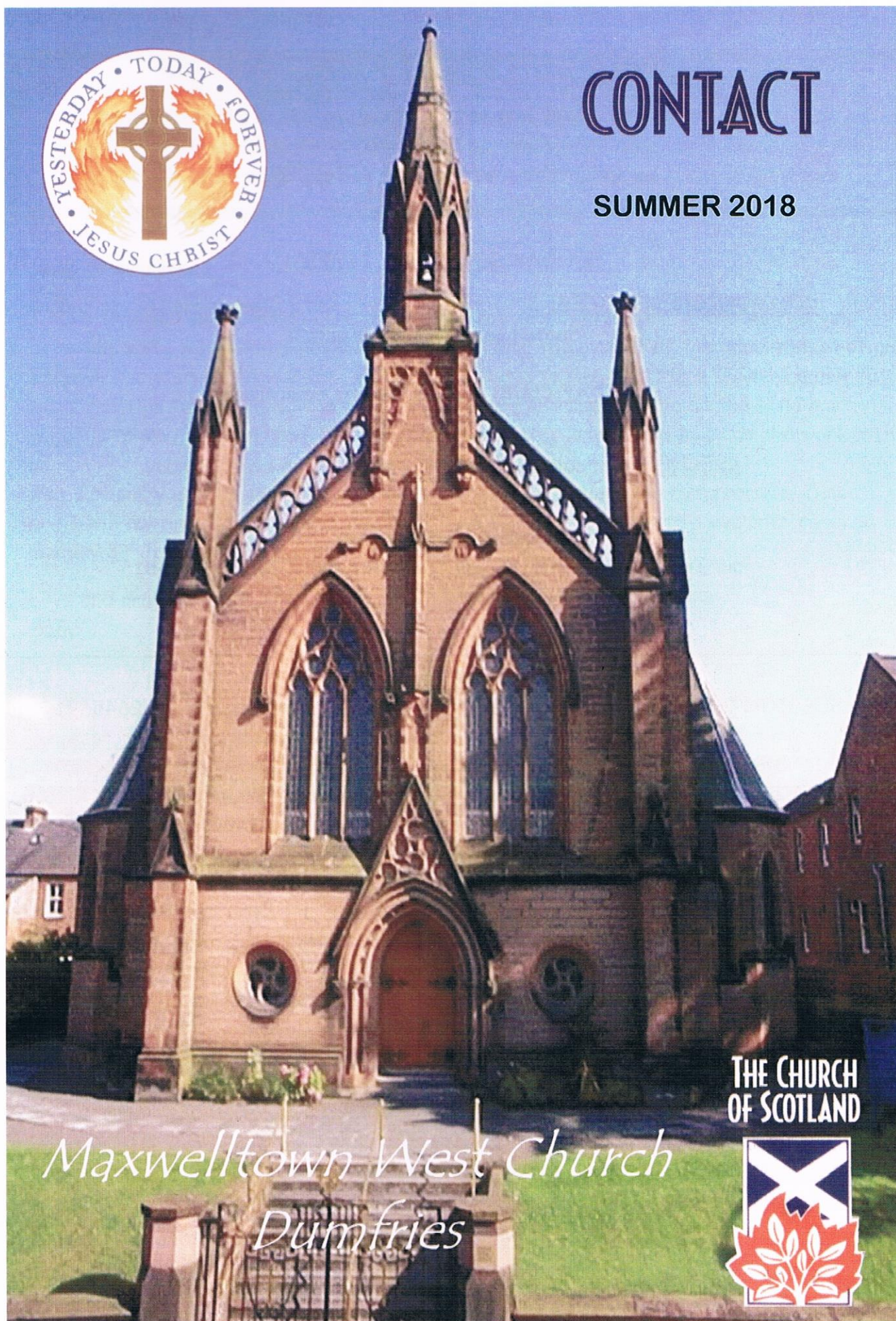


CONTACT

SUMMER 2018



*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: 3rd June at 11.00am and 3.00pm in Hall (June and September communions only.)

SUNDAY CLUB: 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

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

and our Locum is **Mr. David Matheson (01387 252042)**

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. A Crossan, Dumfries

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: Miss A Allan, New Abbey

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

5th March: Mrs. Catherine Hardie, 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.*

Hello to everyone,

I hope that you all had a good Easter and are now looking forward to the summer and hopefully some warm and sunny weather. Regarding the matter of the appointment of an Interim Minister for Max West, I am sorry to have to say that there is nothing new to report at this time. We have done all that we can, and now have to do the hard part, which is to wait for the news that an Interim Minister is available to come and work with us. May I thank you once again for your support and your patience in this process. David and I will continue to work with you, and I look forward to being with you once again on Sunday 3rd June for communion.

Love and prayers,
Sally

Frae Yir Locum

Greetings to you all. I write this article mid-April and barely a feeling of Spring.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this we will have at least enjoyed some sunshine and warmth and be feeling ready to cast off our winter clothes and seek out lighter summer wear.

Let me reflect upon the season of Lent leading us up to Easter and how we journeyed through those cold, dreich, weeks.

In church we enjoyed the warmth and loving fellowship, even if we had to finish early on one occasion due to snow falling heavily outside.

Our services have been reasonably well attended and I hope meaningful and helpful on the Lent Journey.

2018 is designated as Year of Young People (YOYP), and at the end of January we had a wonderful service where 4 very talented children from Laurieknowe School came and shared with us what friends meant to them. Their essays were both witty and meaningful and gave us much to think about as well as much to thank God for.

Thinking Day saw our Church once again filled with our Youth Organisations and we were ably led by our Praise Group in singing one of the new hymns commissioned by Church of Scotland to celebrate YOYP. Its first few verses are:

"A little bit of imagination, a little bit of inspiration, Everything, everything

A little bit of energy, a little bit of creativity, Everything, everything

Every single little thing our young people bring (x2)

Our church is singing, we're celebrating

A little bit of awkward questions, a little bit of new directions, Everything, everything

A little bit of shaking up, a little bit of waking up, Everything, everything

Every single little thing our young people bring (x2)

Our church is singing, we're celebrating.

Here at Maxwelltown West Church we are indeed blessed to have Youth Organisations and I hope and pray that we will develop stronger links between Church and our Youth.

Holy Week saw Laurieknowe School come and celebrate Easter in our Church and once again very joyful, rousing singing and suitable Bible Passages were read clearly and meaningfully by school children.

We welcomed Dumfries Christian Network on Good Friday when we led a quiet, contemplative service and enjoyed fellowship over refreshments and goodies.

Easter Sunday saw a good attendance in Church and the singing of favourite Easter hymns was a particular highlight and when you have a good congregation singing 'Thine be the Glory' we can be assured our Lord Jesus heard us and blessed our service.

During Lent, Mr. Crossan and I set up a Bible Study Group. We shared a reflection of our favourite Psalms.

Those who have joined us have agreed to continue and we will meet every Thursday in the Committee Room at 7pm from 26th April, when we will be studying and reflecting upon the Book of Acts. So please accept this invitation to join us. No skills or knowledge are required except the Love of Jesus in your heart.

Once again, I thank those of you whom I have been privileged to visit in Hospital, Nursing Home or in your own homes, for welcoming me and blessing me with your stories of life and love. Whilst I am still amongst you I will continue my pastoral visits. Please let me know if you know of any member who you think would benefit from a visit.

So as Maxwelltown West Church looks forward to an Interim Minister coming amongst you to lead you on your Next Journey, I promise that I will continue to keep you all in my prayers, and my love will be with you on every step of that Journey.

Let me finish by quoting from 1st John ch 4 v 7-12:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

Your Loving Brother in Christ,
David Matheson

Kirk Session

Looking back we have weathered a long, wet and cold winter and early spring. Sadly we have lost some long-standing members over the period.

We reported in last quarter's 'Contact' that L H was to stand down as Treasurer. We are fortunate to have a volunteer to take on this very important role – A A is now our Treasurer. She will require some time to 'catch up' with the 3 months' void period, and hopefully, with help from others, will serve for the next period to continue the good work which L has undertaken. We wish L well as she goes forward in her faith and would add that we wish her a large vote of thanks for all she has done.

A well-attended and excellent evening was held in our church on Saturday 17th March, where the Border Strathspey and Reel Society and friends entertained us with good music and singing. In the process, they helped to raise some £540 for our church funds. The Social Group again did us proud with the catering at the interval.

For probably the first time in our 150+ years, there was no Sunday Service on Sunday 18th March, as the current Moderator of the General Assembly preached in St. Michael's Church. Many of our congregation attended that service instead.

The small Bible Study group, led by David Matheson, has continued to meet beyond the original intended period of a 'Lent' group. Pre-arranged and notified dates cover diverse sections of the Bible. This includes several Psalms and 'Acts'. Anyone interested in joining the group will be made most welcome.

David and Sally have continued to lead us well during the ongoing vacancy, and we are lucky that, together with the talents of 'leaders' within our numbers, we are doubly blessed.

The Interim Ministry Team visited us on 22nd February and explained the way forward for us. A vote was taken by those attending and we voted, by a majority, in favour of having an Interim Minister. The Manse requires some maintenance and upgrading of fire alarms etc. to comply with current regulations, in order to accommodate a new occupant.

D C, Session Clerk

Good News from the World Church Team

Bondo

The humanitarian project in Bondo, initiated in 2007, has during those 11 years, raised over £72,000. From small beginnings the community led by Winnie Owuor and her helpers has now reached a position of self-sustainability. For example, the development of their fish farming "Small Business Fund" provided by Maxwelltown West Church has now been so successful that it has been featured in the national media and subsequently been supported by the Government with a view to exporting the talapia fish which it produces. The Bondo project has now fulfilled all of the criteria drawn up by the Usenge Development Initiative and the World Church Team.

With the approval of the Kirk Session it has been decided that the goal we, that is you, set out in faith and hoped to achieve, has now been achieved. The project can proudly leave the legacy of a self-funding and sustainable community in Bondo, with clean water, sanitation, education and developing business opportunities.

On behalf of the community in Bondo and the World Church Team, our grateful thanks to you the church members for your commitment over the years which has brought our project to a successful conclusion. Thank you.

Greetings from Mathia Church

We continue to hear from John and Mathia elders very regularly, always sending warm greetings and news of their church and students.

In February they ordained six new elders who are helping to fundraise to complete their new church, now in the 10th year of progress. They have managed to purchase musical instruments and an electrical unit with the help from our Christmas Gift appeal. The young musicians are delighted and thank us greatly for our help. We are looking forward to details of new students starting courses in May and July. We have promised the elders they will receive our bursary funding in advance as usual.

The World Church Team continues to support the education programme for the foreseeable future. This connection through the Church of Scotland World Mission Faith to Faith project has continued since 2007 and exchange visits have strengthened understanding and support in different ways between the two congregations.

The latest bible text from John and elders - Mark 10 v 26-30.

A D

Maxwelltown West Church History - Ministers of our Church

The first Minister of our Church (1844-53) was the Rev. William Brown Clark

His Arrival in Maxwelltown

In 1843 while minister of Half Morton Church of Scotland, William signed the Document of Disruption which brought him into conflict with the presbytery of Lockerbie. The Rev. Clark was summoned to meet with the Presbytery in the Crown Inn at Langholm. Rev. Clark did not attend but sent a letter explaining his position.

After due consideration of the letter admitting that William Brown had signed the Declaration of Disruption and of a decision by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, they noted that William Brown Clark was no longer able to be a Church of Scotland minister. The Presbytery informed the patron that the charge of the Church in Half Morton was now vacant.

A letter was sent to William requesting that he deliver the keys of the Church and Manse to the Church Officer without delay.

The first attempt to bring William to Maxwelltown were turned down by the Free Church Presbytery in Langholm who were trying to establish a free church in Half Morton. The acquisition of land to build a church in country areas was difficult because the land in these areas was normally owned by the patrons who were responsible for the Established Churches. After a second call was submitted, Rev. William Brown Clark was allowed to proceed to ordination as minister of the Free Church at Maxwelltown.

This must have been a difficult time for the Clark family as for some six months they would have had no permanent home.

This was a challenging time for the Free Church as congregations throughout the country struggled to set up an infrastructure to support new congregations to find money and land to build churches and manses. The Church had also to set up training facilities for future ministers of the newly established Church.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

At the end of another Guild session we are now looking forward to the summer recess. We have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme with many events including music and quizzes, with afternoon meetings preferred in winter.

Although fundraising events have not been well attended as in the past, generous donations have allowed us to donate £700 towards our church Ministries and Mission and the Fabric Fund as well as a few smaller charities, including some locally.

Our 3-year strategy “Be Bold Be Strong” and last theme “Go in Love”, along with our projects, are reaching a conclusion.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who helped with our Soup and Sandwich Lunch in November. The proceeds of £500 are now donated to our chosen project this year in Bolivia, by providing solar ovens to 20 indigenous communities in rain forest areas. This removes the need to collect wood and cut down trees, protecting the area and allowing the women time for crafts and education.

All the National Guild’s six projects over the past three years finish in May with the immediate total raised **£606,950** which includes the Haiti project and Feed the Minds (FGM) which you helped support in the last two years.

Our local Guild and Guild Council members are very proud to be useful in this world. We still drink lots of tea and hope to “GO in Love” next year with the new strategy “One Journey, Many Roads”. You are very welcome to come along, men and women, to enjoy good company. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month starting again in October. Wishing you all a sunny and enjoyable summer.

A D, Convener

Brownies

The Brownies had a busy time throughout the Spring term. We have held meetings with an active theme such as Winter Olympics, and craft evenings, e.g. painting pebbles and making animals out of hand shapes.

The Girlguiding theme for Thinking Day 2018 was “Impact” when we thought about how our actions have an impact on others. We also remembered members of Girlguiding around the world. The older Brownies were proud to parade our Brownie flag at the Thinking Day Church Service and others took part in the readings.

Throughout the term, the Brownies worked hard to practise songs for the Singing Game and Campfire Songs sections of the Music Festival. Also, our dancing team practised the dance Highland Fair from January and were able to perform at the Country Dancing Festival. The Brownies were very happy to be awarded trophies for all three sections.

Two Brownies and a Leader were invited to visit the local group of Girlguiding’s Trefoil Guild. This was to help the ladies of the Trefoil Guild learn a dance devised to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Trefoil Guild.

At the end of April, 6 Brownies and a Leader are attending a Transition to Guides residential weekend at Netherurd, Blyth Bridge.

We have a varied programme planned for the summer term, including walks in Dumfries and Mabie Forest. Our last meeting of the session will be on 19 June.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Scout Group

The Cub and Scout sections are both healthy and thanks to the Leaders, are doing well.

We need volunteers for the Beaver section, which is in abeyance.

Also there needs to be another Cub leader to work with J McN to run the Cub Pack. As a temporary measure, there are parent helpers only.

The Scout section has around 20, including 7 who were invested on Monday 16th April. The Troup has had a winter camp but are now looking to camp during 22nd-24th June. The end of year barbecue will be at Mabie on Monday 25th June.

The Group committee, requires a Chairman, Secretary and a Treasurer.

The hike tents that were bought in 2000 are past their best and replacements are required as soon as possible. There may be fundraising in the autumn to cover some of the cost.

Two Explorers - Alex and Finlay are going to the Blair Atholl Jamboree in July and Finlay is going to a Jamboree in America next year.

Thanks to all the leaders for their time and commitment and to the Church for giving the Group the facilities and halls to use.

If anyone can help with any positions in the Scout Group, please contact me.

H MacD

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club has had another good season, although membership numbers were down slightly this year. We still enjoy socialising as well as getting some exercise. The Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy was won by J M and J T. The annual dinner was held at the Manor House Hotel, Torthorwald. Before the season finishes at the end of April, there will be an evening of ten-pin bowling at Carlisle.

After the summer break we will start again on the first Tuesday in September. New members will be made most welcome. For further information contact J M.

J M

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls. I hope you have had a fantastic Easter break and are feeling relaxed for the lead up to the last term before your summer holidays.

As you know I have been absent for a few months from Sunday Club. I am very grateful to H and D for taking the reins. I am hopeful to return to work in the next couple of weeks so I should be back with you again soon. I'm dying to hear all the things you have been doing while I was away. Father's Day will be coming up in the next couple of months and even though Father's Day isn't necessarily mentioned in the bible, our bibles do tell us how we should treat our fathers and any other important men in our lives, especially our Heavenly Father who loves and cares for our needs.

'Father's Day' stems back to the year 1909 when a lady called Mrs. John B. Dodd proposed that we celebrate our fathers. This is because her own father raised 6 children alone after his wife died in childbirth. It wasn't until over 60 years later that this day was celebrated by many countries as a national holiday. Fathers are special, as are men who take on the role of a father, to children who may not have their own Dad in their lives. They are mentioned in many areas of the bible, which gives us instructions on how to treat them.

When Moses was given the Ten Commandments from God for us all to follow, one of these commandments said 'Honour your father and your mother, so that all may go well for you and that you may enjoy long life on earth'. Honour can mean many things such as when we obey, love, appreciate and forgive our Dads and thank them for all the things they do for us. Other verses in the bible tell us that we should listen to our father's

instructions so that we can learn discipline and understanding for when we are adults ourselves. Remember your Dad has been alive a lot longer than you so is well worth listening to.

Don't forget that we also have a Heavenly Father that cares for and loves us no matter what. So if you don't have a father around, God is the father of all fathers and he will be there even when yours' can't be, which can be very comforting to know.

I know some of you have been looking up some facts in your bibles. Why not read the following to gain a better understanding of what is in your bibles:

Exodus Chapter 20 Verses 1-12

Proverbs Chapter 4 Verses 1 and 2

Proverbs Chapter 23 Verses 22-24

Ephesians Chapter 6 Verses 1-4

Colossians Chapter 3 Verse 20

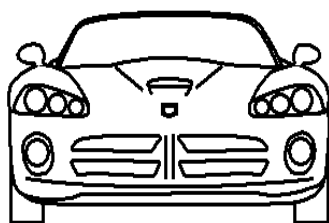
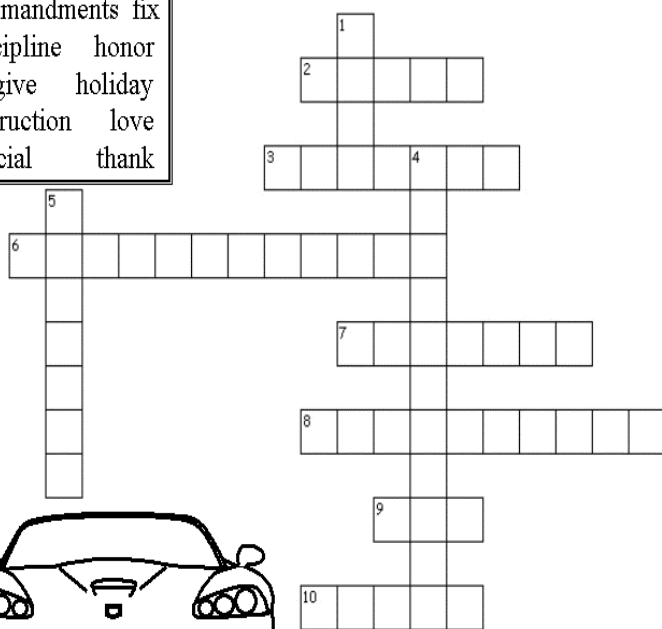
I will ask you what you found out when I get back to Sunday Club. Happy reading!!

Here are a couple of puzzles for you to try. Hope you enjoy them. As usual any questions you may have please contact D. ☺

Father's Day Crossword

Word List:

commandments fix
discipline honor
forgive holiday
instruction love
special thank



Across

2. We are doing this when we listen, obey, appreciate and forgive your dad.
3. God talks about our father in the Bible because he thinks they are this too.
6. Honor your father and mother is one of the ten ____.
7. Dad's make mistakes too so remember to ____ and forget their mistakes.
8. Dad's do this when we do something wrong so we learn from our mistakes.
9. When your dad can't ____ a problem remember you have a heavenly Father that wants to help.
10. Remember to ____ your dad for all he does for you and your family.

Down

1. Make sure to show your dad lots of this by hugging and telling him this.
4. Listen to your father's ____ and you will learn to have discipline and understanding.
5. Father's day is a special ____ to appreciate your dad.

Father's Day Word Search

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

appreciate
commandments
discipline
fix
forgive
help
holiday
honor
important
instruction



learn
listen
love
obey
respect
special
thank
understanding
work



	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July		
1st	Miss E Beeton	VACANT
8th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. P. McKenzie
15th	Mrs. I. Goodwin	VACANT
22nd	Mrs. M. Kingan	VACANT
29th	Mrs. E. Campbell	VACANT
August		
5th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. Adamson
12th	Mrs. A. Howitt	VACANT
19th	VACANT	VACANT
26th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
September		
2nd	Mrs. M. Stockdale	Mrs. C. Whipp
9th	Mrs. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
16th	VACANT	Miss. M. Gemmill
23rd	Mrs. E. Riddick	VACANT
30th	VACANT	Mrs. L. Hyles

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