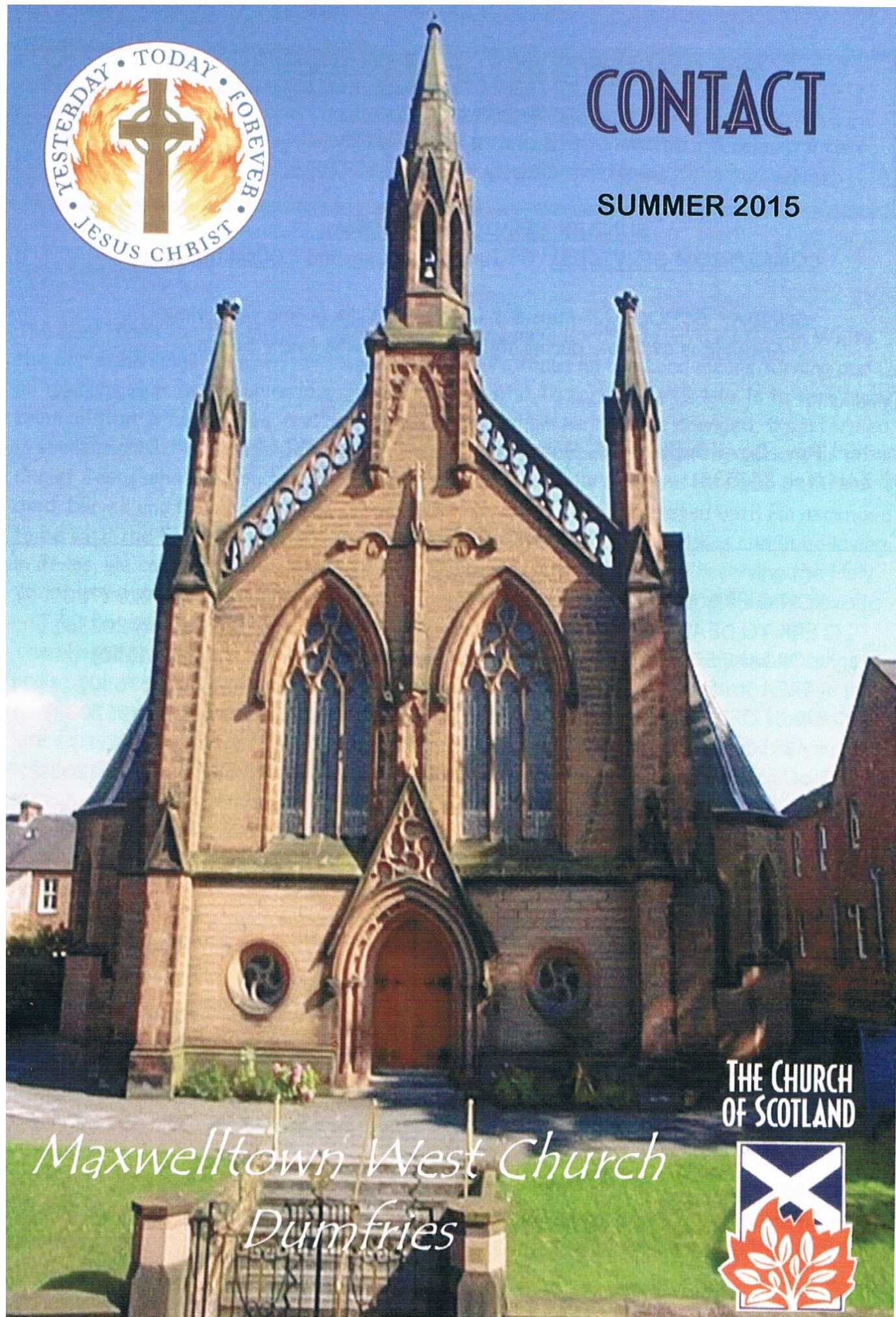


CONTACT

SUMMER 2015



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 7th 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.

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

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T. Bryden, Dumfries DG2 0LB

ORGANIST: Mr. S. Crosbie, Dumfries

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R. Wilson, Dumfries

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

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. J. Wood, Dumfries

TREASURER: Mr. D. McNay, Dumfries

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J. Hastings, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

5th April: Grant Andrew Edgar Young, son of David and Claire Young

Marriages

14th March: Miss Rachel Murray to Mr. Ross Fraser

Deaths

6th March: Mr. John Armstrong, Dumfries

11th March: Mr. William Moonie, Dumfries

8th April: Mrs. Esme Jeffrey, 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.*

Dear friends,

The May Hymn for the Month, "Focus my eyes on you O Lord" was written by Ian White, the Christian singer songwriter based in Perth. To focus on our Lord means turning our all towards Him, worshipping Him in spirit and truth. To turn towards Him is to turn away from all that is not of God, and as we turn towards Him we became changed, transformed in spirit and truth through God's grace. This can only happen through the actions of Christ Jesus who lived on this earth, fully man and yet fully God, and who was crucified, died, buried and rose again. And even so, all that is not fully completed until He ascended to be with the Father as Priest, Prophet and King. Through these actions and in believing in Jesus, we can know forgiveness of sins, the gift of eternal life and receiving the Holy Spirit within us. As we realise what it is God has done for us our hearts fill with praise and joy for our God.

The Hymn for the Month gives us a chance to not only get to know new hymns or songs of praise but to go back over some favourites as well. Many of you have let me know your favourite hymns and I'm including them in the hymn choice week by week. It's never too late to let me know your favourites if you haven't already done that and many of you have told me that you have many choices and can't always decide on favourites because you like so many different hymns: but that's okay as I'm happy to get 'extensive' lists.

The Praise Group will introduce the next month's Hymn for the Month at the monthly Family Service which I hope to have on the third Sunday of the month, although it will have to move to other Sundays some months due to various circumstances. I'm also delighted to take any suggestions for Hymns for the Month as well. You will be able to hear the Hymn for the Month on the Max West website where information regarding Family Services and meetings of the Praise group will be posted.

As we look out into the Parish, I'm working towards running "Messy Church" for families. It's a different way of doing "church" and working with families as they explore Bible stories through craft, story and song, finishing with a meal together. More specific information will be coming out as we'll need a team of volunteers to run the events. Messy Church has been used very successfully by many different congregations to connect with families in the Parish and to start to build relationships with these families. There's a good Messy Church website if you want to learn more about it in the meantime (see below).

All this can only develop through working together and focusing on what God wants us to do as a congregation, as a group of Christ's followers in this place and what God wants to do with each one of us. As we look to our future here, we should always be aware that our calling is not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12). We must continually focus on God the Father, reaching out to Him in prayer and seeing how the richness of 150 years of service in our building might assist us in going forward in this parish.

There is much to do but through prayer and worship we can and will know God's will for us as He builds His Kingdom here.

With every blessing

Dave

<http://www.messychurch.org.uk>

Session Visits to Organisations

Guild / After Eights	D. Johnson & Mrs. V. Coltart
K Max and J Max	Miss J. Marchbank & R. Fraser
Good Companions	J. Love
Scouts / Cub Scouts / Beaver Colony	R. Braidwood & G.D. Little
Guides / Brownie Guides	Mrs. F. Saddington & Mrs. J. Wood
Badminton Clubs	D. McLaren

Fabric

The Fabric Convener and committee have presented the Deacons' Court with a proposed programme for the year ahead which has been agreed by the Deacons' Court.

The programme includes the completion of plumbing and other minor items which are to be carried out at the Manse (carried over from last year's programme), upgrading of the sound system in the Church (incorporating the induction loop), annual servicing of boilers at the Manse and the Church, PAT testing of any Portable Electrical Appliances, installation of 'weep' holes at the Rosemount Street retaining wall, redecoration of parts of the Church Halls and Manse as part of our planned programme and a contingency sum for the inevitable small repairs and unforeseen emergencies.

The main annual inspection is usually carried out towards the end of May.

D. C.

Fabric Appeal Boxes

The Finance Committee wish to remind all members that the Fabric Appeal Boxes realise extra income for the church every year. These boxes are collected and distributed through the elders' visits, with the next collection being in August/September. The boxes allow you to save whatever size of loose change you want, but it all adds up to help us to keep the Fabric of the church in good condition.

Letter of Thanks

Following on from the presentation to Rev. Liz Mack on Sunday 19th April, we received this letter of thanks. To the congregation she writes:-

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Congregation for their unbelievably generous gift to me on Sunday. It really overwhelmed me and I will think carefully what to do with it. I do hope to be in the Congregation most weeks thereafter but I don't want the time to pass without expressing my huge thanks to all who contributed."

Liz

Book Trolley

Since 2007, our Church has been supporting the community of Bondo in north west Kenya. This is a rural area relying on agriculture and fishing as Lake Victoria is adjacent to much of the community. We have provided

advice and financial aid to enable them to construct a new school, a small Church, deep wells, toilets and start numerous small enterprises. In the words of Winnie Owuor, the chairperson of the local charity they have established, they now have HOPE and are able to plan for the future.

The World Church Team has, over the past years, encouraged our parishioners and the community to assist us in providing for the folk in Bondo and we have been pleased by the response and especially appreciative of those among us who enable us to send £250 every month to help feed the many orphans whose parents have died from HIV.

The WCT has introduced several initiatives to raise funds for our Bondo Project and the Book Trolley has been on the go now for several months. We are indebted to the many supporters who have brought along books for sale and the proceeds are helping to sustain our commitment to supporting the Bondo community.

Rosemary and I have seen the changes that Max West has enabled this community to undertake and, despite the problems, the children always seem to be smiling. The WCT wishes to thank everyone who contributes to our Church Project in Kenya.

I. S.

Social Group

A date for your diary – on Saturday 5th September, from 7pm to 10pm, a Ceilidh will be held in the Main Hall. Please come along and enjoy some dancing, or just listen to the music. Refreshments will be served.

J. M.

Maxwelltown West Church History - Ministers of our Church

The Third Minister of our Church (1884-1890) was The Rev. Frank Rae

Frank Rae was born in 1856 in Anderston, Glasgow, the second son of Matthew and Henrietta Rae. In 1871 Frank, aged 16, was working as a stockbrokers' clerk and still living with his family in Glasgow. By 1881 the family was living in Newington, Midlothian and Frank, aged 26, was a divinity student in New College, Edinburgh.

Frank was working as a probationer in Edinburgh when he received a call, which he accepted, from Maxwelltown Free Church. The call was sustained by the Presbytery on 24th December 1883. An account of the Ordination and Induction in 1884 reported a large attendance in "the handsome and spacious edifice of Maxwelltown Free Church," this before the installation of the unseemly organ pipes.

The Rev. Frank Rae started work in a parish described as "almost rural, but with the fortunate composition of business and professional men, of farmers and other country folk making a happy community." This description 'rural' of Maxwelltown shows a great change from earlier times when it was described as one of the most lawless places in the UK. Frank Rae gained a reputation as a brilliant, cultured and eloquent preacher. During his short time in Dumfries, not only did he establish himself as a parish minister, but he met and married his wife. On 15th July 1890, aged 34, he married Elizabeth A. Barbour, aged 22, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Barbour. The wedding took place in Belmont, the Barbour Home in Troqueer. The wedding was conducted by David Ogilvy minister of the Free Church Dalbeattie.

Frank and Elizabeth left Dumfries immediately after their wedding when Frank took up the position as minister of the Free Church in Uddingston. The family set up home in Glasgow Road, Bothwell and on the 10th July 1892 their first son Matthew was born. On 21st June 1898 their second son Robert Barbour Rae was born. Frank Rae settled to life in a parish in a busy industrial area where coal mining and steelmaking were the main industries - a far cry from Maxwelltown.

In 1902 Rev. Frank Rae journeyed to Canada on the Tunisian to visit, and by 1906 the Rae family had left Uddingston and settled in Unionville, Ontario, where Frank was Minister of the Presbyterian Church. Frank stayed as minister until the Canadian churches united to form The United Church of Canada in 1925, when, aged 69, he retired.

Rev Frank Rae was the moderator of Toronto Presbytery in 1915.

In 1914 Matthew Rae, aged 22, a surveyor, enlisted in the 4th Regiment of the Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was taken prisoner in June 1916. Matthew died in a prisoner of war camp in 1917, aged 24. Matthew is commemorated in Plot A56 Kortrijk (St. Jan) Communal Cemetery, Belgium. He was awarded the 14/15 Star. The Town of Unionville named a park "Matthew Rae Park" in his memory. In 1923 Robert Rae, aged 25, married Jean Marie Davidson, aged 22, in Toronto, York, Ontario, Canada.

The family are buried in St Johns 5th Line Church Cemetery, York, Toronto. Frank Rae died aged 88 in 1942. Elizabeth Barbour died aged 86 in 1954. Robert Rae died aged 73 in 1971. Jean Marie Davidson died aged 92 in 1991. B. W.

The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present 'Seven Wonders of the World.' Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids.
2. Taj Mahal.
3. Grand Canyon.
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building.
6. St Peter's Basilica.
7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noticed that one student had not finished her paper yet, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there are so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated and then read:-

I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. To see.
2. To hear.
3. To touch.
4. To taste.
5. To feel.
6. To laugh.
7. To love.

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

(From Network, published by the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. June 2005.)

Handed in by I. S.

Events in June

Guild

Guild "Let's Celebrate" Songs of Praise at Tinwald Church on **Wednesday 3rd June**, 7pm for 7.30pm. Everyone interested will be very welcome.

Contact for lift – E. R.

Family Barbecue

There is to be the re introduction of the family barbecue to be held on **Saturday 14th June**, after the prize giving, at 12.15pm, straight after the service. Dave Sutherland has kindly offered the Manse garden.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

After 8's

The After 8's Group have enjoyed their recent meetings with a good attendance. In February we learnt all about South West Scotland R.N.R., a charity which brings injured combatants to Dumfries & Galloway in a private home in Carsethorn to help them to recover from their injuries and experiences of war.

March welcomed visiting speaker Keith Muir who told us all about the Galloway Dark Skies. Galloway Forest Park is one of the darkest places in Scotland, making it a brilliant place to enjoy the stars and he gave us a fascinating account of how light and dark can affect star-gazing and we looked at photographs of planets and learnt about the galaxy beyond.

April's meeting, the last of the session is one based on "South Pacific". Rosemary Slack will show us slides and we hope to enjoy a buffet meal by Linda McTurk to create a real flavour for the evening.

J. W.

Badminton Club

At the AGM of the Badminton Club in October 2014, it was decided that an annual pairs' competition should be held in memory of Ian Wilson who had sadly died during the break over the summer. Ian had been instrumental in reforming the club in 1980 and had been its President for many years. Ian was held in high regard by club members, not only for his skills as a badminton and table tennis player, but also for his unfailing courtesy and encouragement to everyone.

This new competition for the Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy was played on Tuesday 25th February 2015. Eight pairs competed and the winners were L. Martin and J. Marchbank.

During the season, club members and friends also went to Carlisle twice to play ten pin bowling and the annual dinner was held at the Manor House Hotel, Torthorwald. The season closed at the end of April and the new season will start on the first Tuesday in September. New members are always welcome.

J. M.

Brownies

In February we celebrated 70 years of Brownies at Maxwelltown West. To mark the occasion the Brownies took part in the special Thinking Day Church service. The girls and the leaders also enjoyed a celebration meal at the Pizzeria restaurant.

We have received about 40 postcards so far from ex Max West Brownies and make a final request for more to be sent to help the girls achieve their target of 100. We have learned Miss Law was the first Leader in 1945 and have received a postcard from a Brownie of 1946 whose Leader was Miss Morley. B. Wilson is looking for any old Brownie photographs and researching our history.

In March, our two youngest girls made their Brownie Promise and then cut our special birthday cake made by our talented treasurer, Sandra.

At the annual review of Dumfriesshire Girlguiding, the Unit team was presented with the President's Award. This is presented annually to a Unit whose programme meets various Guiding criteria.

The Brownies enjoyed taking part in the Country Dance and Music Festivals in March and were pleased to be awarded two distinction certificates and trophies for their singing game and campfire songs. We will have a number of girls who will be moving on from Brownies soon, so if you know of anyone interested in starting Brownies, please get in touch.
(See photos on back cover.)

J.McE., Brownie Leader

Good Companions

We have now almost completed our varied Spring Session, which included a visit to Roseland for an Easter Communion service. Hopefully we will meet up again in late September – watch this space! Anyone interested in joining us please have a word with me, S. H.

Scouts

All the sections are doing well, although if you know of any young boys or girls who wish to become scouts, then please let me, H. MacD. S. S., or D. MacP know.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July 5th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. P. McKenzie
12th	Miss Biggar	VACANT
19th	VACANT	Mrs. Goodwin
26th	Mrs. N. McCubbin	Mrs. L. Taylor
August 2nd	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. Adamson
9th	Mrs. A. Howitt	Mrs. D. McWhirter
16th	Mrs. E. Campbell	Miss. Bryden
23rd	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
30th	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. Whipp
September 6th	Mrs. Stockdale	Mrs. J. MoffAt
13th	Mrs. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
23rd	VACANT	Miss M. Gemmill
30th	Mrs. E. Riddick	Mrs. L. Archibald

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

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls! Well, we have been busy over the last couple of months looking at the bright and beautiful things in our world. We also have been focusing on the importance of prayer and learning about our 'Lord's Prayer' as there are many younger members of our Sunday Club who are still learning this prayer. Well done too, on the beautiful teapot cards you all made for Mothers' Day. I'm sure all the lovely ladies within our church appreciated all your hard work.

This month on the run up to prize giving on 14th June and the last day of this term, we have been focusing on the story of 'Samson', taken from Judges, Vs 13-16 and we particularly are looking at strength and our belief in ourselves. We will be doing loads of fun activities around strength.

The Tree and the Herb

Once there was a proud tree in the forest. He was tall and strong. Next to the tree there lived a small herb. Every day the tree said "I am handsome and strong. No one can defeat me!" Hearing this, the herb would say "Dear friend, too much pride is very harmful. Even the strong will fall one day".

The tree ignored the herb's words and continued to praise himself. Even as the strong winds blew, he stood firmly. When it rained, he stood strong by spreading his leaves. At the same time, the little herb bowed low. The tree made fun of the herb saying that he was too weak.

One day there was a huge storm in the forest. The little herb bowed down low as usual to protect himself. The tree however did not want to bow, believing himself to be unbeatable. The storm kept getting stronger and the tree could no longer bear it. He felt his roots dislodge and his strength give way. He fell down with a large CRASH! When everything had settled the little herb looked across at the fallen proud tree with sadness in his heart.

It is often difficult for us not to be boastful and look down on others. The bible tells us that it is better to be humble in God's eyes so we must try really hard and be grateful for the gifts and talents God has given us, rather than boastful about what we can do that others cannot.

Activity: In the scenarios below are the boys and girls being **boastful** or **humble**?

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Jimmy got an 'A' in his maths test at school. He rushed home and thanked his Mum very much for helping him study the night before. | Boastful | Humble |
| 2. Mary got a beautiful new dress. She thought it made her look much prettier than the other girls in her class and told them so. | Boastful | Humble |

Remember and invite your friends to come along to your Sunday Club with you. They will be made very welcome. If you need any further information you can contact Davie or me. Thanks. D.McL. ☺

Samson and Delilah Word Anagram

Unscramble the following letters to find the correct words from our story:

Eopprsu_____

aelnstt_____

Aeeiilrsst_____

aegprs_____

Gnorst_____

emnoy_____

Ceerst_____

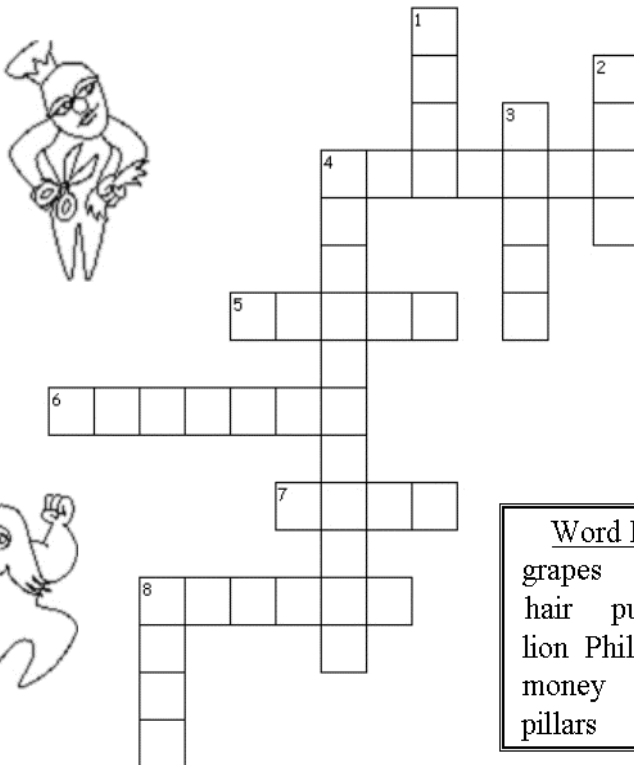
ahir_____

Ciorssss_____

ehiilnpsst_____

Did you struggle? I will give you the answers at Sunday Club 😊

Samson & Delilah Crossword



Word List:

grapes grow
hair purpose
lion Philistines
money rules
pillars tied

Across

- Samson wasn't perfect but God still gave him a ____ to fulfill.
- Samson had to follow 3 specific ____ given from God before he was born.
- Samson was tied to two of these and brought them down on himself and the Philistines.
- Because of Samson's special strength he was able to kill this animal with his bare hands.
- Samson wasn't allowed to eat or drink anything made from this fruit.

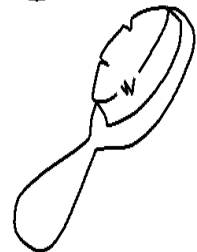
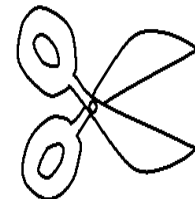
Down

- Samson's secret strength really came from God but he only had strength if he didn't cut this.
- Delilah did this to Samson's hands when he was sleeping to see if she knew the secret.
- Delilah tried to trick Samson in giving up his secret so she could get some of this.
- God chose Samson to free the Israelites from these people.
- The Philistines captured Samson but his hair started to ____ and he got his strength back.

Samson & Delilah Word Search

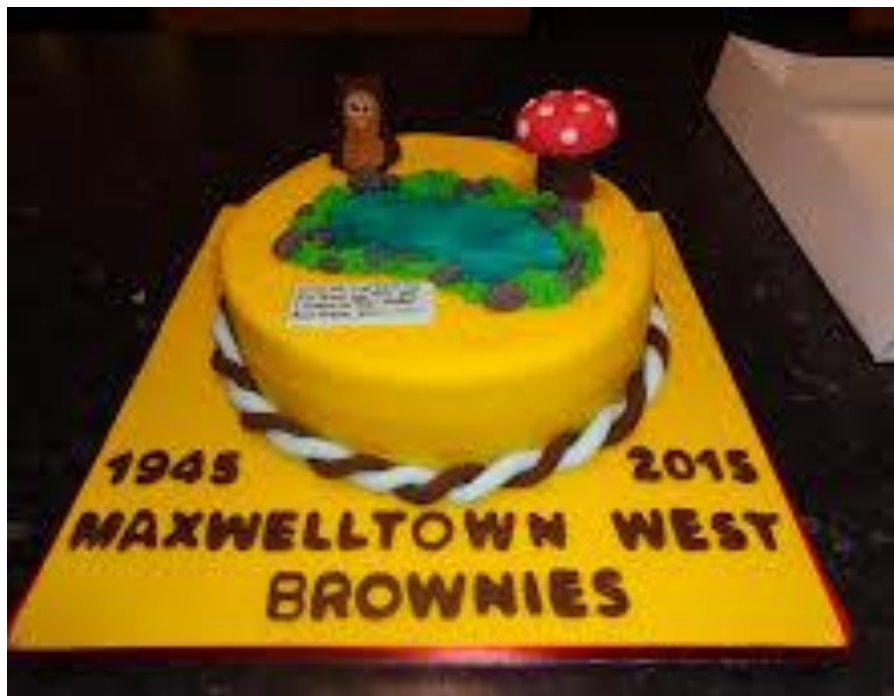
S W O V F S T I E D J K F T D
R U L E S B E S C U E W S S D
H A I R V P X T H P D O E R P
S E N I T S I L I H P R P O U
S T N E L A T L S L U G A S R
S E C R E T Y B L T E T R S P
E N E M I E S E P A R A G I O
S T F I G S V A N I R O R C S
E E R F B R C A C O U S N S E
N O I L T M H K S W M H W G I

capture
enemies
free
gifts
grapes
grow
hair
Israelites
lion
money
Philistines



pillars
purpose
rules
save
scissors
secret
strong
talents
tied
trick
vows

Brownie Photos



Brownie birthday cake



President's Award

Memorial to Rev. Frank Rae



FRANK RAE
St. John's 5th Line Church+ Cemetery
York (incl. Toronto) Co./Reg./Dist., Ontario