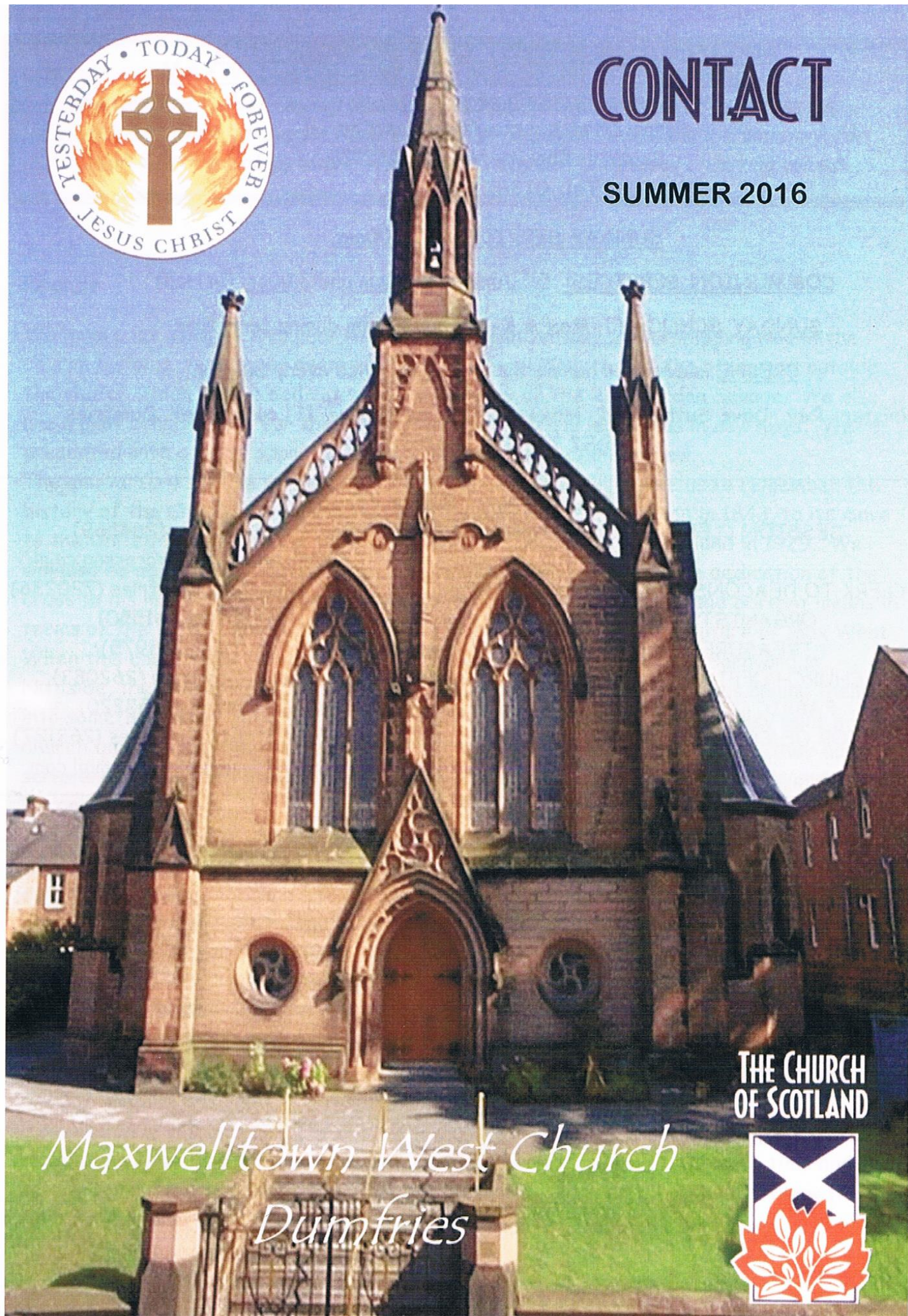


CONTACT

SUMMER 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: 5th 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. 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

December 2015: Mrs. Robertina Smith, Dumfries

12th February: Miss Margaret Miller, Dumfries

14th February: Mr. Robert Kingan, Dumfries

15th February: Mrs. Martha Kirkpatrick, Dumfries

23rd February: Mr. Ian McPhee, Dumfries

4th March: Mr. Graeme McEwan, Dumfries

Transfer Certificate Out

Miss Karen Lypka, Dumfries

Admitted by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs. J Fair, 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.*

Friends

We have a lot going on this year with the 150th anniversary of worshipping God in the church building, with social events and services, including the raising of a cross outside the church which will be dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Gordon Savage. We also are a pilot congregation for the Path of Renewal which is leading us in new ways. We're presented with a great opportunity to remember, reflect and renew.

The anniversary service on Sunday 20th November 2016 will enable us to remember the history of the Church here from its establishment in the Disruption in 1843, to its move to the United Free Church in 1900 and then into the Church of Scotland in 1929. We will also be able to remember Gordon's calling and work here with the dedication of the cross to his memory. We have the time to reflect on what our past and present means in terms of the future: the future of the Church of Scotland and the future of Max West.

When this church was formed in 1843 and they began meeting at the Barnyard in Nithside, the people were stepping out in faith, determined that God was calling them into something new - the church free from the establishment. In faith they built a church building and then 20 years later built our current building. In faith, they had scripture engraved on the doorway - "By my Spirit, saith the Lord" and "the Word of Reconciliation".

The Church, nationally and locally, sits at a junction and we look at Renewal; renewal through the Path of Renewal. Not a project or something that will go on for a while, but something which will change the way we "do" and "are" church.

For me, here's the big surprise: in 2005 Gordon Savage was looking at and wrote about what we're setting out to do now. In his study leave report, "A Study of Issues Relating to Church Membership" Gordon explored the Membership, Communion Roll, Discipleship, and Believing, Belonging and Behaving. He said, amongst many other things, "What is needed is a change of emphasis, from Membership as a goal in itself, to Discipleship as a continuing process" and "What we need to concentrate on, is making disciples of Jesus Christ." And he was right.

Discipleship is the focus of The Path of Renewal and it is the way forward to renewal. It will take time - months and years to grow, but grow it must. It will mean time and energy committed to prayerfully becoming a disciple. Acts 2:42-47 shows us how the first Followers of the Way were:

Acts 2:42-47 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

⁴² They **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.** ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ **Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,**

⁴⁷ **praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.**

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A42-47&version=NRSVA>)

Through all this, we can remember the history, reflect on where we are and go forward in faith, becoming disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is more in the Contact about celebration events and there will be plenty more about discipleship.

With every blessing,

Your minister,

Dave

Church Building 150th Anniversary

As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations, the Deacons' Court has agreed to a Gift Day for the congregation to contribute towards funding some of the celebrations. The money will go towards a Cross to be erected outside the front of the church, which will be dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Gordon Savage.

The Gift Day is Sunday 5th June 2016, which is the next Communion Service. Envelopes are available so that everyone can make their Gift Day donation and, if necessary, sign a Gift Aid Declaration. There will also be a way in which those who have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration can identify the donation so that Gift Aid can be claimed on that as well. At the end of the celebrations, any money not spent will be transferred into either the Fabric Fund or the general church fund.

Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of our Building

Our church building opened for worship on Thursday 15th November 1866 and the Kirk Session have agreed to celebrate this anniversary with a special Church service and celebration in the afternoon of Sunday 20th November 2016. This will be a Songs of Praise service to be held in the afternoon with special guests invited and afternoon tea served in our halls at the end. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has accepted an invitation to participate in this service. It was also agreed we should mark our 150 years with gifts being made to local charities, demonstrating a meaningful acknowledgment of our thanks to God for our building and acknowledging that it has in fact been a gift to us.

After discussion it was agreed that we should seek to benefit the work of the Salvation Army, the work of the charity Quarriers and the work of the First Base Foodbank Charity.

The Salvation Army has asked for donations of men's and women's toiletries and woollen socks, hats and winter gloves.

First Base (Foodbank) has asked for the following items to make up food parcels:
cereal, UHT milk, margarine, tinned meat, jam, savoury rice, baked beans, tinned pasta, tinned rice pudding, packets of instant custard, pot or packet noodles, biscuits, cartons of orange juice.

Quarriers would be able to use a financial donation to help their work locally with young people. Details of how this can be donated will be made available closer to the date of the event.

Although we are only now in early summer, November will soon be upon us and so we're asking you now for your assistance in donating the necessary materials. This will mean that on the day we can present invited representatives from these charities with these gifts.

Storage facilities for the Salvation Army gifts and the First Base gifts will be made available in the Church building immediately after the summer holidays and for further information, updates will be appearing in the weekly Order of Service, in the next edition of Contact, on the Church website and of course good old word of mouth is always available!

Kirk Session

Since I took over the duties of Session Clerk in March, the Session has met on two occasions. These were on 10th March and 12th April, 2016.

Sadly, letters of resignation as active elders have been received from two elders, both of whom have the written thanks of the Session and have been offered the status of Elders Emeritus.

Several items of regular business were dealt with at these meetings, e.g. details and costings from potential venues for our forthcoming Elder's Conference in June were discussed and it was decided, due to budgetary restraints, to hold this in our own church halls. Reports from organisations were received at the April meeting.

A large print KJV lectern bible has been obtained and is to be inscribed and sent to our friends in Mathia. This was on display at our April meeting and was much admired.

Our Church is to take part in a Local Church Review. Forms were handed over for completion as part of this initiative.

Data protection policy was further discussed. Letters and contact sheets are to be circulated to members during the upcoming Elder visits for the June communion.

The Moderator gave a preview of a Path for Renewal programme overview, prior to presenting it to the Congregation on Sunday 17th April.

The Rev. Dave will be attending the General Assembly this year and we have been granted a tent at the 'Heart and Soul' festival in Princes Street Gardens on the Sunday of Assembly week, which will provide details of our 150th Anniversary celebrations and events to a wider public. This will be manned by D Johnson.

D C, Session Clerk

World Church Report

Bondo. We have recently received photos of a prize giving at the school opened by the Usenge Development Initiative. This is approved by the national government and a recent phone call to Winnie has revealed that all is well with the community in Bondo.

There are now 9 teachers in the school and the curriculum includes English and Christian education. Due to the recent rains the kale programme is coming on well and will result in food and finance for the community through the sale of this produce.

Michael's daughter Sharon, who has already been supported by our brownies, is in improving health. With sponsorship from one of our members, she is able to have a diet of fruit and vegetables and monthly medication.

The thriving environment encourages small businesses to develop further and in every communication we receive there is an appreciation of our continuing financial support. This is thanks to our church members and friends which has enabled the World Church Team to forward approx £50,000 to the community over the past 9 years.

Mathia. Rev. Harrison has contacted our Rev. Dave with greetings and blessings to us. He would be delighted to accept our gift of a large print pulpit Bible for their church as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. This is now in hand and viewed favourably by the Kirk Session and will be inscribed and sent off soon.

They are always grateful for our education bursary and the latest news tells of six young graduates who are now studying for their masters' degree.

John quotes Nelson Mandela "It's only through education that can make the son of a peasant farmer to sit together with the son of a President." This is what we have seen. He asks for our prayers in finding new Elders and for the progress of their community.

A D

Fabric Collection Boxes

Normally the Fabric Collection Boxes are collected by elders in March and September. However, for this year only, the next collection will be in June as there hadn't been one in March. They will be collected again in September also.

You can hand your boxes in at any time, either to the church or when your elder calls.

All the monies collected in this way are greatly appreciated and they all add up to a substantial amount which is used for the ongoing fabric work of our church.

Church Teas & Coffee

I am now well into my second year running the teas and coffees after most of the services. Like many of you, I'm sure without these taking place I would likely only speak to the people around me then go home. I really believe these gatherings after the service are a fundamental part of church fellowship. At a Deacons' Court meeting it was decided that all your donations for last year should be divided between the local Talking Newspaper, the Gordon Savage Memorial and our planned new church sound system. On that note I'd like to thank all the donations of biscuits I've received as we managed to raise a fantastic sum of £900.

Organising this has not been an easy task as I have had to rely on just a few loyal members. I'd like at this point to thank them for all their help.

Unfortunately this time of fellowship may no longer be able to be provided without more members donating their time to help. It is not a difficult task - as long as you can pour a cup of tea and use a dish cloth it's easy! So please, if you can help, just put your name on the sheet in the Simmons Hall or contact me.

M W

Maxwelltown West Church History - Ministers of our Church

The sixth Minister of our Church (1903-1907) William Jeremiah Street, was born in Edinburgh, Midlothian in 1868. He was the first child of William Street, a joiner from England and Christina Kinross from Peebles.

The family lived first, in 1871, at 11 North Pit Street Edinburgh. The 1881 Census shows William and Christina with William J. aged 13, and Andrew, Margaret, Charles, James and John, living at 18 West Claremont Street, Edinburgh. The 1891 Census shows the family staying at Henderson Row, supporting William who is a Divinity Student and is studying at New College.

William and Christina's marriage lasted for 46 years. They had 9 children, 5 of whom survived to adulthood. William died in 1911, aged 74 and Christina in 1922, aged 82.

In 1895, William J. aged 28, married Mary Duncan aged 31, in her home at 16 West Claremont Street Edinburgh. The couple moved to Portsoy where William Jeremiah Street was inducted to his first charge at the West United Free Church.

The 1901 census shows William and Mary with daughter Mary, aged 2, living in the Church manse. Between 1895 and 1903 while living in Portsoy, the couple had 4 children. Christina (born 1897 died aged 7 weeks, Mary, (born 1898), William (born 1901) died aged 4 months, and James (born 1903.)

William J. Street was inducted to Maxwelltown West Church on 10th September 1903. During William's time in Dumfries the congregation started looking for a new Manse, as the existing building required frequent repairs. The Church heating was upgraded by fitting a new boiler and relaying the heating pipes.

The young people, with the minister's support, were active in joint discussions with other churches, and there was also an active cycling club.

In September 1907, William Street accepted a call from Willesden Church, London and left Dumfries. Rev Street stayed in London until 1911 before returning to Scotland after accepting a call to Stevenson Memorial Church in Glasgow, where he stayed until June 1920, when he again moved - this time to Brechin East U.F. Church.

In December 1924, William Jeremiah Street, aged 57, died from heart failure. In August 1948 William's widow died in Edinburgh, aged 75, from heart failure. Her death certificate was signed by their son James Street, living in Hertfordshire.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

We have just completed another successful year in our Guild calendar, finishing off with our AGM and a super entertainment programme provided by JAM 'N DOOKS UKULELE GROUP. A great evening of singing, foot-tapping and laughter was had by all present!

At our AGM, Linda Hyles withdrew from committee and we are grateful for the input she has given over the past year. We managed to persuade four members to join us on the Leadership Team and we look forward to having Maureen Sutherland, Mairi Savage and Jan Hastie working with us on committee. Anne Dunbar has also agreed to join us again as our Convenor, so we are delighted to have her with us.

A retiral presentation was made to our pianist Olive Geddes, who has played for us at our meetings for many years and as we have had no replies to our appeal for another pianist, we would still like to hear from anyone who might be able to help us once a month during the Guild session.

The Leadership Team would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning in February. From the proceeds we were able to send £500 to the HAITI PROJECT.

Our STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA afternoon will be held on SATURDAY 11TH JUNE from 2-4pm, with a £3 admission cost, which will also cover a Floral Art demonstration by Linda Hyles, which will take place during the afternoon. As the proceeds from this will go to the Church 150th Anniversary Fund, we hope you will all come along and support us.

As we have not had much response to our appeal for favourite recipes for the 150th Anniversary Recipe Book which we are hoping to put together with the After Eights Group, unless more recipes are submitted, this project may have to be abandoned.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and restful summer and we look forward to welcoming old and new members when our meetings resume at the beginning of October. Please come and join us (men included). You will be surprised how resourceful we are!

M McL

Brownies

The Brownies have continued on their Brownie Adventure. 2016 is the 100th anniversary of Girlguiding's Senior Section and we are to complete a variety of challenges to earn a Mission Spectacular badge. To date, the girls have completed their "Be Inventive Challenge" by creating large badges which you may have seen displayed in the Church hall and also "Millions of Muscles Challenge" when they learned all about muscles and had to make up an exercise circuit.

We celebrated Thinking Day with games from other countries and by lighting candles to think about members of Girlguiding throughout the world. The girls have also been busy sewing an owl, learning about Australia and making crafts for Mothers' Day and Easter.

Congratulations to the six Brownies who represented the Unit in the Dumfries Music and Country Dancing Festivals and were awarded the singing game and campfire trophies.

Should you like any details about Brownies, please get in touch.

JMcE, Brownie Leader

Scout Group

The new Beaver leaders, L McMurchie and C Priestley have settled in well and there could be another leader joining them. Thanks to them. We said goodbye and thanks to B Carr and J McKinnell. This year is the 100th Anniversary for the Cubs and 30th Anniversary for the Beavers, nationally. There is to be a District Cub camp at Drumlanrigg Castle in September 2016.

We still need another leader for the Cub section, to help John. Please contact me or John, himself. The Scouts could have more members, so if you know any boys and girls aged 10½ to 14 years, please let me know. The end of term Barbecue will be at Mabie Forest on Monday 20th June. We hope for another dry evening.

H MacD

After Eights

The Second half of the session started with a games night when the programmed speaker was unable to attend due to bad weather conditions. Anita brought in various board games and there was great hilarity amongst the players enjoying the fun. In February, our own D Johnson gave a very informative and entertaining evening telling of his journey through life to date, interspersed with words, music and song. A brilliant night!

In March we welcomed Denis Cockburn from Abbots Chocolates, Langholm, who told all about his hand-made chocolate business. He was both informative and entertaining. Denis brought along a Stiletto Shoe in chocolate which he had made earlier and showed us how it could be decorated. It went home with A Wears - what a lucky lady! Our end of session night out will be a meal held at the Nith Hotel, Glencaple on the 28th April.

J W

Good Companions

We are now coming to the end of a varied Spring session, but we will be reconvening in late September – watch this space! However our numbers are shrinking and we would love to see some new members – ladies AND gentlemen. We meet alternate Wednesdays at 2.00pm and it is nothing very demanding. Please consider giving it a try.

The Good Companions recently had a visit from the Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group – a charity which works in liaison with the Audiology Dept at DGRI.

They hold clinics at various locations around the area where anyone with an NHS Hearing Aid can attend and they will check it over, sort out loose wires, fit new tubes or batteries as required. They will also give advice and point people in the right direction if necessary or will refer them back to the GP or Audiology Dept if required. No appointment needed, as is necessary now at the Hospital. Anyone wanting further information, please contact *Shirley*.

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club has had another successful season with a few new members joining our ranks. The Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy was won by E Crossan and J Clowe. The annual dinner was held at the Edenbank Hotel and was enjoyed by 24 members and friends. The social aspect of the Club is still very important and we ended the season with a ten-pin bowling evening at Carlisle.

J M

Children's Corner

Hello once again boys and girls. I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. It was nice to see you all back feeling rested and raring to go for our last few weeks until the summer holidays. Our last Sunday this year will be on 12th June when we will have your 'Prize-giving' awards for attendance, in church.

As Davie and I are getting married this summer, Sunday Club will not start back until Sunday 4th September, giving you an extra week's break. Why not ask some of your friends to come with you. They will be made very welcome.

After looking at Easter in great detail over the last few weeks, we are now looking at ways to help others less fortunate than ourselves in our world and have begun looking at how Christian Aid raises money to provide tools, building materials, animals and seeds to other countries to help develop their farming abilities.

We have been looking at worms particularly and how they can improve the soil to enable seeds to grow into better quality plants for food.

Cool Facts about worms:

- Worms are long, creeping animals with soft, segmented bodies covered in tiny bristles that help them to move.
- Worms have been around for about 600 million years!
- Worms are about 1,000 times stronger than people (relatively speaking, of course!).
- The longest earthworm is the African giant earthworm, which can grow up to 6.7m (22ft) long.
- Worms are tough little creatures. If you accidentally cut an earthworm in half while gardening, only half will die. The piece with the saddle (the fatter, pink part) will survive.
- When it's really cold outside in winter or baking hot in the summer, worms are able to survive by burrowing deep into the soil - at the same time escaping from light, which they hate.
- Earth worms use their skin to breath and do not have lungs.
- The average lifespan of a worm is 4-5yrs.
- There are around 2700 different types of worm.
- One acre of land can contain around 1 million worms.
- Worms are cold blooded and can have between 1& 5 pairs of hearts.
- Worms have the ability to eat their own weight in a day.
- If a worm becomes dehydrated and its skin dries out, it will die.
- Worms are hermaphrodites and have both male and female organs.
- Will eat almost anything that was alive, as long as it is dead when they eat it.
- Worms keep the soil loose when they dig through it. This helps plant roots to grow and they fertilize the soil to provide food for plants.

Why not ask your Mums or Dads to let you make a **Worm Farm Jar**.

What you need:

a large, clean glass jar
sand
old leaves
some black paper

moist soil
earthworms
vegetable peelings, tea leaves, overripe grapes
and a cool, dark cupboard



If you would like to get more information about how worms are helping those children in Bangladesh why not look up christianaid.org.uk/worms, where you can also find details of the picture competition we are taking part in at the moment at Sunday Club. You have still plenty of time to enter 😊

Why not try this wee quiz to see how much you have taken in:

- 1) What are stronger.....worms or people?
- 2) How long does the average worm live for?
- 3) How do worms breathe?
- 4) If you lived on a sandy area like Bangladesh, how could worms help you?

If you would like to check the answers to these questions or pick up a leaflet about what you can do to help Christian Aid, why not pop in to Sunday Club and I will give you a leaflet.

Should you need any information about joining Sunday Club please feel free to call either myself or Davie. Thanks. Dawn 😊

What you Need to Do:

- Carefully wash out a large jar and dry it
- Cover the bottom with about 1cm of sand followed by a thick layer of soil
- Repeat this until you have about 2in of space at the top of your jar
- Now go and find yourself some worms from the garden. You will have a better chance at night or when it is raining as they like the dark and wet
- Put your worms into the jar and top the jar up with old vegetable peelings, tea-leaves, leaves or over ripe fruit
- Put a few holes into the jar lid to allow air in and then close your jar
- Put your jar into a dark cupboard for a couple of weeks before you go and look at all the interesting things the worms have done
- Make sure you keep the soil moist (not wet) and add more vegetable scraps occasionally to keep them healthy
- Put them back in the garden when you are done observing them

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July 3rd	Mrs. M Wallace	VACANT
10th	VACANT	Mrs. P. McKenzie
17th	VACANT	Mrs. I. Goodwin
24th	Mrs. H Campbell	VACANT
31st	Mrs. N. McCubbin	Mrs. L. Taylor
Aug 7th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. Adamson
14th	Mrs A. Howitt	Mrs. McWhirter
21st	Mrs. E. Campbell	Miss Bryden
28th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
Sept 4th	Mrs. M. Stockdale	Mrs. C. Whipp
11th	Mrs. J. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
18th	VACANT	Miss M. Gemmill
25th	Mrs. E. Riddick	VACANT

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

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 5th June: Communion (11am and 3pm) and Gift Day

Saturday 11th June: Guild Strawberry Cream Tea from 2-4pm