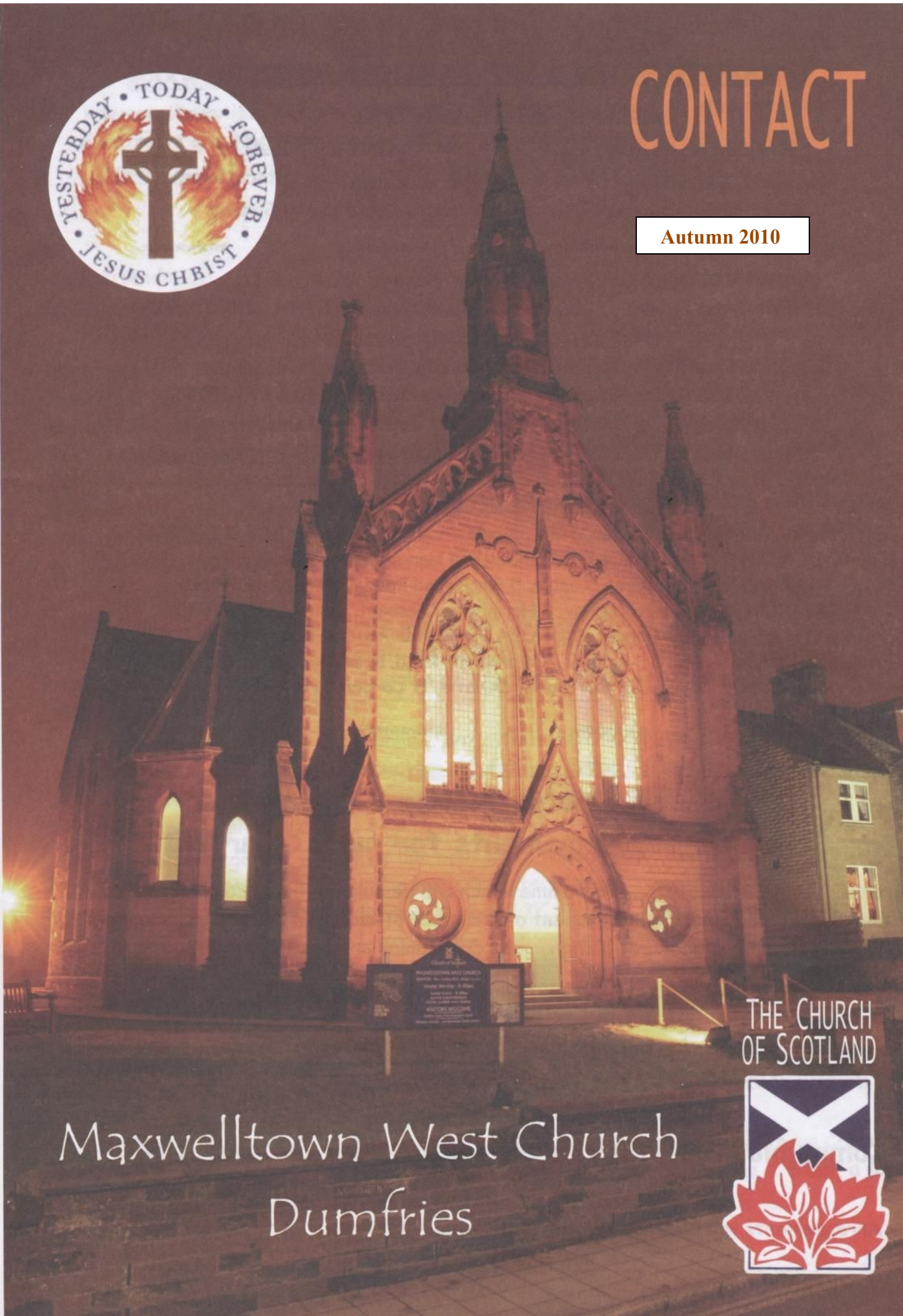


CONTACT

Autumn 2010



Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH. DUMFRIES

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES: 12th September 11.00am and 5.00pm

HARVEST THANKSGIVING: 26th September 11.00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL (J -Max & K-Max): 11.00am term time

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

Tots 'n' Tunes (for babies & toddlers) in the Committee Room on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10.00am

MINISTER: Rev. Gordon M.A. Savage, M.A., B.D.

Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH

During Rev. Savage's illness, the Interim Moderator is Rev. Donald Campbell, St George's Church

Pastoral care will be provided by Rev. Colin Sutherland

ASSISTANT MINISTER: Rev. Sandy Geddes, M.A. B.D

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORKER: Mrs. Rachel Lyagoba

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. E Riddick

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie

TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson

FABRIC CONVENOR: Mr. B Riddick

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Dr. S Christie

Congregational Register

Baptisms

1st August: Drew Robert John Buglass

Deaths

12th May: Mrs. Janet Ross

14th June: Mrs. Mary Johnston

28th July: Mrs. Marjorie Boyd

New Members by Transfer

Mrs. A. Davidson

Mrs. M. Thomson

Mrs. N. Kirkpatrick

Message from Rev. Gordon Savage

I know that it came as a very great shock to you all, as it did to Mairi and me and the boys, to learn of my illness. I want to thank all of you for the messages of support and good wishes, and above all for your prayers. The first weeks of treatment have been difficult, and perhaps only those of you who have had chemotherapy will know what I mean by the overwhelming sense of exhaustion, which engulfs the patient. But the care and support of the medical staff, together with the encouragement of many friends, have kept me going. It is also a consolation to me that the congregation is in the good hands of Donald Campbell, Sandy Geddes and Colin Sutherland, and of the many members who have undertaken extra tasks during my absence. Thanks to you all.

Gordon M.A. Savage

Contact- Changes in the offing

As you will have noticed on our paper copy of Contact, the cover has lost colour. This is an economy measure designed to save approximately £300 a year. In addition our risograph has become unreliable and may fail completely at any moment.

The replacement is a much less expensive item but this brings its own problems regarding preparation and printing. It is regarding both processes that I am seeking help.

Exactly how things will unfold is not yet clear but we will have to replace the "stapling team" who are retiring at the end of the year. My best estimate is that the printing and stapling as a combined exercise will take a little over four hours and will be carried out in the vestry and adjacent church hall. The total volume of work is approximately four hours work four times per year divided up in any number of ways. This will depend on the number of people willing to give time for part or all of each session.

I would ask anyone interested in helping to contact me. I would hope to arrange an on site meeting of potential helpers to look over the task and judge how much time they are willing and able to devote to the task.

Hoping to hear from a number of you

S C

Celebrations of Giving

The 9th, 10th and 13th June seem a long time ago but what a celebration we had over these dates. The exhibition in the main hall demonstrated what a great deal Max. West has to celebrate. The colourful and interesting displays welcomed visitors into the hall where there was a chance to meet friends old and new. In church a message was read from the Rev. Gordon Savage explaining why the celebrations were taking place:

"Like any family we (Max. West) have plans for the future. We want to see things grow and develop. We want to ensure that our Church can cater for the next generation as well as our own. To make plans and carry them out we need to be properly resourced".

A presentation was made detailing how the money is spent and how we can make a difference by doing so. This was followed by some super nibbles and refreshments.

The Celebrations have come and gone but the Stewardship continues with the Finance team collating the replies from the congregation. By the beginning of October the treasurer hopes to be able to report on progress. So far the signs are looking positive. A thanksgiving service is planned for September and a final assessment meeting will be held with the Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant in October.

A large number of people were involved in making the Celebrations so successful. Space does not allow us to print all the names. We would however like to thank each and every one of you for all your help. Finally and not least our thanks go to all those who supported us at the celebrations. We also wish to thank those who have responded so positively to this programme in order that our Church can continue to grow and develop now and in years to come.

God bless

PJ & VC Planning Group Chairpersons

An unexpectedly timely follow-up found by K Bretherton:

When you were born your parents brought you here.

When you were married you joined your partner here.

When you die your friends will bring you here.

Don't wait for the big events.

Come next Sunday.

Editorial

Church life has been largely overshadowed by two events –the Minister’s illness and the Celebration of Giving. The former came as a great shock to all when the Session Clerk made the announcement at the end of the shortened service on Sunday the 23rd of May.

A great many thoughts must have run through our heads on receiving the news. I suspect they were characterized by sympathy, puzzlement and good wishes. The least and most that can be said at this time is that our thoughts and prayers are with the minister and his family. As requested, the Festival of Giving has gone ahead as planned. The undertaking must have dominated the lives of the Chairpersons for the last ten months. Their efforts and those of their numerous helpers may have escaped the attention of many who did not respond to the invitations to attend. To those of us who did the evidence of careful and prolonged preparation was self-evident.

We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. I cannot speak officially but I’m sure even very late responses will be acceptable.

S C

The Session

The Session met on the 22nd June under the chairmanship of the Rev. Donald Campbell, Interim Moderator in the absence of Mr. Savage currently on sick leave.

The unsuccessful attempt to expand the activities of Christian Care for the Homeless was noted. A recent meeting on the subject was attended by three Max. West members- the biggest representation of any local church. It was agreed that the matter should rest meantime.

Our Kenya activities were favourably reported. Our contributions to Bondo show encouraging results. D Johnson had news that our support for Mathia contributed to nine bursaries being awarded to youngsters to attend University-a truly gratifying outcome.

Other routine business was conducted. The communion roll shows that three ladies have joined the Congregation- Mrs A Davidson, Mrs M Thomson and Mrs Kirkpatrick.

The Session meets again on the 15th September.

T B & SC

ELDERS VISITS TO ORGANISATIONS

2010-2011

Guild/ After Eights	A MacDonald	R Braidwood
K Max and J Max	AHR Crossan	WS Riddick
Y Max	T Finlayson	A Dunbar
Good Companions	E Walker	
Scouts/ Cub Scouts/ Beaver Colony	RG Sproat	GD Little
Guides/ Brownie Guides	A Stott	H MacDonald
Badminton Clubs	I Slack	

Deacons Court

The treasurer reported on recent income and expenditure. The picture was complicated. We are expecting a payment arising out of "gift aid" which hopefully will offset the deficit in expenditure over income for the year so far.

As yet it is not possible to comment on the results of the Celebration of Giving. Some time may elapse before a final assessment is possible but interim results will be reported as soon as possible. Considerable attention was devoted to replacement of our elderly risograph as replacement parts being no longer available.

Various alternatives were debated. In the end it was decided, given our difficult financial position, to adopt the least expensive option and acquire a simple photocopier.

The fabric convener reported that work on the manse roof was progressing satisfactorily and within budget.

E R & S C

RELAY FOR LIFE, WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE **FROM NODDING ACQUAINTANCES TO BECOMING FRIENDS**

This was a secondary benefit of becoming a member of the Max West Team formed to raise funds for Relay for Life Cancer Research. This type of Project is certainly good for the Church Family. At its April Meeting the Deacons Court agreed that the Church should enter a Team for the Relay for Life 24 hour rally on the 17/18th July.

I MacPhee acted along with 24 other members, four of whom were Church members. The Team started fund raising for Cancer Research. They spread their net far and wide by contacting friends and acquaintances. Donations were obtained from as far a field as Hampshire in the south and Aberdeen in the north and remarkably, one member received a donation from Australia. This greatly assisted us in reaching the exceptional sum we achieved. With the fantastic generosity of Max West Members and the help of others who greatly assisted at a Coffee Morning and Baking Stall at the event The Team has now reached the outstanding total of £8500 for Cancer Research. As two thirds of this was Gift aided, an additional sum of £1420 will be realised which Relay for Life can use for Cancer Research.

The main event took place at Park Farm on the 17/18th July starting with a fly past of an elderly Dakota, at 11 am Saturday. Following this 85 Survivors made a lap of honour (this included a number of Max West members) followed by the 27 teams participating. Members of each Team then took it in turn to continually walk round the track for 24 hours with the climax being at 11pm when over 500 candle bags were placed around the Track, in remembrance of, or in thanksgiving for, loved ones. After a minute's silence, over 500 team members and visitors made a silent circuit of the Track which was very moving and special.

The total funds raised by the event in Dumfries have now reached a fantastic £70,000. The organization was completely in the hands of volunteers. The equipment on the field donated free of charge by local businesses.

Every penny of this goes to Cancer Research Scotland to assist in finding new treatments for Cancer.

The motto of Relay for Life is **WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE** . THE Max West Team with members' assistance has greatly helped in this objective.

B R

Bondo and Mathia

A Dunbar has received correspondence from both of the above. It is quite lengthy running to four and one full page respectively.

Winnie goes into some detail about the impact of our help there but stresses the numerous deficiencies which remain. Profound gratitude is expressed for our continuing help.

Our correspondent from Mathia talks of progress in the building of the new church, a project which has been under way for some time.

The students we have supported are making progress and one of them, Paul Mucheke has graduated.

The nature of his degree is not made clear.

Youth activities appear to be prominent in Mathia and the writer inquires after our young people.

The letter concludes with warm greetings to the congregation of Max. West.

We hope to enlarge on this report in a subsequent edition.

Threads

The Mission and Discipleship Committee of the Church of Scotland has made a series of DVDs known as THREADS. This is about the lives of several people who are involved in Church activities and how their discipleship is expressed in practical terms. The individuals are real, authentic and accessible. They are not celebrities - they are just like us - ordinary people with a calling to bear witness to the Kingdom of God. They are people who are doing what they are doing, not to impress but because Christ has made an impression, an indelible impression. They are learning and teaching without realising what it means to be a Christian. Each of the episodes in this series of 8 DVDs lasts about 20 minutes and discussion material is available with each episode to aid conversation that hopefully will develop. Should interest be expressed in seeing these DVDs, I would be prepared to run them during an 8-week period through October/November with times to be arranged.

15

We have been asked to include the following appeal:

Citizens Advice: Help us make a difference.

Over 80% of the people who keep each Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in Scotland running are volunteers, helping many thousands of people each year.

With more volunteers we could help even more people. What about you? Can you help us make a difference? Do you have what it takes to join our army of volunteers?

All sorts of people volunteer as CAB advisors and provide free, confidential, independent and impartial advice.

Although different in many ways, advisors have some things in common: they are good listeners, team players, non-judgmental, enjoy helping all types of people, are willing to learn new skills, will commit 4-6 hours each week, and feel good about the difference they make.

You don't need special skills or knowledge as your bureau will give you all the training you need.

The role is varied, some of the things you will learn to do include:

Use Advisernet, the CAB Service electronic system, to give information to clients.

- Explain the choices faced by clients.
- Offer help with letters, phone calls and form filling.
- Make calculations about benefits.
- Refer clients to other agencies if they are better placed to help.

Being a volunteer adviser can seem a little daunting, but don't worry, you will get all the help you require. We have created a comprehensive, integrated training programme to prepare you for advising.

We are currently adding a "Financial Education" module to our programme which will include training to enable you to assist clients with budgeting and other financial problems. If you are interested in doing this type of training, or perhaps even specializing in this type of advice, or would like to make a general enquiry about volunteering contact TOM MARCHBANK on 01387 252456 or your local bureau, details of which you will find in your local telephone directory.

Reports from Organizations

Scout Section Report

I was hoping to report that the issue of a new Scout Troop leader had been resolved. Well there was someone lined up to take the position, and he had done his basic training. Unfortunately he has decided to take his family to Cumbria, as he has bought a Public House and he was awaiting confirmation of the purchase. So it is back to the drawing board and the section is again appealing for a section leader. I will continue as leader for the time being, as I would have had to shadow the new leader until he was happy and confident to take over. If anyone knows of a person who could be persuaded to take over, please contact me.

At the end of the last session we had a night out at Lady Park Farm wood lighting fires. The boys were using silver birch bark peelings as a starter then applied increasing sizes of wood to keep the fire going. The challenge was to use only one match that failed though. By the time we were due leave, they all had good going fires. They were then all extinguished and scattered, you will be pleased to hear.

The end of session barbeque went well and there were presentations to the Littles for their services to the Scout Group, as they were both retiring. They will be a great loss to Maxwelltown West Sections. Akela did a great job of keeping us all on track. Her shoes will be hard to fill. She is hoping though to take a post on the District committee. Our thanks go out to her and her husband for all of their hard work and support. The Explorer section, which uses our halls, has some members away this July at the International Scout Jamborette in Blair Atholl Castle grounds, in Perthshire. This camp is held every two years and gives the youth a chance to meet and interact with foreign scouts.

The leaders are enjoying the break from the regular Monday night meetings and are charging their batteries for the return at the beginning of September. Thanks go to Jonathan the Assistant Scout leader and D Rosie for all their help.

Addendum

A scout centenary 2007 woggle was in the Scout exhibit, but by the Sunday it had disappeared. If anyone has found it, could they return it to me? They are no longer available and went with my centenary neckerchief. So it would be a shame not to have it as a set. Thank you,

PS Stop press! Woggle has now been found!

H M Scout Leader

After Eights

The new session begins on Thursday the 30th September with a cookery demonstration by Catherine Baird from the Green Tree House, Moniave. There will be a chance to sample the food at the end. The syllabus for the rest of the session is as follows:-

October 28th Allan Marshall on "A Vet's Life"

November 25th Brian Carr on his experience as head gardener at Threave Gardens

December 9th Christmas meal

January 27th Colin Mitchell on the Moffat Mountain Rescue.

February 24th Rev. Ella Pennington on the topic of weddings.

March 24th Helen Muirhead demonstrating traybake recipes.

April 28th End of session meal.

New members will be made most welcome.

J M

Guild Report

Summer seems to have flown past again and we are now looking forward to catching up with many friends and hopefully making some new ones. Our first meeting is on Tuesday 5th October with the Dedication Service in the church taken by Rev. Colin Sutherland who will also be our speaker for the evening.

This year the committee has chosen to support The International Justice Mission Project "Terrify No More", in Cambodia. IJM rescues people from slavery and enforced prostitution in countries where they cannot rely on authorities for help. In 2007, worldwide they managed to free 207 women from enforced prostitution and return them to their families or give whatever care was required. Some were children as young as five. The February Coffee Morning will support this project.

A varied programme is planned with many interesting and light hearted evenings ahead, so look out for the Syllabus which will be on the Guild Notice board in the Simmons hall quite soon. One change this session on January and February our meetings will take place in the afternoon, avoiding any inclement weather.

All are welcome in "The Guild" including men so do come along and find out more.

A D Guild Convener

Brownies

After Easter the Brownies enjoyed evenings trying drama, dancing, and decorating cakes to look like fish. The month of May was spent creating the Brownie display for the celebration of giving event. The girls had great fun making paper mache Brownies, a tree and posters. In June we visited Mabie Forest for a walk and promise celebration of Eve, Megan and Niamh. This was followed by a Teddy Bears picnic with lots of food and Teddy Bears.

We visited a local restaurant for the end of term event when the girls dressed up in their summer clothes and enjoyed a meal. Six girls completed their Brownie adventure with four of them moving to Guides.

Our Brownie adventure resumes on the 31st August when we will be welcoming new girls.

J McE Brownie Leader

The Good Companions

The Good Companions will meet again on Wednesday 29th September at 2pm. Friends old and new will be made welcome.

We are still in need of a pianist

D M W

Glory in the Glen: A History of Evangelical Revivals in Scotland 1880-1940

This book is an engaging read on several levels giving the author's historical account and thought provoking analysis of events that have transformed the spiritual and physical landscapes in our towns and villages.

In this book Tom Lennie fills a gap in Scottish Church history. Despite its lengthy analysis involving a "spiritual awakening" or "revitalizing" within churches within an area which contrasts with the smooth flow of daily life, Lennie provides a reminder that Christian conversion is above all, a supernatural work.

Describing the Lewis revivals from first-hand accounts, Lennie brings to this book, stories of dramatic Christian conversion, great fervour for Christ, great numbers of conversions, and prayer meetings lasting for several days at a time. His description of the fishermen's revival of 1919-23 when the gospel came by sea from the fishing ports of East Anglia up the east coast of England and Scotland as far as Wick and Orkney, allowed me to make sense of why particular denominations were so well established in these areas and at least make sense of the stories of revival that I had heard when I lived in Wick some years ago.

Revival accounts, some great and some small cover much of Scotland but all have left their mark on our church buildings. Fascinating as these accounts are, it is in the spiritual sphere that this book holds the strongest message. The Saviour tells us in John 3 that we must be re-born of the Spirit and it is in Acts 9 that we get such a powerful example of what this means through his description of the conversion of Saul. Saul, the persecutor of Christ became His chief witness in the early years of the church through a meeting with the risen Christ that left him blind, speechless, and changed. The descriptions in Lennie's book of Christian conversion contain such examples of the transforming power of God that are in almost all instances preceded by a praying people.

J S

	Church Flowers	Memorial Flowers
3 rd Oct.	Mrs M Watson	Mrs L Archibald
10 th	Mrs M Allison	Mrs Edgar
17 th	Mrs A Howitt	Mrs E McNay
24 th	Mrs M Brown	Mrs M Carruthers
31 st	Mrs B Walker	Mrs D Mairs
7 th Nov.	Mrs M Barbour	Mrs M Coulson
14 th	Mrs Forsyth & Mrs Scott	Mrs B Steven
21 st	Mrs McDowall	Mrs S Robin
28 th	Vacant	Vacant
5 th Dec.	Mrs M Renwick	Mrs V Saunders
12 th	Mrs H Campbell	Mrs Cameron
19 th	Mrs M Wallace	Mrs S Brown
26 th	Mrs A Dunbar	Mrs S Brown

Harvest helpers are required to fill baskets on Friday evening 24th and Church decorations on Saturday 25th September.

Also we have vacant spaces to fill. For further information telephone A Dunbar

A Date for Your Diary

A Concert on Saturday 20th November will be given by Brightons Church Praise in aid of our Kenyan Project.

They gave a great concert in Max. West some years ago which was well received and we look forward to their return visit.

Tickets: £5 per person: £10.00 per family composed of two adults and however many children.