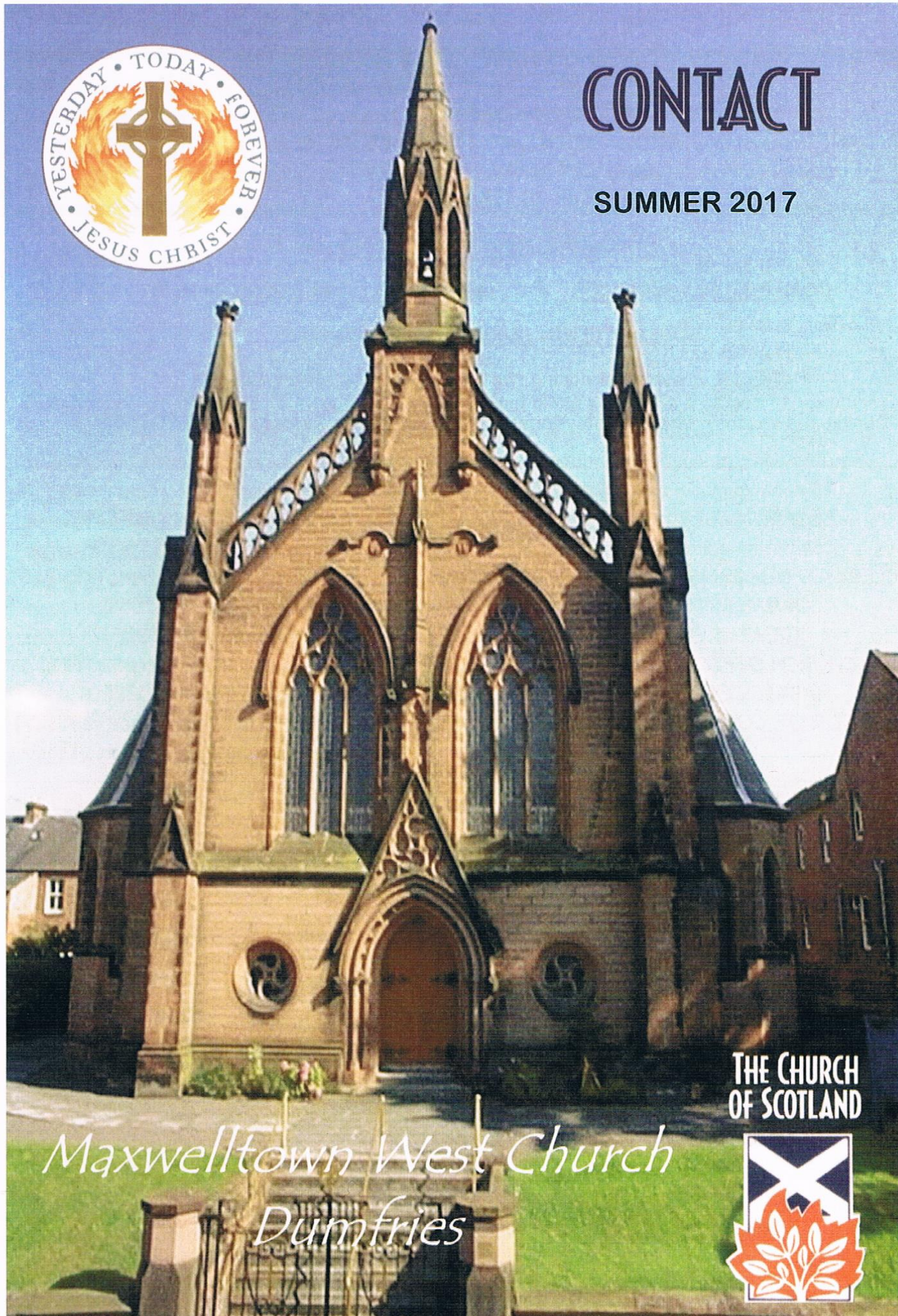


CONTACT

SUMMER 2017



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Tel: 01387 255900

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 4th June at 11.00am and 3.00pm (in Hall)

SUNDAY CLUB: 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

During the vacancy, the Interim Moderator is **Rev. Sally Russell** (01556 503645)

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. D Crossan, Dumfries

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie, Dumfries

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson, Dumfries

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington, Dumfries (263127)

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

TREASURER: Mrs. L Hyles, Dumfries

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

2nd April: Amelie, daughter of Andy and Jenny McNay, Dumfries

Deaths

11th January: Mrs. Sheena Brown/Clark, Dumfries

22nd February: Mr. Brian Smith, Dumfries

New Members by Transference

Mr. Norman and Mrs. Sandra Gurney, Dumfries

Certificates of Transfer issued

Mr. James and Mrs. Margaret Brown, 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.*

From the Interim Moderator, Sally Russell.

The Manse
Clarebrand
Castle Douglas DG7 3AH
01556 503645

I am writing at this time to introduce myself to you all as you begin a period of vacancy here in Maxwelltown West.

I hope to come and meet with the Session at the beginning of May, and then I will have the opportunity to meet with more of you on Sunday June 4th as we celebrate communion together. We will look to appoint a locum as soon as possible and so keep things running smoothly from day to day in the parish. Please be assured that I will do my best to support the parish as best I can during this time.

Pastoral cover will be provided by the locum when the appointment is made, but in the meantime please feel free to contact me. My phone number is 01556 503645. email SRussell@churchofscotland.org.uk

I look forward to working together with you all.

Blessings in Christ's name,
Sally

Dear friends,

Maureen and I would like to thank you for the kind words, cards and gifts on our leaving here for Stevenston.

It has been a privilege to have been your minister over the last 2½ years and there have been some good memories over the time. As a church family, we saw the start of Messy Church and a Baby & Toddlers Group as well as a range of different hymns as Hymn for the Month.

None of our experiences will have been wasted if we learn and grow from them as God uses all for His good purpose. If we let Him, He will use our every experience to prune, develop and grow us in our journey with our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV)

Every Blessing to you all,

Dave & Maureen

World Church Team

A very worrying time has been experienced due to the drought in Africa with no rain expected in the near future. Kenya, like many other countries, has declared a state of emergency. Our people in Mathia and Bondo have told us of people and animals dying due to crops failing and very little water, even if they have the money to buy any.

Mathia has received, in March, half of the bursary money we send in July to help their students at universities around Kenya to survive. The World Church Team in April sent £500 to Mathia Church, where senior elder John and his Session have been asked to allocate to most needy people. You may remember John, James, Benjamin and Banice when they visited us and were such fun and always grateful for our help with education.

Bondo has been doing really well in the 11 years since Winnie visited us and started a nursery class on returning home. She has now reached class 8 with students sitting national exams. The 11 teachers are training in school holidays and finding pay for them is hard too. The little businesses have progressed until now, with 4 years' drought taking a toll on the deep wells which we provided. The water table is running low so they have to buy some water. She tells of many new children enrolling as they hope to receive some food and although Winnie still gets our food money every month it has to stretch much further. Luckily the fish cages we bought some years ago are producing well and give employment to some locals.

Following a rare phone call from Winnie, the WCT have sent £750 to help her 300 children in whichever way she decides is best.

The WCT are most grateful to the people who have supported the food programme for over 10 years now and also our Christmas appeal. We would have been really struggling without this help. Thank you so very much.

A D, WCT Convener

Christian Aid

Who is my neighbour – when I needed a neighbour were you there?

We know from our friends in Bondo and Mathia what a struggle life can be for many families, both in Kenya and around the world. Our daily media diet of war, poverty, disasters and bad governance can seem overwhelming, but it never fails to lift my spirits when springtime comes around, the cherries are in full blossom and our wonderful team of collectors prepare to go out into our parish for Christian Aid Week.

Working with local partners, empowering communities and being there long after media interest has moved on, Christian Aid continues helping families to thrive. 70 years ago, thousands of churches and supporters responded to the challenges by founding Christian Aid. We answer the challenge, not in words but through action, living out the love that God desires for us. With your help, Christian Aid stays where the need is greatest.

Thank you for leading the way for others and may you be encouraged and inspired by those who have gone before.

H J, Dumfries and District Christian Aid

A Plea for Help

After hearing the recent talk in church about FGM (female genital mutilation) and knowing a bit about this terrible practice, I wondered what I could do to raise money to help prevent this.

I love jewellery and over the years I have gathered quite a lot – much of which does not see the light of day, but some are of sentimental value.

Like many people I suppose, there are pieces I have bought myself which are no longer worn by me and not overly expensive and I thought perhaps a silent auction would be a good way to move these items on and for someone else to enjoy them.

If anyone else has similar items and would consider donating them to this worthy cause, please contact me.

Perhaps we could tie this in with a coffee morning or something similar.

I would value any help and expertise with this project.

M Y

“It’ll See Me Out”

This phrase appeared in Dave’s letter to us in the Spring Contact as he spoke with us about discipleship, Path for Renewal and the future of the Church of Scotland in general. Little did we know that a few weeks later we would receive the devastating news that we were losing Dave, God having called him to another Ministry.

Now is the time for the whole congregation to unite and to go forward together to be God’s people in our beloved Maxwelltown West.

I wish Dave and Maureen all the very best in their new home in Stevenston and wish them every happiness. I pray that Dave’s legacy to us will be for us to continue to be open to change and to not cling to the phrases “it’s aye been” and “it’ll see me out”!

We are entering a period of great uncertainty. I believe we really do need to embrace change if we have any hope of surviving as the united congregation we once were, and with God’s help, will be again.

V C

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Here we are again at the end of another Guild year and looking forward to the summer recess, hopefully enjoying some sunshine.

As we look around the world with wars, famine, and uncertain times nationally and in our own church, it makes us realise that times are changing, as they always will be. The Guild has changed a lot too, no hats on, not ‘the Women’s Guild’, just ‘the Guild’ - open to all.

A few years ago we changed to a leadership team which proved very successful and we continue to share leading meetings and preparing for the next phase in our church as Guild.

This year our meetings have been well attended with more music and lighter subjects in speakers. Our fundraising Soup and Sandwich Lunch was a great success so we sent £500 to the FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Project. Grateful thanks to all who supported us.

On 1st June we look forward to Let’s Celebrate Songs of Praise in Troqueer Church at 7pm. and everyone is invited. If you would like a lift please phone me.

At the General Assembly in May the new Guild National Convener will be appointed and I am delighted to say Marge Patterson from Cumnock is known to us as the daughter-in-law of one of our members. We wish her well and look forward to supporting her when we attend the Annual Gathering in Dundee in September. In the Guild with our motto "Be Bold Be Strong" we must think of the future in our church, use all our talents, stick together and progress in new ways, sharing and providing funds to help keep our church going and "Go in Love" as in our new Theme.

Wishing you all a very Happy Summer.

A D, Convener

Scout Group

The three sections are working well with healthy numbers. We must say thank you to Rev. Dave Sutherland for being our chairman on the committee.

Also I have notification that our Assistant Beaver Leader is to leave us at the end of the session. She will be very busy organising her own wedding along with other activities, so our thanks go to her as well for the time she has put into the Beaver section.

This will leave us with Lynn McMurchie as the only Beaver Leader and so if we have any budding volunteers, please let me know.

Once again my thanks go to all of the leaders for all their time spent running each section.

In June there is to be a Scout camp at St Anne's and there will be the annual end of year barbecue.

H MacD, Group Scout Leader

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club has had another successful season. S Crosbie took over as president from G Little at the AGM in October.

The Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy was won by J Clowe and A Hyslop. Ashley also won the ladies' ten pin bowling shield at our annual trip to Carlisle. G Little won the club shield at the same event.

The dinner this year was again held at the Edenbank Hotel and it was a most enjoyable evening. The season finishes at the end of April and resumes at the start of September. New members will be made most welcome.

J M

Brownies

In January, the Brownies had fun making their costumes for the Youth Concert and then enjoyed performing "Max West Crows are awfie, awfie brow" to everyone who came along to the concert.

Activities this term have also included learning about Robert Burns, making Chinese Dragons and detective work at our detective themed meeting.

We celebrated Thinking Day with the Church Parade and then worked on our World Cultures badge. This included learning about Scotland and Mexico. The crafts involved making Mexican eyes, out of wool, and also making igloos out of polystyrene chips, to think about a different type of house.

Our Country Dancing team were delighted to win the Brownie shield at the Country Dancing Festival as they had worked very hard to learn the dance. The following week, some of the girls took part in the Music Festival

and were pleased to be awarded “Commended” certificates and trophies for their performances in the Action Song and Campfire sections.

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

J McE, Brownie Leader

Hazel Award

At the Annual Review of Girlguiding Dumfriesshire held recently in Lockerbie, Mrs Irene Johnstone was awarded the Hazel Award. This was created in memory of the late Hazel McCulloch who was involved with Girlguiding in Dumfriesshire for many years. It is given annually to someone who has given outstanding service to Girlguiding. Mrs Johnstone was Brown Owl of Maxwelltown West Brownies from 1972 to 2003 and she continues to support our Brownies today.

Poem written by a Brownie at Maxwelltown West, (age 9)

Brownies, Brownies how fair and bright.
Helps anyone who comes along.
Girls get their confidence there.
Confidence to do the things they love.
Anything is possible at Brownies.
So come along to Brownies. You'll have a whale of a time.
Earning badges every day, doing things you never thought you could do
So come on over to Brownies

Good Companions

Although few in numbers, we continue to enjoy our fortnightly meetings. This session ends with our Lunch on 24th May.

S H

Messy Church

As Maxwelltown West Messy Church enters its third year, we continue to welcome many new members as we share in Faith, Fellowship and Friendship.

Over the last few months our themed sessions have explored the following topics:

“Creation” – We completed a wonderful collage incorporating land and sea creatures.

Everyone enjoyed working together as we considered how God made our world. The collage can be viewed in the children's corner in the church.

“Noah's Ark” – Everyone came together to make all the animals and birds to go into the Ark. We also made Rainbow Sand bottles as we learned about God's covenant with man following the huge flood.

“Joseph” – We created a colourful coat as we considered how Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery. We learned how Joseph later forgave his brothers and returned to his family.

“Easter” – We created Easter gardens and made little wooden crosses. We also put our Easter messages on a balloon cross.

Messy Church offers everyone, young and older, a chance to come along and share in activities, learning about God's word. After craft activities, a story and song, we share a meal together. Messy Church sessions run on the last Saturday of the month from 4pm – 6.30pm. We have also welcomed Laurieknowe School primary one classes to Messy Church sessions. Everyone had a great time.

Messy Church is supported by Maxwelltown West Social Group who prepare lovely, welcoming meals for everyone. Our continued grateful thanks to you all!
Please come along and share in our worship. You may enjoy it!

A S and J H

After Eights

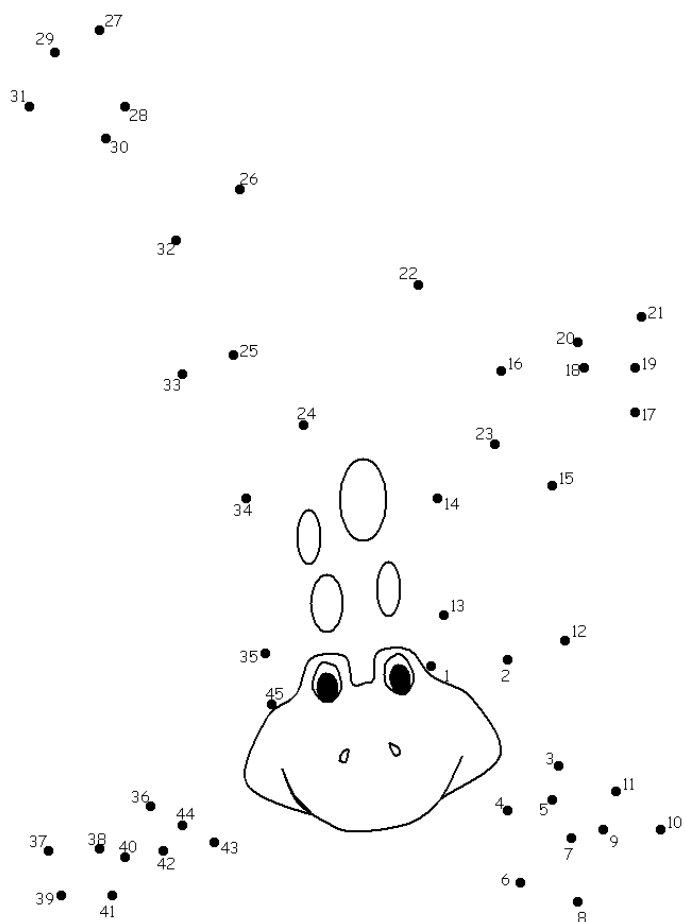
A creative session looking at the colourful art of making stained glass with enthusiast Lorrie Kyle, completed our varied winter programme. Our interests have been stimulated by speakers on opportunities for young people in Dumfries and Galloway funded by the Holywood Trust.

Ivy Blair from Prospects Scotland encouraged and challenged us to consider how we might make church more welcoming to people with disabilities. Colin Crosbie gave us wonderful slides of gardens to visit around the world, from the gardens of Japan to South African plants of the southern hemisphere and exotic species of the Caribbean.

We still have a forthcoming meal at the Nith Hotel to look forward to and have already begun to plan for the autumn session. If you would enjoy some stimulating talks, meeting old and new friends along with some fun and friendship, please come along and join us for the new programme in September.

H J

Children's Corner



Welcome boys and girls. I hope you all had a fantastic Easter holiday and had fun with your family and friends. Spring has arrived with all its loveliness. You will have seen many baby animals out in the fields and new flowers and birds in your gardens.

Have any of you seen any frogs? These amazing little creatures are so great. Perhaps you have seen some frog spawn or even collected some in a jam jar?

Did you know that frogs lay up to 2000 eggs at once but only 5 of these will survive to be frogs? It only takes 12 weeks for a frog to develop from an egg to fully grown adult. Amazing! Sad that so few of the eggs survive but God ensures there are enough of them laid to help other creatures survive too. Newts eat frog spawn and so this helps them to survive.

Unfortunately we have a lot of chemicals about now, which pollute the pond water so we have to look after frogs if we come across them to ensure their survival. Building a garden pond would be a good way to keep their population

up and reduce the decline in numbers we have seen over recent years.

FROG-Fully Rely On God

The letters from Frog are a useful way to remember the phrase 'Fully Rely On God' so next time you see one try and remember what it stands for. I will tell you a little story about some children who found help from this phrase:

There once was a girl named Amy. She just turned 6 and loved going to school and playing with all the kids, but noticed one little boy in her class who didn't have a lot of friends. Sometimes the other kids in her class made fun of him and talked about him, but she didn't like that. Amy always thought that she should treat others the way she would want to be treated, so she didn't make fun of him. She decided to do something about it.

That day at break, Amy went over and introduced herself to Joe and asked if she could play with him. He looked very happy about it and couldn't stop smiling. After that, Joe and Amy became very close friends. Joe liked going to school better and the kids were taunting him less too. Amy had lots of friends but she enjoyed hanging out with Joe because he never said anything bad about anyone else.

One day when out playing, Amy confided to Joe she hadn't been playing as much with him because she was worried about what the older kids would say. They had been picking on her because she was playing with Joe so much and they said he was a 'dummy'. Joe had told her that there would always be kids who would be mean but she should just trust God and not worry.

When Amy got home, she told her mum about what the older kids had called Joe. Amy's Mum had explained that Joe had a learning disability that made him learn more slowly than other kids. They also talked about all kids being different and special in their own way, and that just because Joe learned more slowly didn't make him dumb. Sometimes a

Frogs Word Search

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

amphibians jungle
Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Friendly Frogs! Anagram

Hidden word (circled letters)



@oepdl t	_____
ops sn <u>u</u> o	_____
pa <u>m</u> sw	_____
soo <u>h</u> mt	_____
<u>s</u> tr e f o	_____
l g o @ t h i	_____
e <u>i</u> s c t n	_____
<u>p</u> j m u	_____
g o <u>n</u> u t e	_____
g g i u l n <u>b</u>	_____

disease or illness makes it harder for people to learn and Joe was working even harder than most kids to keep up.

When back to school, the older kids carried on taunting Amy and Joe. Amy wished they would stop as she was a bit scared. She even avoided him for a few days and played with her other friends to avoid being picked on, but Joe looked so sad. Amy decided to speak to Joe about it and as soon as she got to school she found her teacher and told her what was happening. The teacher decided to tell the class what had happened so they could talk about it and see what they could do to make things better.

"Does anyone have anything to share to help this problem?" She asked the class. "I do," answered Joe. "Those kids always picked on me last year too. I guess, what's helped me the most is by fully relying on God. I was worried that kids would tease me this year too but I prayed about it and I met the greatest friend I've ever had, Amy." Amy smiled shyly. Joe kept talking, "I've also read a lot of stories in the Bible about how people a long time ago relied on God in situations way worse than mine."

He went on to give them examples like David and Goliath and Daniel in the Lion's Den, who had prayed to God in their time of need. When he finished all the boys and girls looked more positive and Amy was a lot less scared than she was before. "You see," Joe said, "God can help us if we pray and rely on Him." Then the teacher suggested; "Why don't we all pray with Joe." "Dear God, help us to fully rely on you. We know that sometimes we're afraid but you're also there to help us when we need it. Help us to work together to stop the older kids from being mean. Oh, thank you for good friends too. Amen."

What happened next was cool. At play-time, the older kids came over chanting 'dummy' to Joe. All of a sudden he was surrounded by the rest of his class. The older kids couldn't continue with the whole class looking out for Joe, so ran off. Joe was able to rely on God to help him. Supporting your friends in their time of need is doing God's work.

We are on our final term of Sunday Club and I look forward to hearing about all your own spring stories and experiences. Davie and I look forward to seeing you all. Please feel free to bring along any of your friends. They will be made most welcome.

Dawn ☺

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July 2nd	VACANT	VACANT
9th	VACANT	Mrs. P. MacKenzie
16th	VACANT	Mrs. I. Goodwin
23rd	VACANT	VACANT
30th	VACANT	Mrs. L. Taylor
August 6th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. Adamson
13th	Mrs. A. Howitt	Mrs. McWhirter
20th	Mrs. E. Campbell	Mrs. M. Bryden
27th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
September 3rd	Mrs. M. Stockdale	Mrs. C. Whipp
10th	Mrs. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
17th	VACANT	Miss M. Gemmill
24th	Mrs. E. Riddick	Mrs. L. Hyles

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



The church on Easter Sunday for Dave's last service and the hall ready for the lovely Easter lunch afterwards, provided by the Social Group.



Messy Church





The 150th Anniversary Wallhanging and Cross



