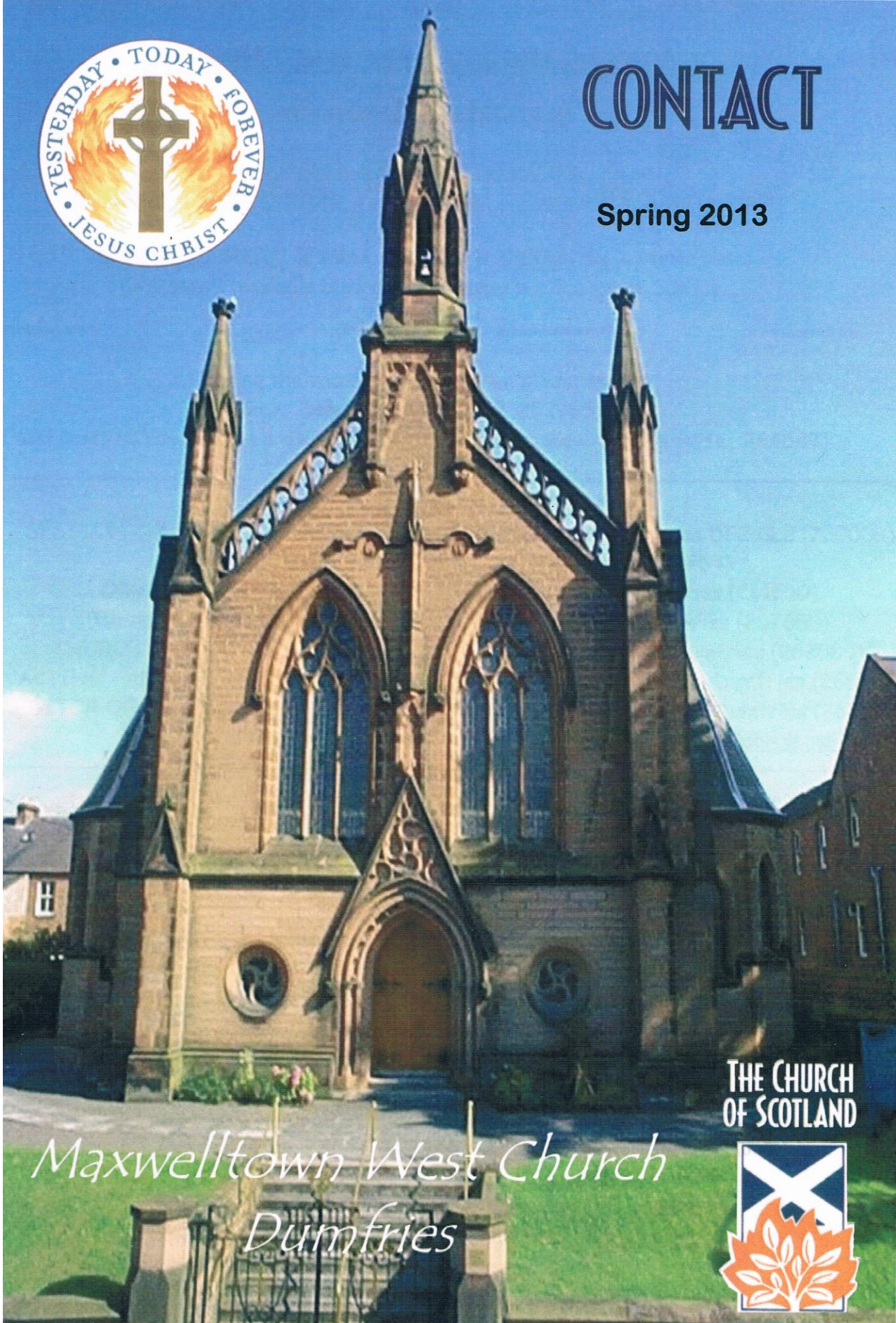


CONTACT

Spring 2013



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES: 17th March 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.

During the vacancy, the Interim Moderator is **Rev. Donald Campbell**
and pastoral care will be provided by Locum Minister, **Rev. Liz Mack**

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: B Shepherd

TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

3rd November: Mr. Jimmy Stuart, Dumfries

12th November: Mrs. Margaret Grimshaw, Dumfries

16th November: Miss Mary Bryden, Dumfries

17th November: Mrs. Helen Hetherington, Dumfries

27th November: Mrs. Elsie Walker, Dumfries

1st December: Mrs. Jean Kearney, Dumfries

29th December: Mrs. Lorna Templeton, Dumfries

6th January: Mrs. Mary Schlag, Dumfries

8th January: Mrs. Sheila Brown, Lochmaben

12th January: Mrs. Sally Symonds, Dumfries

13th January: Mr. Michael Webb, Dumfries

26th January: Mrs. Jean Layden, Dumfries

New Members by Certificate

Mrs. Janet Murray, Dumfries

Ms Elsie Murray, 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.

My Dear Friends in Maxwelltown West,

We move into a new year with our way forward towards a new Ministry still unknown. As the many of you who came to the last Presbytery meeting will know, we were given a 6 month period to come up with proposals of our own when the option by Presbytery of a 7 year reviewable tenure was rejected by the Church. Our Interim Moderator and a few ad hoc members are doing their very best to come up with acceptable alternatives, so we have to wait and continue praying for guidance in this matter. However difficult this situation is, we must have no fears that Maxwelltown West is stagnating in limbo!!! We are not and the life and worship of the Church continues as we are commissioned by Christ to do....and as the Mission Statement of our Church declares, "We aim to be a place of welcome to all in our parish" and we are delighted to have added 11 new members to our roll in the past year.

We also aim to be a centre of Christian worship and fellowship and I have been warmed to hear that our worship together is enjoyed and that our support and help to one another is being experienced and appreciated and I thank our Parish Visitors team for all they do to keep our housebound members in touch with church life.

Our young people and families are well catered for in the provision of a crèche each week, a lively J Max and K Max Sunday School and Y Max for the older ones. Without the faithful service of all involved in that important work we would not be in the good position we are.

Some ten members and I attended a day long seminar with the charismatic Minister, Speaker, Hymn Writer and Inspirer, Rev John Bell in January and his great message to us was that Church must primarily be a place of fellowship and care – as you know, a message close to my heart. If people do not feel loved and welcomed in our fellowship we may as well close the doors!!!

Each one of you is an Evangelist. People need to be brought into Church personally. If we each found and invited just one more, think of the effect on our congregation!

So we can go forward as I said in my New Year Sermon this year, reassured by God's past faithfulness, renewed by the promise of His never failing presence with us and recommissioned by Christ's faith in us. "As the Father sent me into the world, so I am sending you!" - John chapter 17 verse 18.

Our Church may have to change but our Mission does not, so in faith together let us step boldly into 2013 full of hope and joy.

With love in His Service

Liz

An update from the Interim Moderator

Over the course of the winter the Kirk Session has been in conversation with Presbytery's Ministry and Resources Committee about the future of Maxwelltown West. Despite the Presbytery Plan recently agreed with the Ministries Council indicating that Maxwelltown West would be allocated one full time ministry on an unrestricted tenure (in other words on the same basis as before) the Presbytery Committee proposed that Maxwelltown West be allocated a full time ministry on a reviewable tenure of seven years.

Members of Maxwelltown West attended the meeting of Presbytery on 28th November where Presbytery were persuaded to grant a further six months to Maxwelltown West to explore other options with a view to calling a minister on an unrestricted tenure. Since then the Kirk Session has been working hard looking for a new way forward. The Kirk Session has until Presbytery meets on 26th June to come up with alternative proposals at which time Presbytery will decide whether to accept these proposals or allocate a seven year reviewable tenure ministry.

In the meantime please keep the Kirk Session and Presbytery in your prayers that the correct way forward for Maxwelltown West may be found.

Donald Campbell

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met for two ordinary meetings, on 13th November and 16th January, when a number of items were discussed. It has also had a further meeting with the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee on 19th December.

The main items of business have continued to be centred around discussion of our approach to the vacancy. You will remember that we received a visit by members of the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee on 11th October when we agreed that we wish to call a minister without restriction. Unfortunately that Committee indicated an intention to recommend to Presbytery that we be given a seven year reviewable tenure. At the Presbytery meeting, we were granted a six month period in which to look at various other options. Discussion of these were continued at our meeting in December when a committee was appointed by Session. That group's first report was presented to the January meeting when it was agreed that we should continue to look at a link with New Abbey in the first instance and, should this be unsuccessful, to return to press Presbytery for an unrestricted call.

At the Congregational Meeting five new deacons were elected - S Crosbie, P Hyles, Mrs S McNaught, Mrs J Nye and Mrs L Vaughan and at our January meeting Miss E J Wears was co-opted.

Resignations from the Kirk Session from J Brown and S Christie have been received. Session expressed its thanks to both for their service over the years to Maxwelltown West Church. I would ask members to note that Communion will be celebrated on the third Sunday in March, 17th March, this year.

T B, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on the 21st November 2012 chaired by the Rev Donald Campbell. He opened the meeting reading from Matthew chapter 5 verses 13-16 and prayer. E Riddick formally resigned as Clerk to the Deacons' Court following the agreeing of the minutes and B Shepherd was appointed as the new Clerk and took the Oath. A vote of thanks and well wishes were extended to the retiring clerk for her many years of valued service.

J Wood was appointed as the "Hall Letting Coordinator". Any requests for hiring should be referred to her.

D McNay presented the treasurer's report which shows that for the 10 month year-to-date, income exceeded expenditure by just over £8,600 and was pleased to report that our Church finances continue in a satisfactory position.

He also, in the absence of R Slack, presented the Finance Report. This covered the increase in salaries for the Organist, Cleaner and Church Officer which would increase by inflation of 2.5%. It was also approved that 3 new "organ stops" be added to the organ at a cost of no more than £1,200.

D Miller presented the Fabric Report which covered the testing of gas equipment, progress of work on the vestry wall and redecoration, the manse expenses whilst unoccupied and insurance cover for the new organ.

It was agreed that the Rev Liz Mack would act as the convener of a group to oversee fund raising events to prevent any clash of dates etc.

B S, Clerk to the Deacons' Court

Holy Week Services 2013

All Services are at **7.30pm** unless otherwise stated

Monday 25th March	St Teresa's RC Church, Glasgow St., Dumfries
Tuesday 26th March	St John's Church, Lover's Walk, Dumfries
Wednesday 27th March	River of Life Church, Lover's Walk, Dumfries
Thursday 28th March	Troqueer Church, Troqueer Road, Dumfries
Friday 29th March	Good Friday Walk of Witness leaving Troqueer Church at 10.30am prompt. Good Friday Evening Service in Dumfries North West Church, Lochside Road, Dumfries
Sunday 31st March	Easter Day Sunrise Service at Millgreen at 8.00am , thereafter everyone is invited to the Salvation Army Hall on the Whitesands for breakfast and fellowship.

Members are cordially invited to attend the above services

World Church Team

Bondo: The Bondo project continues to develop. Since starting in 2007, we have assisted in the construction of six earth toilets, two deep wells and a small church with a recent classroom addition. The initiation of a Credit Scheme two years ago, from funding provided by us, has resulted in numerous small businesses being developed. The monthly donations from our members is now being used to assist in feeding 550 children and the recent Gift Scheme we introduced this Christmas has resulted in £110 being forwarded to provide Sunday School literature and £140 to purchase beehives for another business scheme.

We continue to seek contributions towards the feeding programme, as well as sponsorship for individual children. If you feel that you can help, please contact one of the members of the World Church Team led by A Dunbar. The Gift Scheme continues throughout the year and gifts may be “purchased” at any time.

The hopes and dreams of those in Usenge are evolving and in every message we receive they emphasise their gratitude to Maxwelltown West.

Mathia: Our links with Mathia Church started over five years ago. In that time we have twice welcomed visitors from our partner church in Kenya and representatives of the World Church Team visited Mathia in 2009. Our abiding memory from these visits is of their rock-solid, unshakeable faith in the Lord. Our partnership with Mathia is mainly based on a sharing of faith. However, we have assisted in the purchase of materials to enable the congregation to extend their ever-growing church building and each year we contribute to their Bursary Fund to assist their young people to continue their higher education studies. Both of these “gifts” are in our ongoing Gift Scheme. The highlight for John Njeru and Banice Wanjiku during their visit last year was meeting our own young people, whether in Church groups, members of our uniformed organisations, or in schools or College. Our link with Mathia is a very positive one and we were delighted and humbled to receive many heartfelt greetings from their congregation over the Christmas and New Year period. Our links with both of our Kenyan projects continue to grow stronger each year.

D J

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

We have had a very successful session so far and finished the first part with an enjoyable Christmas lunch at Woodlands.

Our January meeting was a very informative talk on ‘Mary’s Meals’, our project for this session and for which we are having a coffee morning on 9th February. Mary’s Meals give children in poor countries the opportunity to go to school and get an education along with one meal each day. In February, our speaker will be R Slack talking on ‘Amazon and Beyond’. We have two meetings in March - the first one is Ian McIntyre speaking on A Tale of Two Hospitals and the next one is the AGM when Jennifer Tobin will speak to us about RnR South West Scotland.

I would like to thank members and friends for all their support for our coffee morning in November. As a result we have been able to donate £500 to Ministries and Mission, £500 to the Fabric Fund, £200 to the Organ Fund, £50 to the Bible Society, £50 to Christian Aid, £50 to the Leprosy Mission and £50 to the local branch of Women’s Aid.

Anyone wishing to attend any of our meetings will be made most welcome.

M H, Convenor

Scouts

Since I have taken over Hamish's roll in the scouts we have been working on recruiting new members. We have now doubled in size to ten members including our first girl scout. We've also been working on small challenges and problem solving which will work towards the challenge badges. Hopefully when the better weather comes in we will get outside to some activities. If there is anyone aged between ten to fourteen interested in outdoor and indoor activities they can contact me through the church web site.

S S Scout Leader

After Eights

In October, Gilly Fraser, who used to be a newsreader on Border TV and is now a freelance journalist, entertained us by speaking about her two favourite subjects – horses and romance. In November Margaret Vaughan from Heck brought along a wonderful selection of jams, jellies and chutneys that she produces to sell, mainly to farmers' markets. As well as learning about how she started with this enterprise and getting some tips that we could use at home, we were able to sample her delicious wares.

We enjoyed a non-traditional Christmas meal at Little Italy in December.

By the time you read this, we will have learned about cheese making and about the life of the missionary from Dunscore, Jane Haining.

J M

Brownies

The Brownies have continued with their Brownie Adventure. We all enjoyed our Hallowe'en party with a variety of original and colourful costumes and had a good turnout at the Remembrance Day Sunday Church parade.

The girls achieved their Circus Performer badge after an evening learning various skills including plate spinning, juggling and Diablo. The Brownies have also earned their First Aid badge after talks from a paramedic.

For Christmas, we enjoyed a visit to the Panto at the Theatre Royal and then performed the nativity play "Completing the Crib" to Roseland House one week, and to parents the following week.

The Brownies were invited to decorate the Christmas trees in the church and the hall and the girls who were able to come along had great fun doing this.

We are presently working on the dramatisation of Tam O' Shanter and will soon be looking forward to spring by working on this section for the Seasons badge.

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

J McE, Brownie Leader

Good Companions

We ended our autumn session with a very good Christmas lunch, which was enjoyed by everybody, especially the second helpings from the sweet trolley!

Our spring session commences on Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 2.00pm. Any new members would be most welcome.

S H



Children's Corner

Well boys and girls, that is Christmas and New Year all past and we have begun our lead up to Easter and of course Mothers Day and the family service on 10th March 2013, where we once again will be making gifts to present to all the ladies in the church. You have all worked really hard to take part in as many church services as possible. Well done!! The congregation have all been very complimentary and want you to keep up the good work.

This term we are going to be looking at some of the Old Testament stories, beginning with Adam and Eve, Noah, and Moses. We have lots of great activities for you to try, so bring along your friends, brothers, sisters and cousins as they will be made very welcome.

Why not try out the song I have printed this time and we can try it out in Sunday school and maybe even church if you like it. I have also put a puzzle below that you might like to try based on this month's theme. Hope you like it. Your Mums, Dads and Carers can contact me if they need any information.

Thanks for reading. Dawn ☺

Adam and Eve Anagram

Unscramble the letters to find the words:

Efil-----

Einqu-----

Aeimnpttt-----

Adegr-----

Ahppy-----

Aekns-----

Adam and Eve Song (To tune of farmers in the den)

God made the world
God made the world
He saw that it was good, Amen
God made the world

Then God created man
Then God created man
Made Adam in His likeness
Yes God created man

God made the woman Eve
God made the woman Eve
He took a rib from Adam's side
God made the woman Eve

God placed them in Eden
God placed them in Eden
He said all this is yours for good
God placed them in Eden

But please don't touch the tree
But please don't touch the tree
Just please don't eat that fruit
you see
Oh, please don't touch that tree

A serpent slithered in
A serpent slithered in
He talked to Eve about the fruit
A serpent slithered in

Eve ate forbidden fruit
Eve ate forbidden fruit
She shared the fruit with Adam
They ate forbidden fruit

God was very sad
God was very sad
He told them they would have to
leave
Oh, God was very sad.

And that's how things went wrong
And that's how things went wrong
Oh thats why life became so hard
Yes, that's how things went
wrong.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
April		
7th	Mrs. Grant	Mrs. O. Geddes
14th	Mrs. McCall-Watson	Mrs. M. Allison
21st	Mrs. S. Muir	Mrs. P. Williams
28th	VACANT	Mrs. Boyer
May		
5th	Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. I. Scott
12th	VACANT	Mrs. G. McEwan
19th	Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. A. Milligan
26th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Savage
June		
2nd	Mrs. K. Brown	Mrs. J. Johnstone
9th	Mrs. J. Sloan	VACANT
16th	Mrs. Donkersley	Mrs. McWhirter
23rd	Miss Biggar	Mrs. Adamson
30th	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. P. McKenzie

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

A Date for your Diary

The Social Committee is organising an Easter Sunday brunch to take place after the Easter Sunday service on 31st March. Details will be announced from the pulpit.

A Message from the Editorial Team

Since we started as the editorial team, we have been kept fairly busy and the articles for each issue of Contact have always been in plentiful supply. We welcome these contributions as they are what keep the magazine alive and interesting. Please keep them coming in and let us know what interests you. We are always happy to receive your feedback.

Also, we ask that if any of the organisations have events coming up, they let us know so that we can include them in the 'Dates for your Diary.'