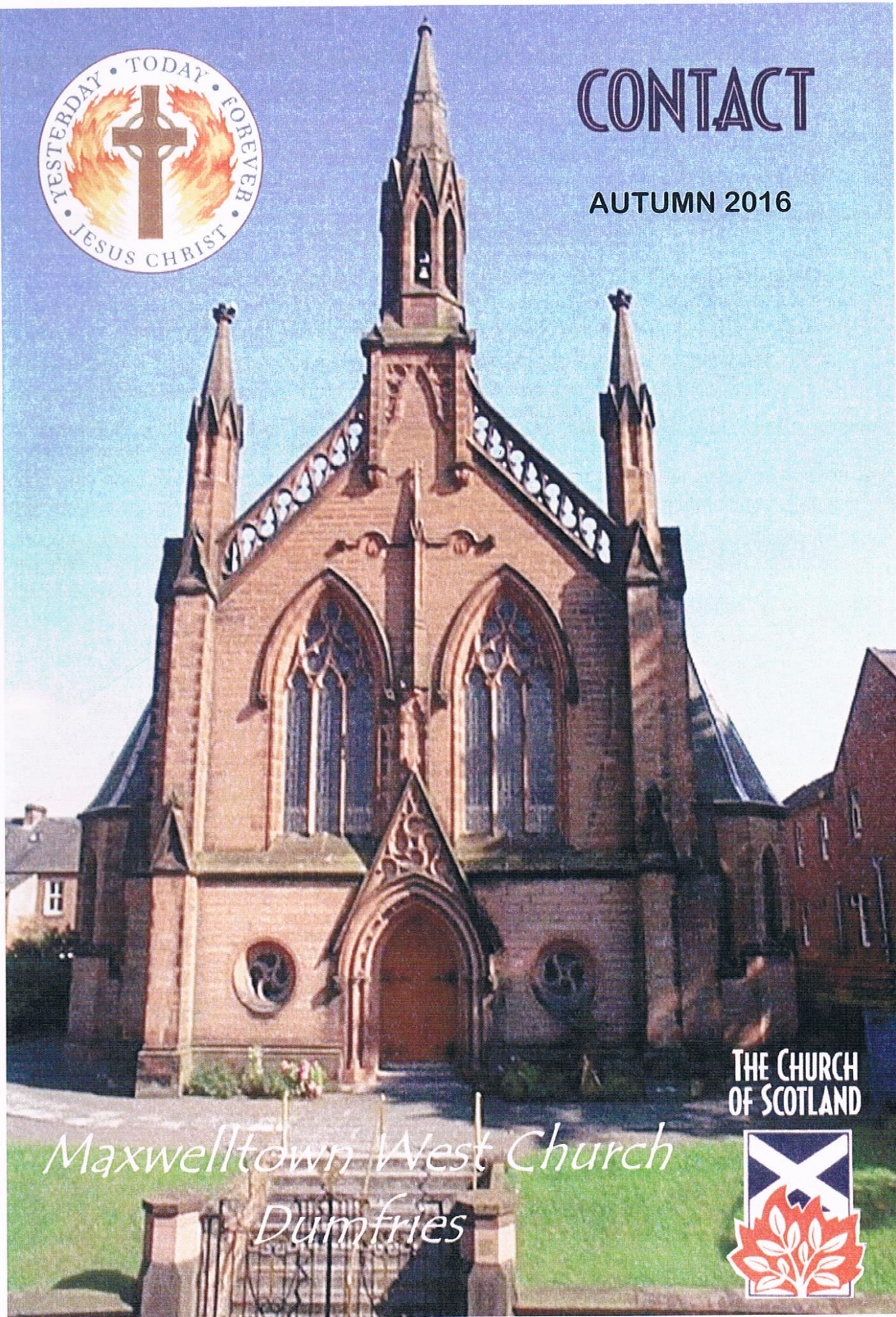


CONTACT

AUTUMN 2016



*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: 4th 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. D Crossan, 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

15th June: Mrs. Nina Galbraith, Dumfries

26th June: Miss Joyce McMurdo, Dumfries

27th June: Miss Sylvia Byres, Dumfries

7th July: Mrs. Avril Marriott, Dumfries

18th July: Mrs. Elizabeth MacDonald, Dumfries

Transfer Certificate Out

Mrs. Rosemary Osborne, 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 disciples' encounter with Jesus as they walked along the road to Emmaus reveals a number of different things for us. Firstly the disciples were downbeat and maybe disillusioned; they had seen their Teacher and Leader die on the Cross and for them it seemed all over with nothing to do but to go back to where they had excitedly left to follow Jesus. For them, everything had changed and then had been cruelly snatched away from them as Jesus hung on that cross.

Secondly though, for us as it was for them, this encounter begins a promise of hope in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. That promise includes eternal life and forgiveness of sin. We can be, and are, new every morning through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, should we just respond to God's saving grace: "repent and believe in the Good News." (Mark 1:15)

As the disciples walked, even as they walked away, God revealed Himself to these two disciples through Jesus. But it was in the familiar that they recognised Jesus; they invited this traveller to stay and eat with them at the end of the day. Recognition dawned as they watched Jesus take bread, give thanks and break it. And in that moment Jesus vanished from sight. The two disciples returned to Jerusalem to declare that they too had seen Jesus.

These two disciples were on a road remembering, a road taking them away from all that had been going on and consigning everything Jesus had done to some period of time. As they reflected on the journey, Jesus engaged them in discussion and it was after His revelation that they, like the other disciples, began to realise that this was not the end of a story but the opening of a new chapter - a time when Jesus had brought eternal life and forgiveness of sins: it was a time when Jesus had brought God's love, grace and mercy to the world and redeemed His people.

Fast forward to 2016 and we find ourselves on a road remembering and reflecting on the story of what has been in the life of Maxwelltown West Church. As we celebrate that history of God's faithfulness we can also explore how God is revealing Himself to us today.

Take the opportunity of a revised Alpha course at Max West between October and December. It doesn't matter if you've done it before, you'll not have done it with everyone else who will be there. Join us as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church building in the Emily Smith Concert or the Alistair McDonald Concert, or come to the Edenbank Hotel and listen to the Very Rev. John Chalmers speak about issues of membership in the Church of Scotland. And join us at 3pm on Sunday 20th November 2016 as we worship God and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the building with the Right Rev. Russell Barr, Moderator to the General Assembly.

We'll remember all that has been, especially the ministry of Rev. Gordon Savage, and look to the future with Path of Renewal. There's all this and more...

Every Blessing, Dave

Alpha Course

There is a new Alpha Course starting on 7th October 2016 at Maxwelltown West Church.

It will run for 10 weeks, every Friday evening from 6.30-8.30pm. There will be 20 places available. I know many people may have already taken part in something similar, but this is an all new exciting course and many churches in Dumfries are also taking part in it, so make sure you don't miss out and book your place as soon as possible. Contact Rev. Dave Sutherland or L Hyles for more information and details.

Fellowship Dinner 24th September 2016

Come and join us at the Edenbank Hotel, Laurieknowe, Dumfries on Saturday 24th September 2016, at 7pm. The Very Rev. John Chalmers, Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland, will be speaking after dinner about issues of membership for the future of the Church of Scotland. This is part of the challenge we face here at Max West on our Path of Renewal and something raised by Rev. Gordon Savage in his study leave report in 2005.

Limited spaces. Three course dinner: £25.

See Dave Sutherland for further information or to reserve a space.

Healing Meetings

John Mellor, one of Australia's most respected healing ministers is coming to Dalry Church. He travels the world praying in the name of Jesus for healing and miracles in people's lives. John has seen every conceivable ailment healed including physical, emotional and mental conditions. He regularly sees blind eyes open, the deaf hear, the lame walk and incurable diseases disappear. Everyone is welcome to attend and receive prayer.

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August 2016: Dalry Church (St. John's Town of Dalry) 4pm

150th Anniversary Celebrations

Containers are now in the Simmons Hall for receiving suitable foodstuffs for the First Base Agency Foodbank and woollen gloves, scarves, mitts and hats for the Salvation Army.

Also in connection with the 150th Anniversary Celebrations there will be:

A **Quiz Night with an Italian Feel**, when a 3-course meal will be served after a fun quiz on **Friday 2nd September**.

An **Emily Smith Concert**, to take place at the Church on **Friday 30th September** at 7.30pm (see following article) and

An **Alastair McDonald Concert** on **Thursday 13th October**, in the Church Hall at 7pm.

PLEASE ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR DIARIES.

An Evening with Emily Smith and Jamie McClennan

Emily Smith, from Thornhill, is both nationally and internationally acclaimed for her singing and songwriting. Her career started when she won the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year award in 2002, followed by winning the USA Songwriting Competition in 2005 and being named as the Scots Singer of the Year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards in 2012 and 2014.

Emily has been variously described as "Bursting with joy and talent", "One of Scotland's most distinctive voices" and "The sincerity in Emily's singing is simply entrancing". If you have heard Emily sing before you will not have to be persuaded to come along. If you have not, you cannot miss this concert. She teamed up with her musical partner, New Zealand born Jamie McClennan, in 2012. He is a consummate musician playing guitar, fiddle and supporting Emily with his backing vocals. Together they make a wonderful duo and delight audiences wherever they go with their selection of traditional and modern folk music, not to mention Emily's own compositions. It is hoped that they will be joined on stage by one or two young musicians from the area, including Izzy Trower, who plays the most delightful classical violin solos and is now varying her range of music to include both Scottish and modern music.

It is anticipated that this will prove to be one of the most musically entertaining evenings of the year which will enthral the audience, whatever their particular musical taste. It is an evening not to miss, so make sure that you secure your tickets quickly. Tickets (priced at £15 including coffee, tea) are on sale from church members or contact J and D Wood. Tickets will also be available on the web and the contact for this will be supplied in due course.

D W

'BIBLEWORLD' is a mobile classroom helping school children to explore the Christian faith. The content of the programme is aligned with Scottish educational requirements and will help any school that participates to fulfil elements of the Scottish National Curriculum for P5-S1 pupils.

The opinion is that September 2016 would be the best time to have BIBLEWORLD as it gives enough time for schools to include it in their yearly plan for 2016/17. St Joseph's College has kindly agreed in principle to host the mobile classroom in their grounds.

ALL schools in Dumfries and the surrounding area will be invited to participate. The lessons, which last for approximately 75 minutes, will be offered to all schools on a first come first served basis. BIBLEWORLD would also be made available in the evenings for parental visits and for church visits.

BIBLEWORLD comes with a Scottish Bible Society Staff Member who would provide overall leadership during the two weeks; however, volunteers from the churches would also be needed. They would go through a short training session to assist in delivering the lessons. Also volunteer hosts are required to provide accommodation and/or meals for the Bible Society's Staff Member from Sunday to Friday afternoon each week. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact either J Love or the minister (01387 247538).

All churches in Dumfries and the surrounding area are being given the opportunity to participate in bringing BIBLEWORLD to Dumfries and the cost will be shared among the member churches of DCN. At a recent sponsored walk, Maxwelltown West raised £800 towards the cost.

J L

A Favourite Hymn and its Writer

A hymn of which I'm becoming increasingly fond is entitled "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" and is found as Hymn 485 in our Ch4. Only recently however, have I sought out many biographical details of its writer – John Greenleaf Whittier, the Quaker poet. He was very much a New Englander and a bachelor, spending most of his long life in, or based in, Massachusetts, dying in neighbouring New Hampshire, but buried in his native state. Of humble origins, he was born in an ordinary homestead, a family farm, though not a very successful one. He was never in really good health and one aspect, colour blindness, was a considerable inconvenience to him. Many of the more physical elements in farm work had to be shared with others.

While still young he was a slipper maker and at one point he became a cobbler. By his mid twenties however, after very little formal education as a boy, he attended his local academy, which was barely affordable, but he must have studied hard to shine in high school education for two terms. Capable and intelligent, he was greatly helped and encouraged by a number of teachers and he was paid briefly to teach in a one room schoolhouse near his home. Soon he was to start writing verse, inspired by a "Scotch pedlar" who introduced him to Robert Burns. Immediately impressed, Whittier wrote many poems including at least two about Burns as well as trying to write like Walter Scott and Byron.

He became more and more interested in politics and showed promise as a journalist. Unfortunately he suffered from a nervous breakdown, but fought back to reasonable health, while becoming intensely occupied with becoming a very passionate abolitionist, one of the founder members of the American Anti-Slavery Society. From 1835-1838 he was particularly busy in this field, attributing his enthusiasm to his Quakerism which his father passed on to him. The Whittiers had emigrated from England to New England in 1638 but were originally of Huguenot stock, which was significant in moulding him.

What of the hymn now that I can visualise more details of the man who wrote it? By 1865 he had the great satisfaction of knowing that slavery had ended in America and a year later, Harvard University granted him an

honorary LLD. Belated though this happened, it was very popular indeed, particularly since Longfellow and other literary contemporaries had academic backgrounds, unlike John.

I was delighted to find that the poet has an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, with verse one of our hymn being a quote.

Rather paradoxically our hymn forms the latter part of one of his poems which has a most unpromising title, "The Brewing of Soma". Soma is a plant from which a highly intoxicating drink could be made and Whittier speaks in the poem of early Indians seeking to get nearer their "Deity" by drinking soma along with milk and honey. The predictable result was "devilish dance" while "the soma's sacred madness went a storm of drunken joy." Finally the hymn of stanzas 12-17 provides a total contrast. The prayer-like words are tranquil and serene, reflecting the writer's faith and how appropriate is the final line of the final stanza – "O still small voice of calm!"

W O

Messy Church News

Anita Stott and I were privileged to attend the first ever International Messy Church Conference at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire on the 16th - 18th May 2016. Delegates gathered from all over the world.

The Conference began with an inspirational message of welcome, thanks and hope for the future from Archbishop Justin Welby via a web link. He talked at length about the growth in development of Messy Church in the UK and throughout the world.

So, what is Messy Church?

Messy Church is a fresh expression of church that is Christ-centred in its approach, promoting inclusive Christian values and hospitality within an Intergenerational Community. Messy Church offers an alternative to Sunday worship for individuals and families who wish to worship together in a more creative, less structured way.

Messy Church promotes the following principles:

- To provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together.
- To help people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other.
- To help people have fun together.
- To give people a chance to express their God-given creativity.
- To invite people into an experience of Christian community.
- To introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship.

An example of a Messy Church Session

Welcome- Juice/biscuit Coffee/tea
Craft Tables
Songs, Prayers, Bible story/DVD
Meal together

Lucy Moore founded Messy Church in Portsmouth in 2004. Today, there are 3,300 Messy Churches around the world. Messy Church ministry continues to grow offering an alternative way for families and communities to worship together through Fun, Food, Friendship and Faith.

Maxwelltown West Messy Church will have a stand at the Dumfries & Lockerbie Agricultural Show, Park Farm, on Saturday 6th August 2016.

Messy Church takes place in Maxwelltown West Church Hall from 4.30-7pm on the following Saturdays:
3rd September, 1st October, 29th October, 26th November and 17th December.

Messy Church is for everyone!

Please come along and spend some time with us. You may enjoy it!

J H

Baby & Toddler Group

Maxwelltown West has been approached by a number of local parents who wish to start a Baby & Toddler Group on a Tuesday morning in the Church Hall (school term time only).

Following the approval and blessings of the Deacons' Court, the group will commence on Tuesday 23rd August in the Centenary Hall from 9.15am-11.15am.

Do you know any Parents, Grandparents or Carers of a Baby, Toddler or Pre-school child who would like to come along for Coffee, Cake and Chat? We offer an inclusive group, with a warm welcome to everyone.

Contact J Hastie or L Anderson.

Donations of Baby and Pre-school Children's Toys would be appreciated.

Thank you.

J H

Birthday Ceilidh

A huge thank you to everyone who attended or contributed towards Mum's 60th Birthday Ceilidh. The evening was a great success and we raised over £1540 on the night to go towards the 150th Anniversary Celebrations and Dad's memorial cross.

It was great to see so many family and friends gathered together. Judging by the photos a good time was had by all!

D S

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Go in Joy - the Guild theme for this session

I do hope you have had a good summer and experienced lots of joy with family, friends and some outings too, hopefully in sunshine.

The Scripture says "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10). Joy is an inner confidence knowing that God is there so nothing to fear for the future.

Lots of new and exciting things are happening in the Guild, both nationally and at home, with many new people and new ideas to look forward to. We even have a Guild tartan launched this year. The National Guild website - guild@churchofscotland.org.uk has lots of interesting information.

Next session will soon be with us, starting with a Rededication Service on Sunday 2nd October, followed by our first meeting on Tuesday 4th October, which is a Musical Evening. The second meeting on 1st November will be a talk on The War Graves.

Our Guild Project this year is "Feed the Minds" - rather a challenging subject to help eradicate FGM (female genital mutilation) which is illegal but still continues in many parts of the world including Europe and Scotland. The local charity we have chosen for this year is Parkinson's.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Just find out more in Church Intimations, website - www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk and in the press or from any of our members.

A D, Guild Convener

After Eights

The After Eight new session will start one week earlier than usual, on 22nd September.

Good Companions

Our Autumn Session begins on Wednesday, 28th September 2016 at 2.00 pm, meeting in the Committee Room. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due at this time.

Advance notice to members of the congregation – we will be going to Roseland on Wednesday 12th October at 2.00 pm for a Harvest Service, and would welcome people joining us to swell the numbers.

We could also do with our membership augmenting – we are getting very thin on the ground but want to keep going, so if any ladies or gentlemen fancy a nice little get-together every other Wednesday, come and join us for a cuppa and a blether.

S H

Scouts

At the end of the session barbecue at Mabie Forest, we thanked and said goodbye to our secretary, I Skilling, and our treasurer, G Abrines. They were thanked for their work and support over the years. They were presented with Scout Thank You badges. Our new secretary is Mrs. K Hume. The new treasurer is Mrs. S Fyall. We now have a chairman again in the name of Rev. David Sutherland.

The scouts had a camp to St Anne's in June and the Cubs will have a District camp at Drumlanrig Castle over the weekend 23-25th September. This is to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Cubs.

My thanks go to the leaders in their various sections.

Scouts: Stewart, Douglas and Allan. Cubs: John. Beavers: Lynn, Carolyn and Helen.

I have been speaking recently to another potential Cub assistant leader. Hopefully that will help John. H MacD

Brownies

The Brownies enjoyed a varied programme in the term from Easter to summer.

We celebrated the 90th birthday of HM the Queen and our evening included learning about the Queen, making tiaras and eating jam tarts!

The Brownies created coin trails and raised £90 which they chose to donate to the Princess Trust (helps provide wigs to children who have suffered hair loss due to illness) and also to Children in Need "Be a star" appeal. Also we were pleased to be able to send some money to Bondo to help Sharon receive her medication and good food. We had visits from the Practice Manager of a local veterinary centre and a Dental Education Officer to tell us about their work.

The Brownies enjoyed a walk in Mabie Forest with a treasure trail when the weather was much better than the forecast. The sun also shone for our end of term barbeque, held in the Manse garden. Thanks again to Rev. Dave for allowing us to use the garden and also to Mr. D Johnson for being in charge of cooking the sausages and burgers.

We are looking to recruit a new adult helper, so if you would like more details, please get in touch or register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls. I hope you are having a fantastic summer with plenty of fun and frolics. We finished last session on a positive, with your prize giving service, where all boys and girls were awarded for their attendance over the last year. A special mention must go to Georgia, Blair and Daisy who had exceptionally regular attendance across the year and also to Cathra and Kama who successfully completed their time at Sunday Club. Good luck in your future ventures girls ☺. We also showed our appreciation to Bob Wilson who we really couldn't do without. Thanks again Bob.... You're a star!

This edition I thought we could look at an unfortunately regular topic in all walks of life; that of bullying. Bullying can take many forms such as name-calling, being picked on, physically beaten, emotionally being made to feel unworthy or through negative comments within online games and chat-sites which are becoming more and more prevalent nowadays when children use their electronic gadgets more and more. Hopefully none of you reading this will have been the target of such things or have bullied another boy or girl yourself, but you may have witnessed it in your schools or at home. Many boys and girls feel despair, misery, gloom, fear and low self-esteem as a result of being treated badly and it is important as Christians we do our best to help ourselves and others in the right way. So what can we do?

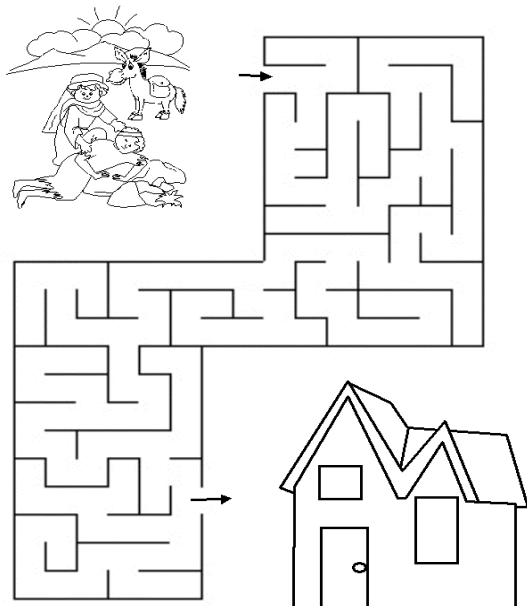
Mums and Dads might tell you to stand up for yourself and 'give as good as you get' and others will tell you to 'turn the other cheek' as per the bible reading (Matthew 5:39) but the bible also tells us; when Jesus was slapped in the face by the guard of the High Priest he confronted him by saying "If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" (John 18:19-23). Jesus defended himself with words and confronted the bully, demanding an answer to his unjust treatment.

Jesus does not want you to react to an insult with another insult but defend yourself in the right way. If you are not confident with words, then there are plenty of adults and children who can help you stop the bully in their tracks before things get any worse. Do not be afraid to tell someone of what is happening to you. This does not make you weak as it takes a strong person to speak up against the poor actions of others. Try not to get angry and lash out but instead let others help you become more assertive as this will gain you respect for the future.

And if you see any of your friends in trouble with a bully, do not walk on by. Remember the story of the Good Samaritan where so many people walked past someone who needed their help. Stay and help. Be a good friend. You can remind yourself about this story by looking up Luke, Chapter 10: Verses 25-37 in your bible and then try these puzzles.

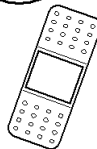
Good Samaritan Maze

Help the Samaritan find shelter for the hurt man.



Good Samaritan Word Search

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



bandage
beaten
compassion
good
help
ignored
inn
Jews
journey
live

love
money
neighbor
parable
passed
priest
robbers
Samaritan
thieves
three



Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Good Samaritan Anagram



beghinor _____

ejnoruy _____

bbeorry _____

deginor _____

aaaimnrst _____

deehlp _____

emnoy _____

acimnoopss _____

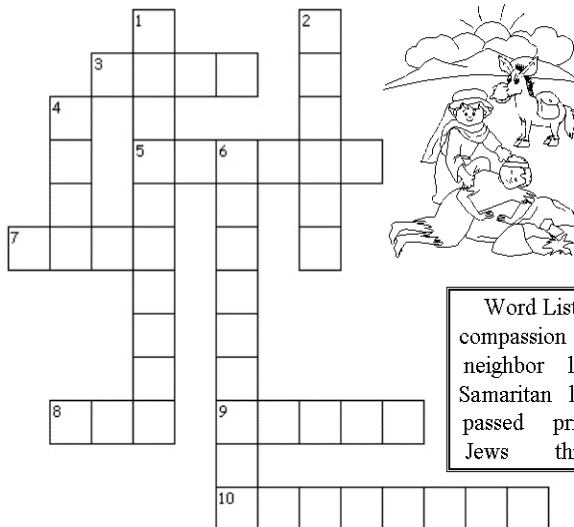
abeent _____

eehrt _____

I hope you enjoyed reading about the 'Good Samaritan' and were able to complete all the puzzles. Don't worry though if you missed any bits. I will give you the answers at Sunday Club on Sunday 4th September when I see you.

Perhaps too, you could think about why boys and girls bully others and what you think you could do in your life to help prevent it and become more assertive in your actions. We will discuss this at Sunday Club and you can share your views with the other children. Whenever you are in an uncomfortable situation remember and ask yourself "What would Jesus do?"

Good Samaritan Crossword



Davie and I look forward to seeing you all again, all relaxed and raring to go and hope you bring some of your friends or relatives with you to join in the fun if you get the chance. They will be made very welcome. If there are any queries you can contact either Davie or me. Thanks. Dawn ☺

Across

3. We are to ____ God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.
5. The man was beaten, yet people ____ the man without helping him.
7. These people did not get along with the Samaritans.
8. The Samaritan took the man to an ____ while he was getting better.
9. The number of thieves that robbed the man.
10. Jesus told this parable to answer the question, "Who is my ____?"

Down

1. We all should have this just like the Samaritan did.
2. This was the first person to pass by and not help.
4. Love God and your neighbor and Jesus said you will do this.
6. This was the only person to help the Jew who was hurt.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
October 2nd	Mrs. H. Cross	Mrs. L. Hyles
9th	Mrs. M. Allison	Mrs. O. Woods
16th	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
23rd	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. M. Carruthers
30th	Mrs. L. Hyles	VACANT
November 6th	Mrs. H. Johnson	VACANT
13th	Miss S. McDowell	Mrs. M. Coulson
20th	Mrs. B. Walker	Mrs. S. Robin
27th	Mrs. E. Shearer	Mrs. H. Cross
December 4th	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. E. Riddick
11th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. Cameron
18th	VACANT	Mrs. S. Brown
25th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	VACANT

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

Some Sunday Services for Your Diary

- 4th September:** 11am and 3pm: The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 19th September:** 11am: Presbytery Sunday: Rev. Fiona Wilson
- 25th September:** 11am: Harvest Thanksgiving: Rev. Dave Sutherland & the Very Rev. John Chalmers (Back to Church Sunday)
6.30pm Service of the ministry of healing: Rev. Dave Sutherland
- 2nd October:** 11am: Guild Dedication Service
- 16th October:** 11am: Family Service
- 30th October:** 6.30pm: Service of the ministry of healing: Rev. Dave Sutherland
- 13th November:** 10.45: Service of Remembrance (Back to Church Sunday)
- 20th November:** 11am: Followed by Congregational Meeting
3pm: 150th Anniversary Service: Right Rev. Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly
- 27th November:** 6.30pm: Service of the ministry of healing: Rev. Dave Sutherland