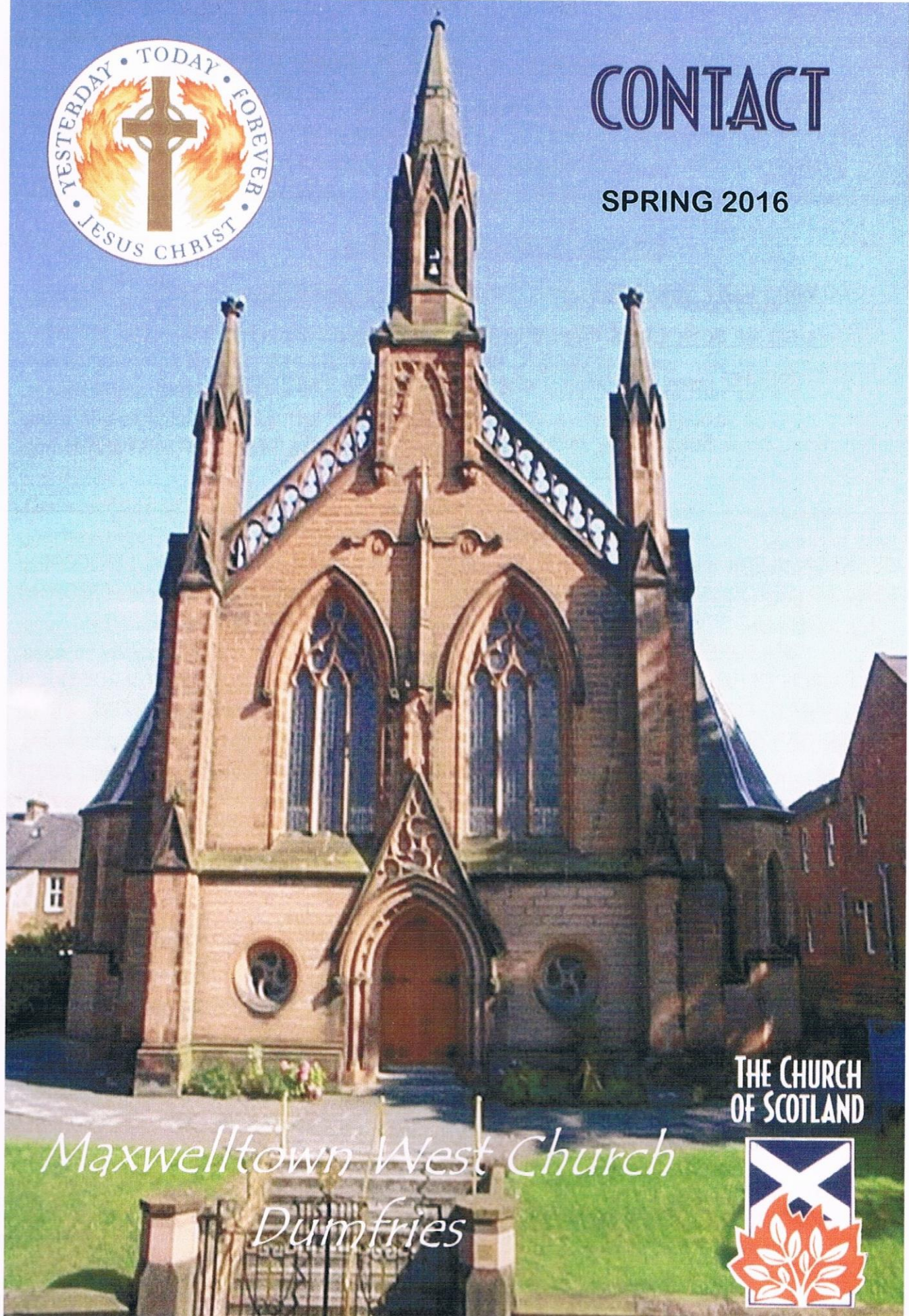


CONTACT

SPRING 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: 6th 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, 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: Mrs. L Hyles, Dumfries
FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

20th December: Cora MacLeod, daughter of Nina MacLeod

New Member by Profession of Faith

6th September: Miss K McLean, Dumfries

Deaths

1st September: Mrs. May Taylor, Dumfries

17th November: Mr. George Somerville, Dumfries

31st December: Mrs. Eleanor McLauchlan, Dumfries

24th January: Mrs. Mary Darroch, 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

We are the family of God in this place, in this parish. God Himself has called us together and called us to serve together, to make disciples of all and to baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We journey together now, but need to acknowledge that our pasts are different. God has brought us together here in this place and at this time, but the truth is that while our different journeys have all converged here, we “have not passed this way before.” (Joshua 3:4)

Our selection to be one of the pilot congregations for Path of Renewal sends us on a journey together to be His church family in this place, to connect with the people of the parish and to share God, His love, grace and mercy with them. God will transform us through renewal into discipleship, enabling us “to discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2) Our journey will take us to places not seen or known but we will not be alone or without guidance.

In Joshua, the people are told, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place, follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before.” (Joshua 3:3-4) As the people today, the family of God today here, we stand waiting, expectedly for God to lead us out into the parish to connect us with His people and the things He has been doing out there.

This is just one of the strands though; we celebrate 150 years of worshipping God in our Max West building. The things we do to celebrate will enable us to make connections and expand our territory and so we are uniquely placed to celebrate our past, consider our present and move forward into the future on a path of renewal.

There will be much more about Path of Renewal and our 150th Celebrations to come. It seems that this year will be full and exciting with plenty to see and do on a way on which we have not passed before.

With every blessing

Dave

Kirk Session

Since the last report, Session has held three ordinary meetings. At these, several items of regular business were transacted. Some of these items are worthy of note.

It was agreed that we celebrate the 150th anniversary of worship in Maxwelltown West Church.

Celebrations began on 5th July 2015 with a service of rededication to mark the laying of the foundation stone in 1865. This will be followed by a service on 20th November this year to mark the beginning of worship in Maxwelltown West. A small group was appointed and preparations are well in hand. The Moderator of the General Assembly at this time, Rev. Dr. Russell Barr, will conduct that service. It is

hoped to make a DVD of the service and it was also agreed to make a time capsule. We hope to have several events over the year and any suggestions for these should be given to Mr. Sutherland. The Path for Renewal Programme was considered by Session which agreed to proceed with an application. Two members from this programme later visited Session with a view to assessing our suitability for the task and subsequently we were notified of our selection for the programme. This has already started with the minister attending a conference in January.

In September, Derick Fraser resigned from the post of Roll Keeper and was replaced by Hamish MacDonald. We would like to thank Derick for his work over many years.

In the same month the Session Clerk intimated his intention to relinquish the post and in January, Session appointed Drew Crossan as the new Session Clerk. Drew will take up the post in March and does so with all our best wishes.

A Data Protection Policy has been produced and will occupy session in the coming months and will affect the congregation. More will be heard about it later.

T B Session Clerk

World Church Team – Alternative Christmas Gifts

Many thanks to everyone who generously donated towards our appeal for Christmas gifts to help Kenyan Education Projects. The sum of £1,000 will greatly help this year's funding in Mathia and Bondo.

John, on behalf of Rev. Harrison, sends greetings and best wishes for 2016 to Maxwelltown West Church members from the congregation of Mathia Church. Their students include special thanks for the help they receive.

Winnie and the community in Bondo are still progressing well with their little businesses. The new building extension provides space for classes up to Grade 5 and the building is also used for Sunday School. Our latest funding will provide the children with Christian books in their own language. The World Church Team is very grateful and humbled for the success in our two Kenyan projects through God's guidance and the continued support from our Church members. We wish you all a very healthy and happy 2016.

A D

Maxwelltown West 150th Birthday Wall Hanging

As part of the 150th birthday celebrations of our church, we have decided to create a wall hanging to be hung in our church buildings. Where exactly, is yet to be decided!

The hanging would represent three aspects of the church life - the past, the present and the future. The church at the present time would take up the majority of the work. In addition, as well as looking back in time, we would like the hanging to look forward and to depict what we would want for the future of the church.

It will consist of lots of individual fabric squares, 12 inches by 12 inches or a multiple of this if required! What we hope for is that each square will be designed and made by each of the organisations to reflect

the life of our present church family – from Sunday School to After Eights, Cubs to Badminton Club, Brownies to Elders, World Mission to the Guild....Flower Ministry to Deacons! And all those others not mentioned!

For the church of the past and the future, we would like individuals or groups to design and make a square which they would like to reflect the past and look forward to, for example, Messy Church and Path of Renewal.

In fact, anyone can make a square of their choice to become part of this legacy of such a special birthday! We are not looking for work by just those who are experienced in this field. The work of everyone will be welcome, irrespective of experience. Enthusiasm is the key criteria! And advice will be on hand if required!

A range of art practices can be used – embroidery, collage, felting, knitting, cross-stitch, quilting – whatever you wish.

We would like to have it completed and installed by the actual birthday of the church in November. In real terms, this means we would have to have all the pieces ready to be put together by August. And for the church organisations, this means they would have to be finished by May/June. A member of the organising team will be in touch with church organisations over the next few weeks to chat about the project and hand out a pack and information. If anyone would like to do an individual or group square, please get in touch with Julie.

This will be the birthday legacy of our present church family – a tangible reminder to decorate our church. Please be a part of it. (See back cover.)

Looking forward to hearing from you!!

J Smith, M Newlands and A Stott

Maxwelltown West Church Family

I recently attended a funeral where the deceased was survived by very little family. However, instead of the family being isolated or alone, they were surrounded by their large, extended family, the congregation of Maxwelltown West Church. The dictionary defines family as ‘group descended from a common ancestor’. How blessed are we to have the Lord as our ancestor and how proud am I to be part of His caring family.

V C

Blythswood Care Round South Scotland Truck

In case Maxwelltown West members are wondering what is happening with Blythswood:

This service has been cancelled since the end of December due to the cost of van and fuel. I spoke to them and they assured me they will still collect the shoeboxes in November as usual.

The nearest Blythswood Shop is Prestwick and they suggest we give our items locally.

The British Heart Foundation have a Free Collection in Dumfries:

Tel. 01387 424309 for furniture and electricals or 01387 424300 for other goods

A D

Maxwelltown West Church History-Ministers of our Church

The fifth Minister of our Church (1895-1903) Ronald George Macintyre, was born in Melbourne, Australia, the youngest in a family of five born to Angus Macintyre, a Roman Catholic and Catherine Cameron, a Presbyterian from Invernesshire, Scotland. When Angus, who was a grazier, died in 1864, Catherine moved with the family back home to Kilmallie, Argyllshire, where the family were brought up as Presbyterians. Ronald attended the public school in Fort William. The census for 1881 shows him, aged 17, living in Kilmallie with his mother. After leaving school in 1880 Ronald started studying law, working in a solicitor's office until 1883. In his teens he offered himself to the Free Church and started to study for the ministry at New College, Edinburgh. He graduated MA in 1886, BD in 1889, and DD in 1919. He was a student assistant at Edinburgh St Bernard's FC in 1886, licensed by the Presbytery of Abertarf in 1889 and assistant at Galashiels (1889). In 1890 he was ordained to St Andrews Birkenhead the Presbyterian Church of England.

In 1895 he was called by the Congregation of Maxwelltown Free Church, his induction taking place on 4th July 1895. On the 1st August 1895, aged 31, he married Cristina Cromb, a piano teacher, aged 29, in Edinburgh.

A Glasgow publication of the time described The Rev. Macintyre as possessing all the fervour of the younger Non-Conformist school. In his lecture, "The Sin and Sorrow of Dumfries", his description of what he observed in the town on a Saturday night was singularly lurid and resulted in many protests, but he continued to insist that intemperance is the chief cause of not only crime but also of poverty and misery from which the working classes suffer so much.

In 1896 the congregation voted 212-95 for the introduction of instrumental music and a Pipe Organ was purchased from Kilmarnock Church. The organ was installed, a new pulpit built and the Church redecorated by July 1897.

In 1896 the Minister founded a Band of Hope, a Christian Endeavour Society for young women and later a similar organisation for young men.

In November 1900 the Deacons' Court minute records that the Union of the Free and the United Presb. Churches had been consummated in Edinburgh. The name of the church would be The United Free Church of Scotland. This was the first step to union.

In April 1903 Ronald Macintyre announced from the pulpit that he had accepted a call to the charge in Woollera, Sidney, Australia. From the start of his training for the ministry he had always been attracted to the idea of a colonial ministry, and now that the call had come it was his duty to accept it.

On the 19th June 1903 the Rev. and Mrs. Macintyre sailed for Hobart, Australia on the S.S. Paparoa. When he arrived in Sidney he became minister of St Columba's Church Woollera. In 1909 he was appointed Professor of Theology at St Andrew's College where he was Chairman of the Scots College Council.

An astute politician, fund-raiser, theologian, writer and orator with a deep commitment to the Presbyterian Church, Ronald Macintyre was Convener of the Business Committee of the General Assembly of Australia for 40 years. From 1904 to 1909 he promoted the cause of "Australian ministers for an Australian Church".

From 1916 – 1918 he was Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. During his time as Moderator he was Chairman of the State Recruiting Committee and was awarded the CBE and, in 1928, the CMG for his work.

After the war Ronald worked tirelessly to establish a sound financial basis for union in the Church.

From 1927-34 he was M.D. of the Burnside Orphan Homes.

Cristina Macintyre died in September 1925. They had no children. In 1935 he married a widow, Alice Mary Parkinson. The couple retired to Springwood.

Ronald George Macintyre CBE, CMG, MA, BD, DD, died, aged 91, in 1954, and his wife Alice died in 1957.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

We wish all our members, both active and housebound, a very happy and healthy 2016. Sincere apologies for the absence of a report in the last issue of Contact, but as this is the first year we have had no designated Convenor, the omission was not noticed by the Leadership Team until it was too late to rectify.

So far this session, we have had good meetings with speakers on a variety of subjects and we are delighted to have one or two new members join us.

At the beginning of December, 22 of our members enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at the Edenbank, so a good time was had by all.

The speaker at our first meeting of this year was Colin Barbour, who gave a very interesting talk on “The History of Barbours”. On 6th February we held our annual “Project” Coffee Morning, with the proceeds going to this year’s chosen HAITI project.

The Leadership Team has decided to hold an Afternoon Cream Tea with possible floral demonstration in May/June, as part of the Church’s 150th Anniversary celebrations, so watch out for details of this. We are also hoping to put together a Cookbook of favourite recipes (any submissions will be gratefully received) and, if possible, this will be on sale towards the end of the year.

As most of you will now be aware, the Guild has put in place a “Prayer Shawl Ministry.” Anyone who can knit or crochet can make small shawls (or scarves for men) and after these have been blessed by the Minister, they are given to people who are ill, have been bereaved, or are undergoing very difficult circumstances, to let them know that they are being thought about and prayed for. If you know of anyone whom you would like to receive a shawl, please contact Eileen Riddick or myself. If anyone in the congregation would like to help by knitting or crocheting a shawl (or squares) or has any spare balls of wool, we would be pleased to have them.

Our pianist, Olive Geddes, is retiring in March at the end of our session and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to play for us at our meetings once a month. We take this opportunity to thank Olive for her many years of service to us and hope she will be able to relax and enjoy our meetings in the future.

Please come along and find out what makes the Guild so successful worldwide. You will be made most welcome.

M McL

Scouts

The last term saw the departure of two of our leaders. I must say thank you to Miss N Stitt for being one of the leaders of the Beaver section and to C Flint who was an assistant to J McNaught in the Cub section. They have done great work within the sections and with the group as a whole. Bruce and Joanne are going to help until Easter. Natalie also gained her Leaders Wood Badge before she left, along with B Carr and J McKinnell. Congratulations to all three of them.

I am delighted to welcome two new leaders though. Miss C Priestley is taking over as the leader of the Beaver section along with L McMurchie as her assistant. Also at Easter, I am hoping to receive two other leaders for the Beaver section – Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw. They have sons in the Group already. John now requires an assistant leader for the Cub section. Let me know if you know of anyone interested.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Cubs, worldwide. There will be special events. Thank you to John, Stewart, Douglas and their helpers, in their respective sections. There is space for more Beavers and Scouts, if you know any boys or girls who would be interested in joining this great organisation.

H MacD, Group Scout Leader

After 8s

Members look forward to their second session of After 8s with a varied programme arranged. We meet on the last Thursday of each month until April. Everyone welcome.

J W Chairperson

Good Companions

We start our Spring session on Wednesday 24th February at 2.00 pm. Members are reminded that subscriptions will be due on that day and also it would be helpful if we could have your literary efforts at that time.

Advance Notice for all members of the congregation: On Wednesday 20th April the 'Deaf and Hard of Hearing Group' will be visiting us. This is a charity and they will tell us what they do and what help we can get etc. and will check anybody's hearing aids, repair if necessary (and possible) and fit new batteries if required. So we'll throw the meeting open to everybody who may be affected or interested. More details later, but don't hesitate to contact me if you want to know any more.

S H

Brownies

In the term from October to December, the Brownies took part in a variety of activities. We held a Bonfire Night fancy dress party and enjoyed games and toasting marshmallows. One evening we had a circus skills workshop with plate spinning and juggling. We held an African themed Sleepover in November and made rainmakers, African drums and decorated cakes like African animals. The Brownies also enjoyed an evening learning tambourelli and table tennis. In December the girls made Christmas decorations to take to Roseland House when we went along to sing Christmas songs. Later that week we enjoyed Beauty and the Beast panto at the Theatre Royal. Should you like any details about Brownies, please get in touch.

J McE Brownie Leader

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
April 3rd	Mrs. J. Grant	Mrs. O. Geddes
10th	Mrs. M. Wheelans	Mrs. M. Allison
17th	Mrs. S. Muir	Mrs. P. Williams
24th	VACANT	Mrs. J. Boyer
May 1st	VACANT	Mrs. I. Scott
8th	Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. J. McEwan
15th	VACANT	Mrs. S. Brown
22nd	Mrs. M. Savage	Mrs. A. Milligan
29th	Mrs. K. Brown	VACANT
June 5th	Mrs. Anderson	VACANT
12th	Mrs. Donkersley	Mrs. D. McWhirter
19th	VACANT	VACANT
26th	Mrs. Mary Wallace	Mrs. J. Sloan

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. I hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and are raring to go on our build up to Easter. This year we broke tradition, and headed off to see the Christmas Pantomime 'Cinderella' at Easterbrook Hall, followed by a visit from Santa in the Crichton Church. I hope you all had fun and enjoyed having your families with you.

We currently have 9 on our register at the moment and would like to welcome Robert and Morris who joined us this year. Keep inviting your friends and family to come along and join you on a Sunday. We would be delighted to see them.

Following last months' christening, where we had the pleasure of having baby Cora and her mum to take the roles of Jesus and Mary in our nativity, we have begun the story of the very first baptism, and are reading about the life and death of John the Baptist. We will carry on by finding out about Jesus's disciples and the many miracles he performed throughout his life. There will be many activities for you to enjoy this term and you will be asked about the type of things you would like to do in your Sunday Club to make it better. There will also be an opportunity for you to come along to the next 'Messy Church' so look out for details in the order of service in the next couple of months.

Now see how much you have remembered about our story on John the Baptist that you heard in Sunday Club. Try out these puzzles:

Quiz:

1. What did John eat while he travelled?
2. Why was Jesus baptizing people?
3. What happened right after Jesus was baptized?

Jesus is Baptized Word Search

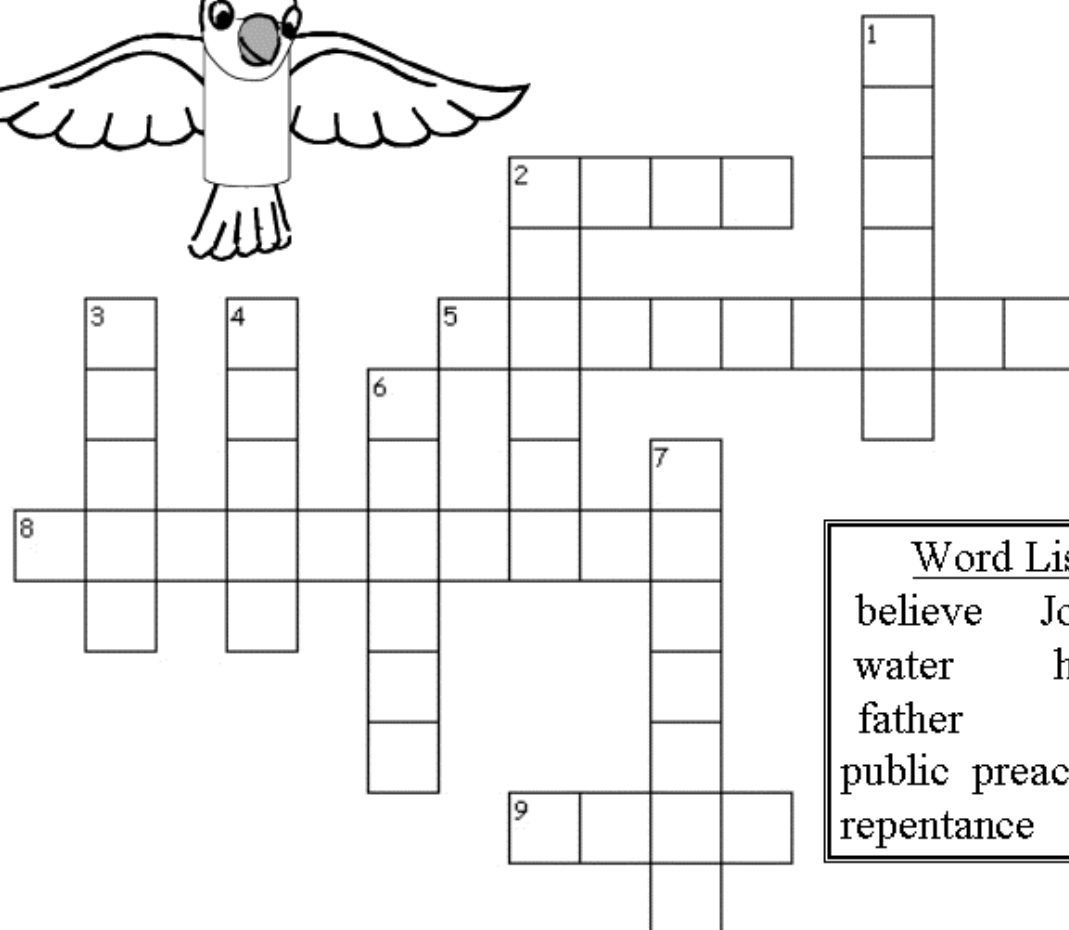
F P Q U M C B O S E F L D T P
S N E V A E H T C Y A O O F R
X G U J L J S N E H T B V P E
O S O I O U A N I I H M E D A
B H E R C T O T B A E Y T H C
N V D O N H M P I Q R S H C H
E O L E W I L D E R N E S S I
N E P O C I L B U P I U A T N
K E T R I N I T Y H Y P W L G
R A O B L W A T E R A V S T D

BELIEVE
DOVE
FATHER
HEAVENS
HONEY
JOHN
JORDON
LOCUSTS
OPEN



PREACHING
PUBLIC
REPENTANCE
SPIRIT
SYMBOL
TRINITY
WASH
WATER
WILDERNESS

Jesus is Baptized Crossword



Word List:

believe	Jordon
water	honey
father	John
public	preaching
repentance	dove

Across

- He prepared the way for Jesus.
- John the Baptist was doing a lot of this along with baptizing others.
- As a Christian it is important to ask for forgiveness and mean it, this is called_____.
- This came out of the sky to Jesus right after he was baptized.

Down

- Baptism is a _____ display of our belief in God.
- The name of the river where Jesus was baptized.
- Something sweet that John ate in the wilderness.
- This is used a symbol to wash our sins away.
- We are should be baptized in the name of the _____, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- This is the main thing you need to do before you are baptized.

SomBirthday Wallhanging