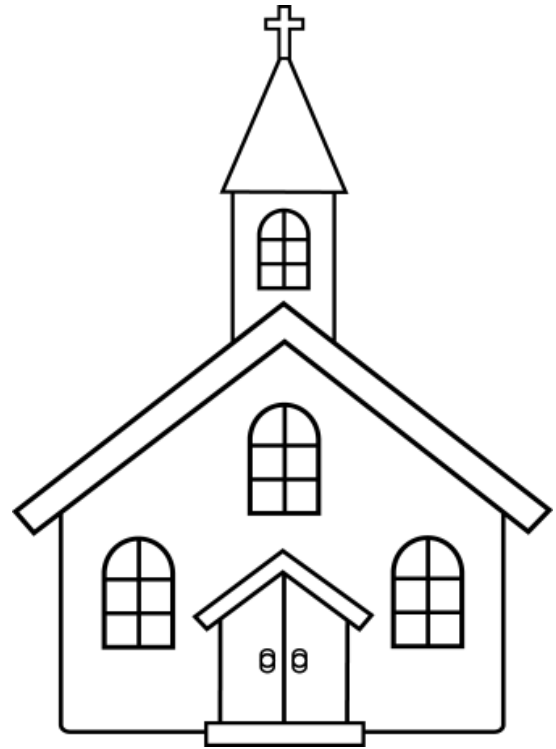
3rd	Mrs. J. Sloan	Mrs. .L McWhan
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If you would like to take a vacant date or help to arrange church flowers, please contact A D.

Children's Corner

Hi boys and girls. I hope you are having a lovely summer and have had a super holiday. Davie and I are looking forward to starting your Sunday Club again on Sunday 30th August and are dying to hear all your news. Please bring your friends and family along with you. We will be doing some really cool stuff while we learn all about Jesus and the church this year and the introduction of 'Messy Church' should be great fun for you all, giving you the opportunity to involve everyone in your family and bring the church family closer together.

You may have heard about our church celebrating 150 years since the very first foundation stone was laid. Wow!! It's a really long time isn't it? Have you ever thought about what makes our church important? Is it the bricks it's built with or maybe how it was built strong enough to last 150 years? Actually, the church is more than just these things. The church is only as strong as the people who help to keep it going. 'You' are essential to ensure that the word of God is kept strong, and you learn all about God by coming to Sunday Club each week. The minister, congregation (including you and your family), visitors, and church officials all contribute to the strength of our church and how positive our message gets put across to others. In the bible the book of 'Acts' tells us all about the very first churches, and how they didn't even have a building to worship in.



People met together in the one place and rejoiced in learning about God, and sharing fellowship with each other. Do you tell your friends about God? Nowadays it can often be difficult for children to talk about God to others, as

everyone's lives are so busy, and it can often seem very difficult to fit church in to the week. Some of your friends may never have learned the joy of discovering how great God is, making it difficult for you to talk about it to them. Imagine though, if you had never learned to pray. Praying allows you to talk about your deepest, darkest fears to someone who will always listen and never judge you. Wouldn't it be good to tell your friends about this great opportunity to fulfil their lives? Try this year to tell at least one of your friends about how fabulous God is. Bring them along to Sunday Club even if it's only now and then.



Why not try out these puzzles about the church and come along to Sunday Club next month to find out the solutions. You can contact either Davie or me should you have any queries ☺ Dawn

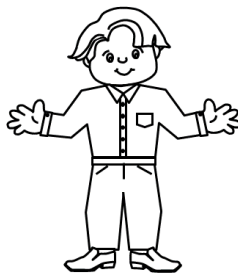
Church & Respect Word Search

O X S P E L Y R U S T B Y L X
S B N R I R E T Q A C O E E D
W I E S E V A N K N E W S A N
B O T D E N L H S C P I I R I
H E R R I A N S S T S N A N K
N O E S I E E A K U E G R E R
Z N U C H R N L M A R M P U O
T P E S D I A C C R H O N O R
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BOWING
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PRAISE
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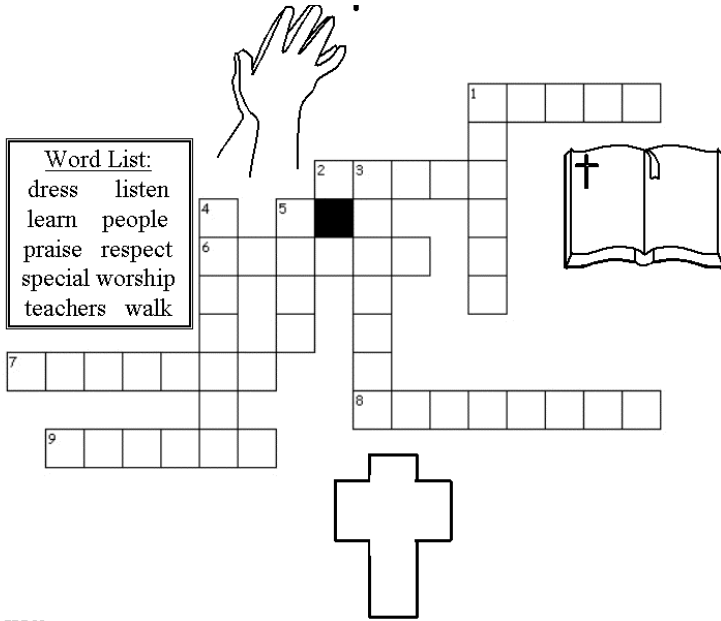


How many words of 3 letters or more
can you make from the word:

‘Foundation’

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It contains ten identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set is composed of three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment.

C



Across

1. At church we meet with others to worship and also to study or ____ about God.
2. The way we ____ can show respect on the outside of us.
6. When we ____ God we are telling him how much appreciate and love him.
7. When we sing and pray to God this is the way we do this for God.
8. These people care about you and spend time preparing a lesson for you to learn.
9. The church isn't about where we meet but about the ____ we meet with there.

Down

1. It's important to do this to hear what the people at church are trying to teach you.
3. Treating others the way we would like to be treated can be called this.
4. Church is a ____ place to worship God together no matter where it is.
5. Instead of running and being loud it's better if you ____ and speak nicely to others.



Presentation of cheque



Armstrong Memorial Vase
at the back door of the Church



After 8's South Pacific night



A Date for Your Diary

Maxwelltown West Church
Social Group
Family Ceilidh
Saturday 5th September from 7pm-10pm.
Please use Rosemount Street entrance



**An Evening
Of Scottish
Entertainment** For all ages



Live Music, Dance & Refreshments (No alcohol)
Free entry, voluntary contributions welcomed.

"Tell us if you're coming", email – fgdickie@btinternet.com
you can also contact Derek Fraser or Ian MacPhee

N.B.

The church phone number is:
01387 255900

The church pay-phone has now been
removed.