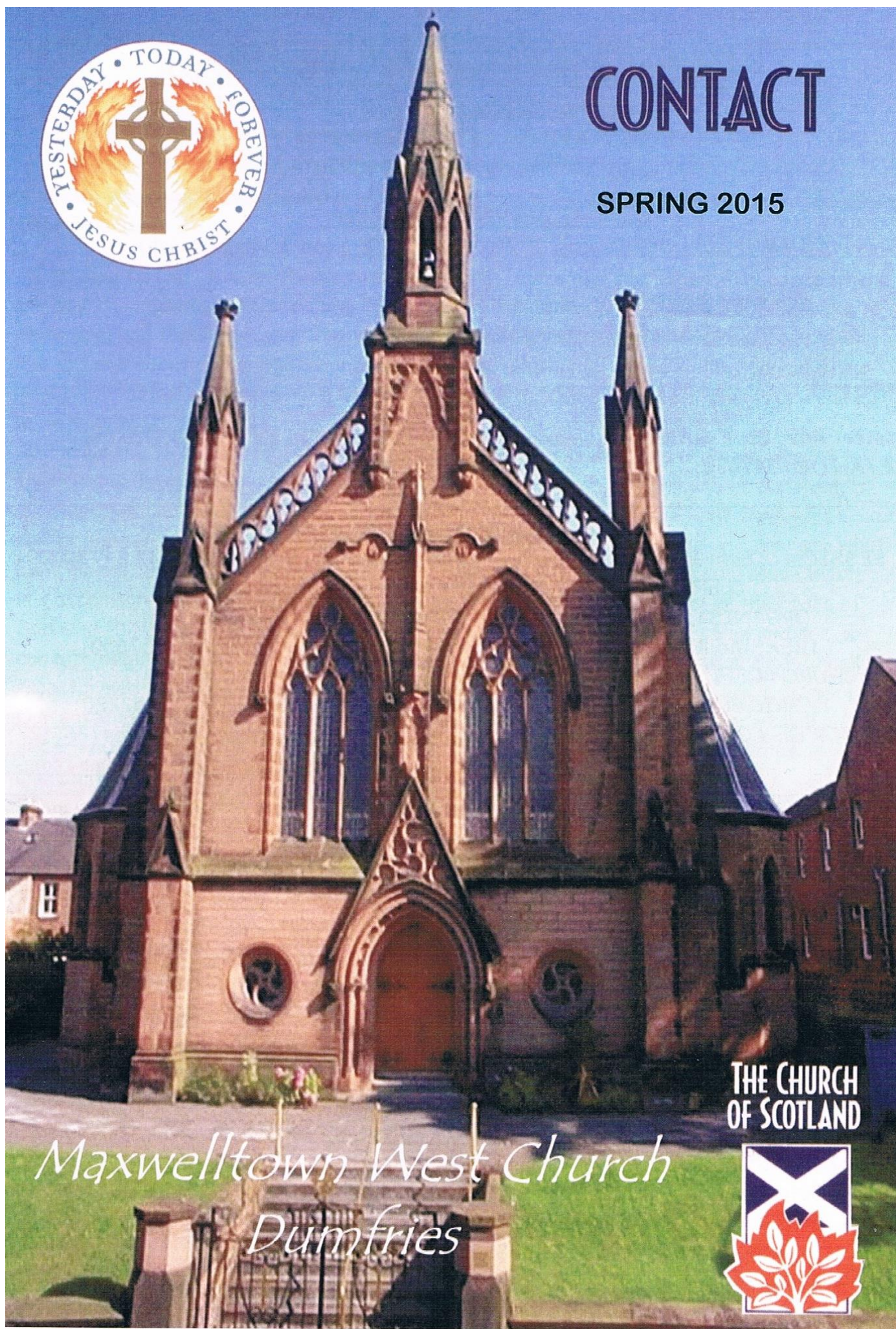


CONTACT

SPRING 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

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 1st March 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

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

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

4th November: Mr. Robert Fergusson

28th November: Mrs. Margaret Hill

11th January: Mr. Eric Dobie

17th January: Mrs. Agnes Jamieson

22nd January: Mrs. Betty Steven

New Members by Transference

16th October: Rev. David Sutherland

16th October: Mrs. M Sutherland

19th October: Mrs. E Fitzpatrick

26th October: Mrs. S Byers

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

Jesus said to two of John the Baptist's disciples, "Come and see" when they asked where He was staying. Philip was found by Jesus to whom He said, "Follow me". Philip spoke to Nathaniel and told Nathaniel that they had found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law and about whom the prophets also wrote. Nathaniel asked Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" to which Philip replied, "Come and see". This is all related in John 1:35-51.

So here's the thing: we can find out what it is that Jesus was, and is about, what it is that God is doing in Dumfries, in Maxwelltown West Church, and in each of our lives, if we but come and see. That's my focus for this year. As we explore Lent through a study series, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, we have the opportunity to come and see: see what Lent means, understand more of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension to be at the right hand of God the Father and to marvel at the grace of God who fulfilled His promise of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As we come and see, we can also begin to know the grace and love of God and experience how we are continually transformed in and by His grace and love.

Our pattern of worship has grown and as we sit and see what God is doing, we will experience the blessing of our Heavenly Father who will nurture us and build us as church, the people of God.

Some may have noticed at the December celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that the order of serving was different from what you have experienced. It's simply because I believe that those who have the privilege of serving, should serve first and then receive. The Kirk Session recently agreed that two of the "carded Communion" services should be family services, so that the whole family can sit through the service and be ministered to by God through His table. Therefore the Communion services in March and September will be family services. Children of the church will also be able to receive the elements but only if they are sitting with their families and those who have responsibility for them allow them to take the bread and the wine, that is, grape juice.

I will be speaking more about this and what admission to the Lord's table means and also enabling us to realise that there is a mystery at the table, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, which none of us can begin to fully understand.

At the beginning of this year, I am excited about what God is doing here. Come and see for yourself.

With every blessing,
Dave

Any Questions

There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Scripture Readings and Sermon each Sunday through Lent. It's a chance to dig a bit deeper into the Scriptures and discuss some of the points. It will start about 15-20 minutes after the close of the service, meeting in the Centenary Hall depending on numbers. Please take this chance to explore the scriptures a bit more.

Every Blessing,

Dave

It was with great sadness that we learned that Dave's mother died on 21st January. We know that you will all remember Dave, Maureen and their family in your prayers and give them every support at this sad and difficult time.

Kirk Session

Since the last report, Session has held two ordinary meetings.

At the first, on 12th November, Session discussed a policy on alcohol on church premises. This had arisen from a request to the Deacons' Court for the use of the church halls when alcohol would be served. A law circular from the Church of Scotland had been circulated to Session which discussed the subject fully and frankly. It was agreed unanimously, for various reasons that the serving of alcohol at any event in the church premises would not be permitted. (See article at the end of this report.)

Later in the meeting it was noted that the Watch Night Service would proceed. It was also noted that alterations had been made to Elders' Districts, reducing the number of these by four and that each district is now supported by a Deacon. It was also reported that the Social Group had prepared a survey for the congregation and we await the results of their findings.

There were two main items of business which occupied Session at its meeting on 14th January. The first was a full discussion on the subject of Data Protection and the need to have a Church Policy in place and in use. After full consideration, a small sub-committee was formed to discuss this further and to report back to Session in March, so obviously more of this at a later date.

The other item was on the subject of Communion. It was agreed that the March and September Communions will be services where children will be able to sit with their families where their parents may allow them to take Communion, although only those with their parents will be allowed to do so.

Finally, going back in time, a meeting on Sunday 16th November 2014 saw the election of three new deacons – Mrs. C Bratcher, Mrs. D Graham, and Mrs. G Little. We look forward to welcoming them to the Deacons' Court.

TB, Session Clerk

Alcohol in the Church

Following a request about a let for the church halls, the Kirk Session agreed at the November meeting that alcohol was not permitted on the church premises. This is in line with the view of the General Assembly. The following is a section from the document "The Church and Alcohol" which may be found on the Church of Scotland website.

"The position with regard to alcohol and Church buildings was considered by the General Assembly in 1969 when, on a Report from the Committee on Moral Welfare, it passed the following Deliverance:-

"The General Assembly, emphasising the need for careful Christian stewardship and believing that the Church in its corporate witness should not encourage the growth of the drinking habit, enjoin that the funds of Church Courts or Committees should not be used to provide alcoholic drinks, and recommend that alcoholic drinks should not be provided at functions held on Church premises or organised by Church bodies."

This Deliverance has been considered on at least two occasions subsequently by the Assembly and its terms affirmed.

Recent changes to licensing legislation as to the supply, sale and consumption of alcohol would involve us as a church to follow certain conditions, either for a let or a church function. The decision has been included as a condition of let and will be made known to all groups within the Church.

Dave Sutherland

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 25th November. The Clerk welcomed Rev. Dave Sutherland and invited him, as the new Moderator, to chair the meeting.

The Treasurer, D McNay, presented a copy of the accounts to date. These show that we have a current overspend, due mainly to the one-off spend on the Manse and about six months of Gift Aid income outstanding. Once the outstanding funds are all gathered in, our overall finances should be in a satisfactory position, but we need to be aware of our position in the future.

J Hastings gave the report for the Fabric Committee. The repairs to the spire were over budget due to extra scaffolding being required, but this is now complete and the spire is once again in good order. (See photos on back cover.) We are still awaiting quotes for the double glazing of the high level windows in the hall. The programme of refurbishment of the Manse is ongoing, and still within the allocated budget.

"After Service Tea & Coffee." M Wallace has now taken over from L Hyles as coordinator and is seeking a volunteer to assist when she is absent. Suggestions for a charity where the proceeds should be donated are being invited. If you have a charity in mind please let me or a court member know so that it can be considered.

The Guild reported that their last three Coffee Mornings have not been well supported and urged members of the Church to attend. The proceeds of the Coffee Mornings over the years have enabled the Guild to make substantial donations to the Fabric Fund etc.

B S, Clerk, Deacons' Court

World Church News

Greetings have arrived from both of our projects in Kenya, wishing Maxwelltown West members a very Happy New Year.

Our Christmas Gift Catalogue appeal for education help this year was well supported and grateful thanks to everyone who supported this.

John Njeru, the chairman of Mathia congregation tells us they are all doing well and soon they will have services in English which will help to bring their youth and university students together.

Their new Minister, Rev. Harrison Thuku Kogu, is now in place and will conduct his first communion service on 18th January. His first service was preached from Genesis 22:1-19 - the message to put our trust in God.

Winnie in Bondo reports, "We are ok." Foundations for the new classroom have started as numbers are now around 500 children. (See 'Stop Press' on back cover.)

A Graduation Ceremony was held in November for nursery children from 2014 to rise to primary classes and all have enjoyed a Christmas party from extra money we sent.

More cages are installed in the lake which hopefully will help feed many extra children.

Please remember we now have a bookstall, mostly in the Simmons Hall, with good second hand books which you may purchase for a small donation.

A D, WCT

Social Group

During 2014, The MaxWest Social Group, participated in 3 events :-

Easter Brunch

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

Games and Fun Night

A Games and Fun Night was held on Saturday 20th September. As well as a quiz being run, games were interposed between the rounds. The games included: space hopper racing, Malteser transporting with straws, flapping fish, a balloon race etc.

Christmas Brunch

The Christmas brunch was held after the Christmas Family Service on Sunday 21st December. This included a variety of soups, sandwiches, mince pies and other goodies.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was included with December Communion cards. The results of the responses will be advised when they have been reviewed.

Potential events in 2015

Easter Brunch

It has been suggested that this 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.

Ceilidh

At some point we hope to hold a Ceilidh which may allow us to make a donation to a specific cause. We have had a very kind offer of a band for such an occasion.

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

Maxwelltownwest Church History - Ministers of our Church

The second Minister of our Church (1853-1883) was **The Rev David Purves**.

David Purves was born in 1808 in the village of Stenton in East Lothian, the son of Andrew and Sophia Purves. He was educated firstly in Stenton Village School and then at a private School in East Linton, which involved a walk of several miles to and from school every day. At the age of 16 he entered university in Edinburgh where he excelled at Moral Philosophy and Mathematics.

In 1826, aged 18, he was appointed schoolmaster in Stenton, where he made a lasting impression on his pupils. David remained as schoolmaster in Stenton until 1838, when he was appointed school master in Abottshall, Kirkcaldy, continuing there until 1843.

During this period he continued his studies, at intervals, in the arts and theology.

In 1839 David married Anne Knox of Belhaven at Abbotshall Fife. Anne died in 1851, leaving David with 5 children to bring up with the help of his sister Jane.

At the Disruption, having graduated and deciding to go with the Free Church, David accepted a call to the Free Church in Aberdour on the 13th December 1843.

He stayed at Aberdour for 10 years, where he became much loved by the people in his congregation and his peers.

In October 1853, he accepted a call from the Free Church congregation of Maxwelltown Dumfries.

In a review of David's life in Dumfries, Mr. McDowell of the Dumfries Standard made the following reference to the welcome he received:

"Before many months elapsed, Mr. Purves became well known and respected throughout a wide extent of the country."

On 19th February 1854, David Purves married Charlotte Johnston in St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh. David and Charlotte had 3 children.

During David's long term at Maxwelltown, a new church was built, and there were changes in the form of the service. The new church building, which cost £2190, was opened on 15th November 1866 with a congregation 500. There was an increase in private baptism and the Session asked the Moderator to remind the congregation of their duty to bring their children to church. This happened in 1874 and again in 1880. During this period there were attempts to introduce a harmonium into the church. Between 1853 and 1878 the church ran a school in David Street.

The church was also involved with the management of the Maxwelltown Gospel Mission.

David Purves continued ministering to the congregation, attending to presbytery business, on his own and, along with his wife, bringing up a large family until 1878, aged 70, he asked the session for an assistant. This request was granted unanimously and 4 assistants served for various periods until 1883.

On the 30th May 1883, David Purves, aged 75, died while attending the General Assembly in Edinburgh. He had been a minister for 40 years. Charlotte died, aged 78, in 1904.

A large funeral in Edinburgh was attended by representatives from Dumfries, Edinburgh, and East Lothian.

In 1884 a tribute to his father "A Ministry in the South" was published by his son Rev. David Purves.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Enjoyable meetings and social events of 2014 culminated in our Christmas Party, in the hall for a change. Members enjoyed lovely musical entertainment from Edith Beeton and friends and Christmas Carols from our Brownies.

The January afternoon meeting from the Red Cross gave us a short history and update on their local projects. February and March will give us information from the Loch Arthur Community and the Wildlife in Dumfries and Galloway, so we look forward to their speakers.

On 7th February our Coffee Morning is to support homeless people who will be rehoused. This is one of the national Guild projects. I hope this worthwhile cause will be well attended.

In March we have the World Day of Prayer, Presbyterial Spring Rally and AGM with the Mixed Bag Singers.

I hope to meet you at these events. You are all welcome.

A D, Guild Convener

Good Companions

We commence our Spring Session on Wednesday 25th February at 2.00 pm. We are all looking forward to getting together again and would love to welcome any new members. Ladies AND Gentlemen of mature age – we meet alternate Wednesday afternoons for an hour or so – nothing too demanding, just a nice social occasion (with refreshments.) Why not give it a try.

SH

Brownies

Our two main events in November were taking part in the Remembrance Sunday Church parade and having a sleepover in the Church hall, based on the film “Frozen” with crafts and activities.

In December, the Brownies made crackers filled with some chocolates to take to Roseland when we visited to sing Christmas carols. The Brownies were also invited to visit the Guild to help them with their singing! We had a Christmas party and buffet and the girls enjoyed performing our nativity play “Completing the Crib” for parents before the Christmas holidays.

During spring 2015, we are celebrating 70 years of Brownies at Maxwelltown West – founded on Thinking Day, 22nd February 1945. If you are an ex Brownie here, or know someone who is, please send the Brownies of 2015 a postcard stating when you were a Brownie and where you live now. We will make a display with the postcards for everyone to see.

J McE, Brownie Leader

After Eights

After an interesting and enjoyable first half of the session, the After 8's group will continue to meet and enjoy the rest of their meetings until the end of April. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month. Please come and join us at 8pm.

J W

Children's Corner

The Parable of the Pencil

One day the Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box to sell him.

“There are 5 things you need to know,” he told the pencil, “Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.”

1) “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand.”

2) “You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.”

3) “You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”

4) “The most important part of you will always be what's inside.”

And 5) “On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.”

The pencil understood and promised to remember these things, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now, in the same way as the pencil; if you always remember these same 5 things and never forget them, you will become the best person you can be.

1) “You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand and allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.”

- 2) "You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems in life, but you'll need it to become a stronger person."
- 3) "You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make."
- 4) "The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside."
- And 5) "On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties."

Allow this parable of the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfil the purpose which you were born to accomplish.

Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot make a change.

Well done boys and girls on our most excellent Nativity Play at the end of the year. You are all stars!! I think everyone really enjoyed it and a big thanks to M Darroch for our lovely costumes.

Well, we are now well on our way to Easter and have begun our new topic 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' looking at God's fantastic creation and how we can make the most of these wonderful gifts he has given us. We are quite low in numbers just now. Why not bring a friend or relative to your Sunday Club with you. The more the merrier and we will make them very welcome. We are to have a visit from our minister Dave in March where he will be joining in with all the fun. Let's get our singing voices in tune and make him really welcome. If any of you need to contact me for any reason you can reach me on the usual number. Now, why not try out these fun activities and I will see you all on Sunday ☺

D McL

Creation Word Search

Try and find the following words in the box

| | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| ADAM | AFRAID | CHERUBIM |
| CUNNING | CURSED | DIE |
| EAT | EVE | EVIL |
| FRUIT | GARDEN | GOD |
| GOOD | KNOWLEDGE | HID |
| PROMISE | SERPENT | SHAME |
| SIN | TREE | TUNICS |
| WISDOM | WOMAN | |

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

Now unscramble the following words in my Adam and Eve puzzle:

Aekns_____

Aeimnopttt_____

Adegnr_____

Bdoiesy_____

How many words can you make from the following?

GARDEN OF EDEN

| | Church Flowers | Memorial Vase |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| April | | |
| 5th | Mrs. J. Grant | Mrs. O. Geddes |
| 12th | Mrs. M. Wheelans | Mrs. A. Allison |
| 19th | Mrs. S. Muir | Mrs. P. Williams |
| 26th | VACANT | Mrs. J. Boyer |
| May | | |
| 3rd | VACANT | Mrs. I. Scott |
| 10th | Mrs. Pearson | Mrs. J. McEwan |
| 17th | VACANT | Mrs. S. Brown |
| 24th | Mrs. M. Savage | Mrs. A. Milligan |
| 31st | Mrs. K. Brown | Mrs. M. Holmes |
| June | | |
| 7th | Mrs. Anderson | Mrs. D. McWhirter |
| 14th | Mrs. M. Donkersley | VACANT |
| 21st | VACANT | VACANT |
| 28th | Mrs. M. Wallace | Mrs. J. Sloan |

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

Stop Press from the World Church Team

Happy Tots School, Bondo, Kenya.

Winnie's latest news informs us that the children are now learning about Jesus in religious education 3 times a week, with hymns and bible memory verses. Library books are having a big impact and the children are reading and speaking English.

The school is registered with The Ministry of Education who recommend 2 extra toilets for the numbers of children, so we will send the money soon. A new classroom is almost finished for 45 new children. More later!

A D

Views from the Church Spire



The greenery which was growing out of the spire



View from the top of the spire down Laurieknowe and Buccleuch Street



View towards the Convent



View over the River Nith







