

Maud and Savoch Church Magazine

February 2017



Charity Number SC009773

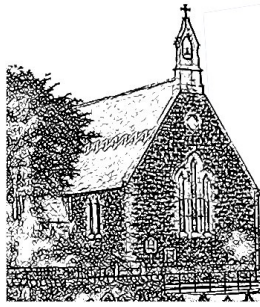
Dear Friends

A few days ago I was reading a story in a Church Magazine which I'd previously heard at the Keswick Convention. The story tells of a Father who was helping his 16-year old daughter with her homework, when suddenly she received an unexpected text message from her mother which simply read; **'What do you want from life?'**

Both the father and daughter were taken aback by this profound question, but it got them thinking and discussing possible answers – career, family, wealth, fulfilment, love and so on. That was until they were interrupted by a further text message from her mother, which explained that the phone's predictive text had automatically corrected the word **'Lidl'** for **'Life'**.

A simple trip to the supermarket coupled with the foibles of mobile phone technology, had got a father and his daughter considering the deeper issues of life, if only for a moment. Perhaps what this story does is highlight that for the vast majority of us, who are so busy with the daily activities of living, family, work, domestic chores and maybe relaxation, that we rarely consider these deeper questions and the consequences of their answers. However the Bible reminds us that deep in our Human DNA, we long for answers to these deep questions about life; *He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11.* There is a part in each one of us, a void that longs for fulfilment. The answer is not a theory, or a scientific discovery, but a man who demonstrates sacrificial love and restores what has been severed by Sin. *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10.* Jesus invites us to know purpose and security through becoming a member of God's restored family, (John 1:12-13).

With Christian Love, Andrew (The Minister).



Services in March 2017

Sunday March 5th - 10.00 am

Family and All Age Service

Refreshments and Fellowship afterwards

Service led by Janet Dick

Sunday March 12th - 10.00 am

All Age Service

Led by the Church Stewardship Team

Sunday March 19th - 10.00 am

Service and Sunday School

Refreshments and Fellowship afterwards

Service led by Reverend Bill Ross

Sunday March 26th - 10.00 am

Service and Sunday School

Service led by Rhoda McDonald



Stewardship

This year our Stewardship season is going to focus on creation. Genesis Chapter 1 tells us that God created the earth, the sea, the sky, animals, plants and humans. God's creation provides us with the things that we need for our daily lives and also with so many wonderful

things for us to enjoy. Creation is a way of revealing God's character and nature and caring for creation is a way of showing our love for God and our thanks for the wonders of his creation.

If we want creation to sustain us we need to look after it, in the same way as we need to look after the soil if we want to grow fruit and vegetables in our gardens. We can't keep using up creation's resources without taking steps to protect and care for it. God wants us to be stewards of creation – to care for the earth, the environment and one another. We have a responsibility not just to look after creation for our generation but for future generations too, to ensure that it provides enough food, clean air and clean water for everyone. Creation's resources are to be used wisely and shared fairly for the benefit of all,

not exploited, mis-used or hoarded by some while others have barely enough to live.

If we are to be good stewards, our lifestyle choices will respect God's creation and other human beings. Over the years there have been huge advances in medicine, technology and education and in so many ways the world that we live in is a better place than the world that previous generations lived in. But on the other hand, human greed & selfishness have contributed to a situation where the earth's resources have been over-exploited * the environment has been damaged. The earth's resources are ill-divided and millions of people live in poverty while the division between those who have too much & those who barely survive becomes even more obvious.

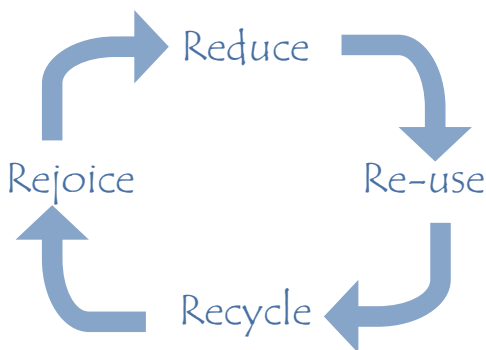


During our stewardship season we'd like think firstly about our impact on the environment and about what we can do to make sure that we play our part in leaving our environment in a better state than we found it, and secondly we'd like to look at what we can do to help those who are struggling to make a living because of the unequal distribution of the earth's resources.

It would be easy to look at pictures on the internet, on TV or in newspapers showing the damage that human activity has caused to the earth and to our environment, or the difficulties faced by people trying to make a living in the face of the unequal distribution of resources and to feel completely overwhelmed and to feel that as individuals we can't do anything to change things. But we need to remember that Jesus calls us to be "faithful in a very little" and so even small actions at an individual or local level will play their part in caring for creation. We need to be the people who cause change in the world so that it becomes a better place for all.



With that in mind, we will be looking at the effect that the lifestyle choices that we make can help care for creation and for our neighbours. We'll be looking at ways to "Reduce, Re-use and Recycle" and also to "Rejoice" - Psalm 104 tells us of how God takes care of his creation and reminds us in verses 33 and 34 that our response to the wonders of God's creation should be like the Psalmist's - "As long as I live, I will sing and praise you, the Lord God, I hope my thoughts will please you, because you are the one who makes me glad".



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

We'll also be looking at how we can support organisations such as FSC, Fairtrade and Traidcraft which work to help those who don't have the same access to creation's resources as we have to make a living. On **Saturday 25th March 2017** from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon we'll be holding a **Spring Fair** in the church hall to raise funds for Fairtrade and for the church – all are welcome & we hope to see you there.

We hope you'll also come along to our family service on Sunday, **12th March 2017**, at 10.00 am, when the stewardship team will be leading worship on the theme of caring for creation. We're planning other "Caring for Creation" activities throughout the year, and these will be advertised in church and in the magazine – everyone is welcome and we hope you'll come along.

If you have any suggestions as to things we can do individually or as a church to help care for creation, the Stewardship Planning team would love to hear from you!

Reduce • Re-use • Recycle • Rejoice

Friends of Maud and Savoch Church

Friends of Maud and Savoch Church meets the first Monday of every month in the Church hall and provides an opportunity for folk to get together and share in the context of Christian fellowship and support.

This is us enjoying our Christmas Lunch at The Old Mart Café, where it was lovely to have Billy and Joan join us.

In January we heard about the inspiring work of Teen Challenge at



Benaiah, a Christian residential centre in Stuartfield where women entrapped in alcohol and drug addiction can stay and take part in the recovery programme. The centre also provides for children to be with their mothers at the centre to avoid the need for them to be separated.

Benaiah means 'God has built' and the resource has helped to rescue many young women from the horror and bondage of addiction. The centre places a strong emphasis on encouraging students to develop skills and to undertake voluntary work in the community to help equip them for the future. It was great to hear from one young woman of how her life has been turned around and her faith developed during her time at Benaiah and she is no looking to a positive future.

The group was entertained by the “Torry Quine” in February and in March the Friends will be hearing from Kevin Hammond about the incredible work of the Cogwheel Trust. Working primarily in Uganda these days, the registered charity, founded in 1995, the Trust aims to provide holistic care for destitute children, within a Christian environment, from birth to independence.

April will see the Friends visiting Culsh House and The Haven to entertain the residents with a series of “happy” songs, poems and tales which will hopefully bring a smile to a few faces.

Whilst a break is taken from the more formal meetings between May and August those Friends who want to still meet on the Monday afternoon for a cuppa and chat.

Anyone can come along to Friends so if you fancy it just pop along one Monday and you will find a warm welcome.

Craft Group and Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Group is currently working on a range of craft projects for the planned Spring Fair on the 25th March. From tea cosies to toorie bunnets, patchwork to Prayer Shawls everyone has their own particular interests and skills. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in, share fellowship and skills or just come along for a cuppa and a chat. The next dates we meet are:

March 13th and 27th April 10th and 24th
May 8th and 22nd

The recent completion of a second Prayer Shawl has led to renewed interest in this aspect of Ministry. The following was written by the founder of the original Prayer Shawl Ministry in 1998.

***Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing,
symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.
They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace,
mother, hug, shelter and beautify.
Those who have received these shawls have been
uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to
fly above their troubles..."***

FAITHSHARE PARTNERSHIP

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”

Psalm 119:105

*(Engraving at Mvera, Malawi – the site where the Bible
was translated into Chichewa)*

So much has been gained in faith, fellowship, mutual cooperation and support from the Faithshare Twinning relationship between St Kane's Church and M'buka CCAP, Malawi. Initially drawn up in 2011, the original formal Twinning Agreement expired at the end of November 2016.

Due to changes within the Church of Scotland it is not possible to renew the formal Faithshare Twinning with Nkhoma Synod. Yet it is clear that there is a strong commitment, on all sides, to continuing the relationship between the twinned churches.

In place of the Faithshare Twinning Agreement encouragement was given to developing a Covenant of Friendship Agreement between the Churches. This was also seen as an opportunity to recognise the commitment of the congregation of Maud and Savocho Church formally including them in the Twinning Covenant.

The Twinning has been agreed by both Kirk Sessions of our Linked Charge (Maud & Savocho ~ St Kane's). This was warmly welcomed by M'buka CCAP and a Twinning Covenant was drawn up for consideration by all parties. This has now been agreed and formally signed on 28th February 2016

TWINNING COVENANT

In the providence of God, we pledge ourselves to a faith sharing partnership between Maud & Savocho - New Deer St Kane's

Church of Scotland and M'buka C.C.A.P. of Nkhoma Synod.

This covenant states:

- 1) We will provide mutual spiritual prayer and encouragement.
- 2) Challenges and opportunities faced by the congregations will be shared monthly. These will be the focus for regular prayer.
- 3) The celebrations and concerns of our congregations will be publicised amongst our church families.
- 4) We will respect each other's church disciplines and traditions. This will be grounded on God's Holy Word as the only foundation for accountability and practice.
- 5) As God wills, we will support and encourage the sharing of time, talents and resources.
- 6) This covenant is subject to renewal by mutual consent of the two parties on 23rd November 2018. This covenant will last until 23rd November 2020.

Josephine Breton (who spent 2014 and 2015) at M'buka returned at the beginning of 2017, after a year at home. Malawi is described as the “warm heart of Africa” and anyone who has spent any time there (and especially with the warm hearted Christians) finds it hard to leave and understands the yearning to return.

Josephine has continued her volunteering as a teaching assistant at M'buka Christian Primary School sharing her gifts and skills as a music teacher at the school and Church.

Alongside Josephine's amazing contribution we are working together on a number of sustainable projects with the Twinning

Committee at M'buka CCAP including a Guild project to establish a tailoring business to support the training of young people for this career and generate income, a “revolving door” project to support the education and training of youth, support for development and improvement of the school and a scheme to sponsor the education of children.

Pease pray for our Christian brothers and sisters at M'buka CCAP and in Malawi, for good rains and crops in 2017, for this Twinning partnership and it's work and for Josephine in her work at M'buka.

***“Truly I tell you whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”
Mathew 25:40***

Josephine kindly updates us regularly with pictures and tales of her work.



Children learning to write their numbers ascending & descending





This shows the progress on the building of the new computer suite and library in M'buka. This development is being supported through the Twinning Partnership.

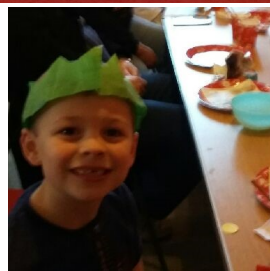
Josephine went with the school kids to visit the poor. The children (but really the parents) & teachers had donated enough food & soap to give 5 old people 3 bags of goods each. She had hoped to include Gail's beautiful baby gifts, but in fact they visited old folks on this trip.



A catch up of pictures from our Christmas events



It was lovely to see the school in church for their Christingle Service - so brave of Janet to do it, but it was much enjoyed. Below shows the Nativity & Christmas Party - the new lights from the Hamper Raffle are installed & look amazing. We were lucky enough to be asked to entertain at the Haven again. Everyone enjoyed the Chocolate Christmas Story. Thank you for playing the accompaniment Gena.

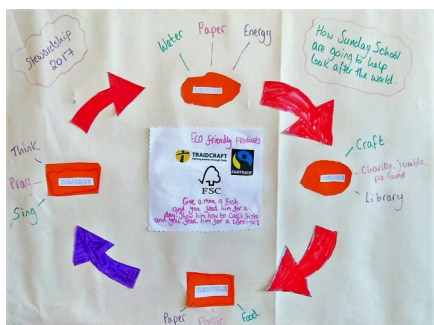




The Work of Christmas *by Howard Thurman*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 when the star in the sky is gone,
 when the kings and princes are home,
 when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
 the work of Christmas begins:
 to find the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among the people,
 to make music in the heart.

Sunday School and Stewardship



We took the Stewardship message into Sunday School and asked them for their input. We discussed the topics and found the children knew a lot about this from home and school and they were very keen to help at church and made some suggestions. We also looked at the products used in the kitchen and found all were in recyclable containers but none were very ecological. We plan to look again in a few months to see how the Stewardship message has changed what is used in the kitchen.

In discussing being eco-friendly we spoke about FSC, Fairtrade and Traidcraft and how they work to help producers. We used the analogy of “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Please look at their excellent display in the hall.



An Acrostic Prayer

written for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

Creating God, You have given us a vision of a new heaven & a new earth
Resources conserved
Earth tended
Atmosphere cleansed
Trees planted
Injustices ended
Oceans teeming
Nations at peace

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer
Alert nations, enthuse churches
Recieve our commitment and so entwine our lives with Your purpose
Earth and heaven will then sing of your glory. Amen.

Contact Details

Interim Moderator	Rev. Andrew Fothergill	01771 637365
Session Clerk	Janice Cruickshank	644707
Clerk to the Board	Isabel Cumming	637553
Treasurer & Gift Aid	Isabel Cumming	637553
Fabric Convenor	Ernie Panton	613385
Free Will Envelopes	Margaret Simpson	613304
Roll Keeper	Irene Jappy	613461
Friends of M&S Church	Gena Walker	613312
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Suzanne Nicol	613220
Life & Work Convenor	Alistair Robertson	613557
First Aider	Katharine O'Connor	613823
Food Hygiene	Katharine O'Connor	613823
Organist	As per rota	

Kirk Session (Elders)

Janice Cruickshank	644707
Isabel Cumming	637553
Margaret Simpson	613304
Alistair Robertson	613557
Jim Muir	613229
Jennifer Reid	613301
Ernie Panton	613385
Marilyn Morrice	613527
Irene Jappy	613461
Gordon Reid	613301
Jan Sanders	613600
Andrew Dick	613512

Congregational Board

*The board consists of all the elders
plus these elected members:*

Henry Cartney	613503
Jack Cowie	613365
Mary Hirst	613629
Suzanne Nicol	613220
Marie Simpson	613473
Louise Muir	613329
Kath O'Connor	613823



Church Services and Groups

Service and MASH Sunday Club

Sunday 10.00am

Fellowship after a service on 1st and 3rd Sunday of a month

Lunch Club

Soup and sweet is held the 3rd Thursday of the month

Friends of Maud and Savoch

Meet the 1st Monday of the month in the Church Hall at 2pm

Walking Group

Runs from May to September

Crafting Group

This group meet twice a month in the Church Hall

Prayer Group

Meet Wednesday in the Church 10 - 11am

See Page 3 for the Christmas Services

Our website contains a list of regularly updated services and events.

www.maudchurch.co.uk