

MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk
<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

Tel: 01387 255900

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 5th March at 11.00am and 3.00pm (in Hall)

SUNDAY CLUB: 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

Minister: Rev. Dave Sutherland, Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH (tel: 247538)

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

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

TREASURER: Mrs. L Hyles, Dumfries

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

18th December 2016: Phoebe, daughter of Danna and Craig Hill, Dumfries

Deaths

29th October: Mrs. Betty Ivins, Dumfries

9th November: Mr. Frank Noakes, Dumfries

8th December: Mrs. Agnes Thomas, Dumfries

10th December: Mr. Andrew McLeod, Dumfries

12th December: Mr. John Little, Dumfries

30th January: Mr. Adam Fleming, Dumfries

Certificates of Transference issued

Mr. Tom and Mrs. Kathryn Bretherton, (to St. Mary's Greyfriars)

Mrs. Marilyn Park, (to New Abbey)

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.*

Dear Friends,

Over the last year, I've been able to work through Path of Renewal and take advantage of additional resources and support. I meet regularly with other groups of ministers who are also part of Path of Renewal and we have many chances to share and to talk through where church is and what we feel God is looking for us to do.

I've begun focusing on 3 main areas:

- Making disciples
- Engaging community
- Being a Christian centre

Remember that in September last year we had John Chalmers, the Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland, at a Fellowship Dinner and he spoke of a number of things which I've referred to before, but particularly he said

- The stuff we are meant to do in building people up cannot be measured in numbers
- People are not looking to join an institution
- Sunday 11am structure crumbling
- We need to reinvent ourselves and not be obsessed and defined by the number of card-carrying members

This means that as we develop and follow God, and our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ through the work of His Holy Spirit, we can explore what discipleship is all about as opposed to membership. Discipleship brings with it a desire to "do" and Scripture tells us that there are things Jesus expects – not because we have to but in our discipleship, we grow to want to respond. These things are:

- feeding the hungry,
- giving water to the thirsty,
- visiting the prisoners and
- clothing the naked.

As we move from "being" disciples to "doing" or serving, we then build the Christian centre which includes but does not consist solely of worship on a Sunday morning.

At a conference I was at in January there was some talk around the dangers of the phrase: "IT'LLSEEMEOUT". It speaks of an attitude which actually means that we've given up because church will be here long enough to "see me out". It hides a whole host of things from "I've done my bit" to "someone else will do it". All these things just mean that we're not following our calling from God and that we're buying into church as a club: a place we go to meet other folks (members) and do the traditions we've made up over the years because we're comfortable with that.

We have a calling to share the Good News to the next generation but we seriously need to look at what we are passing on. The reality is that church, as we know it now, will see us out unless we're serious about looking to the future of the church and what we leave behind.

Folks, this may seem harsh but God has provided us with the means to go forward: to engage with the community, make disciples and be a Christian centre. It needs all of us to lean that way and not just some of us or indeed just me.

We're at the start of a new year and we have the opportunity now to go forward together to be God's people in this place.

With every blessing

Dave

Kirk Session

Recently we have had some further 'retirement' of elders, mainly through declining health or advancing years. The Session has reluctantly accepted these and offered grateful thanks for their many years of faithful service. The good news is that we have recently ordained 2 elders - Jan Hastie and Linda Hyles and re-admitted Edith Beeton. Edith was first ordained at Maxwelltown West Church in 1994 and we are delighted to welcome her back to the Session.

Further good news came when the Session agreed to confirm the adoption of Jill McEwan as a Deacon. This followed the earlier appointment of Ron Thomas, Jane Fair and Marlyn Hughes at the meeting constituted for the election of Deacons in November, 2016.

Several items of regular business were dealt with at recent meetings, e.g. an account of the 150th Anniversary celebrations and events which, to date, were adjudged a success. There are still several related events forthcoming.

Data protection circulations were put to the membership and most were duly returned. These have been getting processed, which is a lengthy task. This should be complete by our next full meeting in early March. If any are still outstanding, there is still time to return them.

We have been discussing having a tent at the 'Heart and Soul' festival in Princes Street Gardens on the Sunday of Assembly week, following the successful first outing last year. We are also mindful of budget restraints and may have to 'tighten our belts' on this and several other outgoings.

There are DVDs available showing the songs of praise service which took place on the afternoon of 20th November 2016. Anyone who would like a copy should contact me or the minister.

D C, Session Clerk

World Church Team

Mamma Harriet – An Appreciation

It was with great sadness that we at Max West heard in November of the death of Harriet Mwhiki Wanjohi, Maitu Wa Witikio, Mother of Faith, known to all as “Mamma Harriet”. She passed away peacefully at the age of 106.

Mamma Harriet was the rock on which her local church in Mathia, our partner church, was built. Her influence was immense and she was greatly respected and loved by all whose lives were touched by her.

In her professional life, Mamma Harriet was a nurse. She married a local doctor who later became the hospital administrator. They built their house in Mathia and tended their shamba. Mamma Harriet was most generous and she donated plots of land to the church. Wilson dedicated and blessed such a plot during our visit in 2009. But above all it was her unshakeable faith that shone through all that she did. Her funeral was held in Mathia at the beginning of December. The congregation was expected to exceed 2000 people, with the ex-president of Kenya, Daniel Moi, a great personal friend of Mamma Harriet, in attendance. I feel sure her funeral must have been a joyous and uplifting occasion.

Mamma Harriet and her husband had six children, many more grandchildren and even more great and great-great grandchildren. One of their grandchildren is Catherine Ndreba, “Catherine the Great”, marathon world record holder.

Mamma Harriet had a special place in her heart for Scotland, having been brought to Christianity by Scottish missionaries.

I want to share with you something that happened whilst Heather and I were staying with Mamma. We were most honoured guests.

Prior to, and during our first week in Kenya, the country had been experiencing a severe drought. Rain was urgently needed. Mamma Harriet’s house has a corrugated tin roof and at night, in the pitch black, we lay in bed listening to the bush babies – at least we think they were bush babies – we hoped they were bush babies – dancing on the roof. Then one night at around 3am., there was the sound of a skip-load of pebbles being dumped on the tin roof. Yes, the rains had arrived!

The author of the “No.1 Ladies’ Detective Agency” books, Alexander McCall Smith, describes the coming of the rain like this in “Blue Shoes and Happiness”: “.....When the rains came, of course, then everything would be different and the brown which covered the land, the trees, the stunted grass, would be replaced by green, by growth, by tendrils stretching out, by leaves unfolding. It would happen so quickly that one might go to bed in a drought and wake up in a landscape of shimmering patches of water and cattle washed sleek by the rain.....” Well we went to bed in the dark in drought, but we rose in the dark as the rain hammered on the roof. We gathered in Mamma’s living room – Mamma Harriet, Alice, her housekeeper, Caro, our translator, Heather and me. We stood in a circle holding hands and sang one of Mamma’s, and my, favourite hymns – “What a friend we have in Jesus.” Five people from different continents, different countries, different backgrounds, different

cultures, different languages, but it mattered not one bit: we were praising God's goodness, love and care for us all. We were of one faith, "People of the Way."

God bless you Mamma Harriet and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your life. Rest in peace, you good and faithful servant.

D J, World Church Team

Christmas Gift Catalogue

Grateful thanks for everyone who donated to our Alternative Gift Appeal. We have had an excellent support this year and as you know every pound donated goes towards our projects. We could not have achieved the progress for Mathia and Bondo without your support.

Maxwelltown West Church History - Ministers of our Church

The Eighth Minister of our Church (1915-1922) the **Rev. John Begg**

John Begg, the son of William Begg, a Grocer and Spirit Merchant, was born on 17th October 1878, at 3 Rayhill Lanes, St Peters Dundee - the family home. The 1871 Census shows William aged 23, a Ship's Carpenter born in Wigtownshire and living with his widowed Mother in Glasgow.

On the 1st October 1877, William married Helen Ewing aged 30, the widow of James Smith, Spirit Merchant and Grocer in Dundee. The couple continued to run the Grocery business in Dundee.

The 1881 Census shows the family, with John aged 2, and David Ross aged 9 - Helen's son. The 1891 Census shows the family still together with David now a Law Student and using his step-father's name. David and John were attending Harris Academy, Dundee. The Family attended St Peter's Church Dundee where the minister, the Rev. Alex White, supported John in his calling to the ministry. The 1901 census shows David has left home and John is a Divinity Student.

John studied at Standees where he graduated M.A. in 1900 and B.D. in 1904. He also studied at New College Edinburgh. He assisted at the Stewart Mitchell Mission Glenlivet, 1901/02. He was licensed by Dundee Presbytery in 1904. John assisted Preceton and Dreghorn 1904/05, (where he met his future wife), and Edinburgh Barclay 1906/07. John Begg was inducted to his first charge at St Monance in 1908 where he stayed for 8 Years. In 1909 John, aged 30, married Maggie Jane Hutchison, aged 24, in Dreghorn Ayrshire.

On 25th February 1915, John was inducted to Maxwelltown Church Dumfries where he was to stay for 7 years. John's years in Dumfries came at a particularly busy time for the congregation of Maxwelltown. The Church was closed two months for repairs. There was continuing pressure from the Government for the Church minister and Organist to help with the war effort. In 1916 the Jubilee of the Church Building was marked with special services and the Session agreed to support a proposal that women be eligible for election as Deacons. In January the Minister was appointed to work with the Y.M.C.A. for 4 months and was given a wallet of notes to buy comforts for the troops.

On 23rd March 1920 a bronze memorial plaque with 44 names was unveiled in the vestibule of the Church.

In July 1922, Rev John Begg accepted a call to Queen Street U.F. Church Edinburgh where he was inducted on 15th October 1922. In December 1933 he moved to Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay and finally, in March 1938, he moved to Monifieth Panmure.

John Begg retired in 1948, aged 70, after 44 years in the ministry. He died in Edinburgh on the 21st February 1964 aged 85. Margaret Jane Begg died in Haymarket Edinburgh in 1971.

I have not been able to find any record of the Begg's having any family.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Brownies

During the term from October to December, the Brownies have enjoyed a variety of activities. We held an 1866 themed Sleepover to celebrate the 150th birthday of our Church building. Crafts included painting stones and creating a tree which was then displayed in the Church. The girls painted and cut out 150 hands, each one representing a year from 1866 to 2016, and then made a colourful tree. We also celebrated with birthday cake and everyone was asleep by 1am.

The girls also enjoyed our Light Party when they took part in games and activities to find out more about Jesus being the Light of the world. We took part in the Remembrance Sunday Church parade, visited Roseland House to sing Christmas carols and went to see Aladdin at the Theatre Royal.

We were visited by Patrick the donkey, with his helpers from the donkey sanctuary in Dunscore. The Brownies were able to help brush Patrick and asked lots of questions to learn many facts about donkeys. We collected carrots for Patrick to take home for the other donkeys and himself to enjoy. (See photo at the end.)

The Brownies are currently making costumes to take part in the Youth Concert and practising for the Music and Country Dancing festivals.

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

J McE, Brownie Leader

The Guild

Greetings for 2017 - another year to "Look Forward in Joy" as we celebrate 86 years of Guild in Maxwelltown West.

Our meetings in the afternoon in December, January and February enabled some senior members to attend. It was great to see them especially as the weather was reasonable. We are also delighted to report four men have joined our Guild this session and look forward to welcoming others also.

The Christmas lunch was most enjoyable with good food and fellowship. In January Rev. Maureen Duncan's talk "Better late than never" was both interesting and informative, learning how God never gives up on his plan for us. For many years she was involved in voluntary work and normal employment before committing to full time Ministry.

On Sunday 19th February we are planning a "Soup and sandwich lunch" fundraising for our project "Feed the Minds". This is a challenging and worthwhile project to help eradicate FGM (female genital mutilation) - a horrible tradition prevalent around the world, including the UK. The GEP (Girls Empowerment Programme) mostly in Africa, will train girls as role models to inform groups on health, hygiene and through education they can help women and girls to change attitudes in families as well as encourage girls to aspire to good jobs and a future no longer treated as unimportant in their society.

In March we have the World Day of Prayer, a speaker from The Usual Place, the Presbyterian Spring Meeting at St George's and we finish with a musical evening at the AGM.

Information regarding Guild events will appear on the Church Intimations every Sunday.

Visitors are very welcome and do bring a friend as well.

A D, Convener

Good Companions

We finished our Autumn Session with our usual Carol Service and our Christmas lunch – both most enjoyable. Although we are few in number we want to continue meeting and hopefully our Spring Session will commence on Wednesday, 15th February at 2.00 pm in the Committee Room (weather permitting) otherwise a fortnight later on Wednesday 1st March. We would welcome any new members.

S H

Scouts

In December the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had their annual outing to the Theatre Royal Pantomime 'Aladdin'. With over 35 of the group, there was a lot of excitement. The Scouts had a winter camp at St Anne's. At the end of December we said a thank you and goodbye to Carolyn Priestley, one of the Beaver leaders who encouraged and introduced our other leaders, Lynn and Helen.

We have Andrew and Hamish helping with the Cubs for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Thank you to all our leaders for their work, week by week, keeping the members occupied. H MacD

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls. I hope you had a lovely Christmas break with lots of fun and much love with your families. Apologies this year for our lack of party and visit from Santa, although we do hope you all liked Santa's delivery to each of your doors before Christmas. Sadly, my Dad passed away in December, which made Davie and me very sad and so we had to take a little time off. Hopefully we can do something fun over the next couple of months instead. Why not invite a few of your friends along one Sunday to join in with us. We have been looking at lots of topics over the last few months and have been trying to help develop God's environment by looking after the wildlife and people in our area.

The more people you bring in to help us the better.

Death can be a difficult thing for all of us to understand and cope with. Let's take a wee look at it: Have you ever wondered what happens when you die? Have you ever wondered about heaven? Where is it? What it's like? Who lives there? The Bible talks a bit about heaven and God has given us some hints about what it will be like. However, a lot of it is still a mystery to us because God is still preparing a place for us. At least that's what Jesus told his disciples before he went up to heaven.

He said he was preparing a place for us with many rooms or mansions. If God was able to create the whole world in six days, imagine how amazing heaven will be if he's taken longer than that? Think of the most beautiful, perfect thing you have ever seen, and now think of a place even more amazing than that. I think that's what heaven will be like.

The Bible doesn't really give us a complete description of heaven; perhaps because we wouldn't even be able to understand how really amazing and beautiful it will be.

Have you ever wondered how we will get there? Don't worry, you don't need to pack a suitcase. In fact, God specifically says that we shouldn't spend all our time on earth trying to collect loads of things, because we can't take any of it with us. This might seem strange to you but God will give us everything we need plus much more when we get there.

One of Jesus' disciples named Thomas asked Jesus: "We don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?" (**John 14:5**) Jesus answered: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This might sound like strange directions, but what Jesus was saying is that if you believe he died and rose again for you, then you believe in the truth and He will bring you to heaven.

Not only that; the words God tells us in the Bible will help us in life right now, and are like a map that will lead us on the right path and then eventually to Heaven. We can do this by helping others, by feeding them if they're hungry, visiting the sick, giving clothes to those who don't have much, and even by visiting people in jail or who have done things that are wrong. When we do these things it's like we're doing it for Him. (**Matthew 25:31-46**) By doing this we will be rewarded in heaven. By dying and going to heaven, God says he will wipe away all the tears from our eyes and there will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain. Imagine how great that will be. No more hurting, fighting or crying....EVER!!

The book of Revelation in the Bible tells us a little about what it will look like, saying how the city walls will be decorated with precious stones and be made of pure gold along with the streets. How cool. No dirt or dust, just shiny beautiful streets and walls filled with different coloured stones reflecting the light from God. Everyone who believes and accepts Jesus will go to heaven and live forever there. Amazing!

As you can see, heaven is going to be a fabulous place to be with God who made us and who wants to reward us. God loves us and promises to take the best care of us. Heaven will be a wonderful place so we shouldn't be sad that one day we will die.

Here are a few activities you may like to try and I look forward to seeing you in Sunday Club. Should you need any information please contact Davie or myself .

Thanks, Dawn ☺

Heaven Anagrams

Unscramble the letters and work out the words:

eeforrv _____

aagimnz _____

aimnnoss _____

eeltvw _____

aeglms _____

ghilt _____

cnorw _____

aderrw _____

hioprs _____

eersstt _____

Heaven Word Search

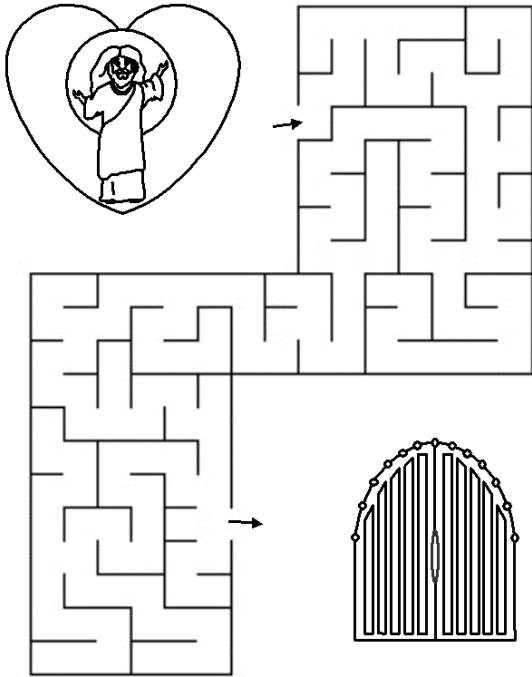
W N G D S J D T N N C S A E T
E D W D L A E E U I L N V T A
N F X O L A D S D E G E M P G
P I H S R O W N G R I H S E N
J P K S Y C G N E L A T T C I
S N O I S N A M E S O W R C Z
F O R E V E R B E N S H E A A
C H U R C H J T E C H D E R M
E V L E W T A S L I G H T L A
Z L O K N G S L L A W P S U W

accept	new
amazing	night
angels	rewarded
believe	sadness
church	stones
crown	streets
forever	sun
gates	tears
gold	twelve
light	walls
mansions	worship



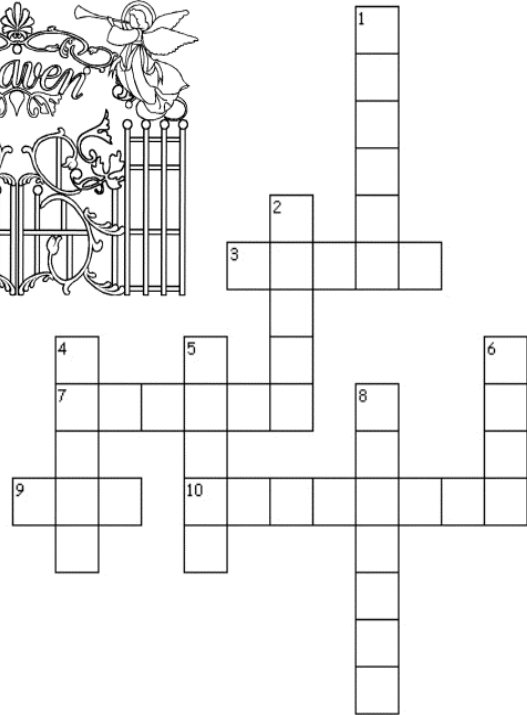
Heaven Maze

Accept Jesus and he will lead you to heaven.



Have Fun Guys!! 😊

Heaven Crossword



Word List:
 accept light
 church gates
 rewarded new
 forever night
 tears gold

Across:

- 3. No need for sleep which means only day and no more ____.
- 7. The only way you can go to heaven is if you believe and ____ Jesus into your life.
- 9. The old will be gone and everything will be made ____ again.
- 10. By living like Christ wants us to on earth we will be ____ in heaven.

Down:

- 1. This building won't exist in heaven because we won't need it.
- 2. We won't need to turn on this because God will provide all we need to see.
- 4. There will be twelve of these made of huge pearls.
- 5. Without these we won't be able to cry because there is no crying in heaven.
- 6. The streets will be made of pure ____.
- 8. We will live ____ in heaven (a long long time).

150th Anniversary Celebrations

20th November 2016 might seem a long time ago, but for those who attended the afternoon service that day, the memories will still be fresh – a packed church, with faces new and old (including some who had travelled back to Dumfries for the occasion), an address by the Moderator of the General Assembly, music and singing to raise the roof and the presentation of a gift to a representative from Quarriers. (Gifts were also given to the Salvation Army and First Base.)

There were beautiful floral decorations in the church and in the hall where we went after the service for an amazing buffet tea prepared by the Social Committee and their many helpers who also contributed baking. We also have two permanent reminders of this happy occasion. In the grounds to the front of the church is the wonderful sandstone cross, which was also dedicated to the memory of Gordon Savage, and in the main hall you'll see the beautiful wallhanging made by members of the congregation and church organisations.

So many people worked hard and worked together. A huge thankyou to all who helped make this an event to remember.

Patrick the Donkey



	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
April		
2nd	Mrs. J. Grant	Mrs. O. Geddes
9th	Mrs. M. Wheelans	Mrs. M. Allison
16th	Mrs. S. Muir	Mrs. P. Williams
23rd	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. J. Boyer
30th	VACANT	VACANT
May		
7th	VACANT	Mrs. J. McEwan
14th	Mrs. S. Brown	VACANT
21st	Mrs. M. Savage	Mrs. A. Milligan
28th	Mrs. K. Brown	VACANT
June		
4th	Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. E. Wilson
11th	Mrs. M. Donkersley	VACANT
18th	VACANT	VACANT
25th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. J. Sloan

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