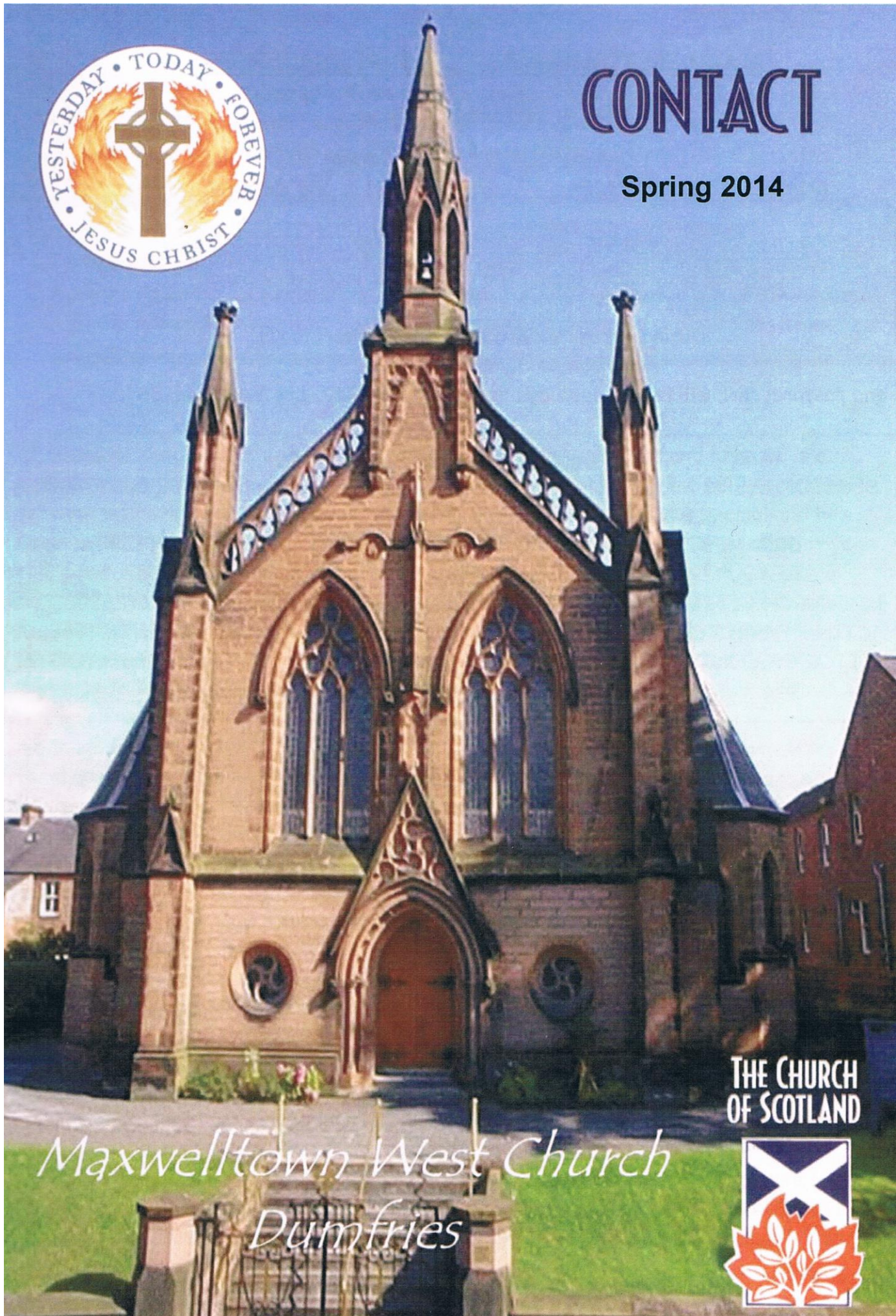


CONTACT

Spring 2014



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES: 2nd 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 CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mr B Shepherd

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson 'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

Matthew Christopher Mason on 24th November 2013

Wedding

Carol Murray to Alan Gass on 16th August 2013

Deaths

15th September: Mrs. Elizabeth McMillan

2nd November: Mrs. Edith Adams

20th November: Mrs. Joan McMillan

22nd December: Mr. Scott Carroll

26th December: Miss Audrey Ross

7th January: Mrs. Rose McClymont

12th January: Mrs. Mary (Mamie) Ferguson

17th January: Mrs. Rosemary Conway

25th January: Mrs Jessie Henneby

New Members by Resolution

Mr. Andrew Fergusson

Mrs. Ann Fergusson

Mrs. Muriel Shepherd

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 Max West

It seems no time since I was writing looking forward to Christmas and here we are already in January of a new year. Christmas was as ever a happy time in Church with services well attended and enjoyed. The Children's Nativity is always special and how Dawn and Chrissie get them to performance-ready, leaves me in awe - although this year there was the added asset of a Pro as the Innkeeper! Thank you all. Then an extra treat was the service on the 22nd, of beautiful music, singing and drama by our talented music group. Please, get started on Easter as this was too good to be a one off!!!

But Christmas was saddened for us all by the sudden death of Scott Carroll, our Presbytery Reader, Church Elder and my most willing back up man wherever and whenever needed. Although his health was no longer robust, Scott assured me that with no immediate family dependents he was happy to expend himself for the Church and His Lord and we can but rejoice that he was able to do this right to the end.

The Christian requirement "to give and not to count the cost" is one we don't often think about as requiring sacrificial giving, but I never cease to be amazed and humbled and give thanks for the number of folk of Max West who continue to give loyal and faithful service, even as the years go on and make the giving harder.

But as Christians we know that we stand on solid foundations. In my somewhat chilly first Service of the New Year, I quoted from a Remembrance Service sermon by the Rev. David Black, formerly of Greyfriars' Church many years ago. "Do you seek the Lord? Look to the quarry from whence you were hewn and the rock from which you were dug." We come from solid stuff!!! The faithful God of our past is the unfailing rock of the present and for our future. With our Nomination Committee now in place and our advertisement and on-line profile ready to go, please spend time daily, weekly or fortnightly at the Prayer Group, asking God to guide us to the right Minister for Maxwelltown West.

Let us go forward in Faith.
With love in His Service,
Liz

Kirk Session

Since the last report, Session has held two ordinary meetings. At the first, on 13th November, several items of regular business were transacted. However, most time was taken up with business concerning the vacancy.

The production of an Electoral Register, which was mentioned in the last edition of "Contact", was duly completed and attested by Presbytery. A visit by the Presbytery Committee led by Rev. David Bartholomew was later followed by a lengthy discussion about a Nominating Committee. As you will realise, Session decided to have a Committee of thirteen members and to hold a secret ballot to elect them. This was held after Communion on Sunday 1st December when the following were elected to serve:-

T Bryden, R Fraser, P Hyles, D Johnson, D McLeod, J Marchbank, E Riddick, D Rosie, F Saddington, B Shepherd, C Singleton, J Smith and A Stott. It is interesting to note that three of these served in the previous Vacancy Committee in 1983. The Nominating Committee will have met at least twice by the time this goes to print and there is a separate report from them in this edition.

The group which was set up by Session to produce a Parish Profile for the Nominating Committee has completed its work, with one or two amendments to be made and a final proof reading to be done. At its January meeting Session approved the Profile subject to these amendments being made.

A meeting in mid November saw the election of three new deacons: L Hyles, K McMillan and F Rogerson.

T B, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 20th November. In the absence of the Rev. Donald Campbell, Mr. Tom Bryden was elected to chair the meeting and it was with sadness that he announced the death that morning of Joan McMillan.

The Treasurer's report showed total income, year to date, of £81,300, while for the same period the total expenditure amounted to £84,108 - an over spend of a little under £3,000, due mainly to a reduction in "Gift Aid" and additional costs of the Manse for heating. The "New Organ Fund" has raised in excess of the £30,000 target and the "Fabric Appeal Fund" is once again above the £100,000 figure.

The Finance Committee reported that an exemption from Council Tax for the Manse has been secured until September 2014.

J Marchbank has retired as the Finance Committee Secretary after many years of service and the Finance Committee are seeking a volunteer to take on this role.

D Miller gave a comprehensive report from the Fabric Committee covering the planned work.

D Rosie, on behalf of the Organ Fund Committee, thanked everyone for their help and support and the Social Group for their input. As the Organ Fund Committee is now disbanding, the Court thanked David and the committee for their work. This has been a tremendous effort by the committee and their helpers.

It is hoped that the After Sunday Service Tea & Coffee will continue fortnightly after the New Year and volunteers are required if this is to happen. Please add your name to the rota or contact the organiser, L Hyles.

The next meeting of the Deacons' Court will be Wednesday 12th March 2014.

I would like to welcome L Hyles, K McMillan and F Rogerson as newly appointed deacons. We look forward to your help and support.

Finally, I would like to thank A Walter and the Balliol Consort Choir for giving a truly memorable concert. It was enjoyed by all who attended and raised £150, as a finale for the Organ Fund.

The Deacons' Court met for an emergency meeting on 12th January, concerning the boiler and heating system breakdown. There has been an electrical fire in the boilers which has destroyed the boiler. Whilst we are looking into a possible insurance claim, it was felt that we could not await the outcome if we are to continue to use the buildings.

It is estimated that the cost of replacement will be in excess of £20,000 but we have no choice but to proceed as the weather is not in our favour at this time. There may also be some issues with removal of old asbestos from the boiler room and these are to be addressed as well.

The Deacons' Court decided that the work should go ahead and it is hoped that we will be back to normal within the next 3 weeks, hopefully well before you read this.

Our thanks are extended to D Miller, D Wood and B Wilson for their work on this issue and keeping us going.

B S, Clerk to Deacons' Court.

Sunday Service Lesson Readers

Would you like to take a more active part in the Sunday Service? We are seeking to increase the number of lesson readers. If you are interested, or would like to discuss becoming a reader please contact B Shepherd.

Our Vacancy

Finally, after many months of discussions and counter-proposals within Presbytery, Maxwelltown West was given permission to call a Minister on an Unrestricted Tenure. On Sunday 1st December 2013 a meeting of the congregation was held after the morning service to elect thirteen members from the Electoral Register of our church to form a Nominating, or Vacancy Committee. The names of those elected already appear in the Session report. Our Interim Moderator, Rev. Donald Campbell, will act as Adviser to the Committee, giving us important guidance and help. At our first meeting, D Johnson was elected as Convener and F Saddington as Clerk to the Committee.

The primary duty of the Nominating Committee is to nominate one person to the Congregation with a view to his or her election and appointment as Minister, having prepared a job description, our Parish Profile and advertised our vacancy. The Committee will then consider applications and interview prospective Ministers. It is the sole and total responsibility of the Nominating Committee to find and recommend to the congregation a suitable Nominee. With so many vacancies throughout the Church of Scotland, and forty percent of Parishes in our own Presbytery vacant, we are realistic about the difficulty of the task ahead, but we have an enthusiastic and committed community church keen to move us forward confidently into our future.

To date, the Nominating Committee has held two meetings – 3rd December and 16th January - with more scheduled for February and March. We will keep the congregation informed of our work throughout the nominating process.

Thus far we have discussed and made decisions on our Parish Profile, which can be accessed at www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk, and how best to advertise our vacancy. An advertisement will appear in the March edition of "Life and Work", which will include a link to our church website. Every Church of Scotland Minister will be e-mailed an advertisement "flier": also we are looking at setting up a church "Facebook" page.

The Committee is anxious to use every available and appropriate means to generate interest in our Vacancy. We would be pleased to hear from any member of the congregation of any Minister who may be interested in an informal approach from the Committee.

We continue to pray for God's guidance in our task in finding our new Minister and we ask for wisdom and discernment in our eventual choice of sole nominee.

D J, Convener of the Nominating Committee

World Church Team News from Bondo and Mathia

There was good publicity for Max. West Church recently through the Standard newspaper article on our 2 Kenyan projects. Many of you may have seen this.

Bondo: It is especially good to report the great progress that has been made with our help and following on from latest reports from the Slacks in the Winter Contact. Bondo children have enjoyed a Christmas party. Thanks to our Brownies who raised £198.60, Sharon is having the vital medicine she needs. Generally the children are much healthier now they have clean water, toilets and better food.

Winnie is making progress with growing kale and soon will be selling it locally. She plans to finish the building on the church/school and eventually hopes to educate the children up to primary 6.

Mathia: John in Mathia tells us four students have now graduated, with six others still studying and four more going to university this year. Education is a priority with them and our support has been greatly appreciated.

Their church sub-division has now taken place with only five congregations in the parish instead of twelve in the past. They send us New Year greetings and prayers for us to find a new minister soon.

I would like to thank everyone who supports our projects and especially those people who have responded to our Christmas Gift Catalogue, as your donations will enable us to continue helping our Kenyan friends.

The World Church Team is planning a Quiz Night at Cavens, Buccleuch St. and look forward to seeing you there. More details will be in the church intimations later.

A D WCT Convener

Maxwelltown West Church History - Ministers of our Church

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

William Clark, a native of Biggar, was the youngest son of William Clark, a merchant of Biggar, and his wife Janet Brown. William was born in 1805 and was educated at Biggar Parish School. In 1822 he entered Edinburgh University where he studied for the ministry under Thomas Chalmers who was one of the leaders of the Great Disruption of 1843. William Brown Clark graduated Doctor of Divinity and was licensed by the Presbytery of Biggar in 1832.

He was assistant minister at Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh until 1839 when he was presented and ordained to the charge of Half Morton.

In 1836 he married Janet Brown from Biggar in St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh. They had two daughters, Elizabeth Glover Clark born 1839 and Bethia Barbara born 1842.

In July 1843 the new congregation of Maxwelltown approached the Rev. Clark to ask if he would be willing to be their minister. He immediately became involved in setting up the new church, speaking at the laying of the foundation stone for the new church building under construction in Laurieknowe. Negotiations on his move to Maxwelltown were to take a year before he was inducted in June 1844.

The 9 years the Rev. Clark spent at Maxwelltown was a time of sustained activity. A Manse was built behind the church in 1846; this building is still in use as a private house. The 1851 census shows the Rev. Clark, his wife Janet, his two daughters, Janet's sister, a governess, a cousin of Janet's and a servant, living in the Manse. During this time the church also purchased a building in David Street for conversion into a school. The School was managed by the office-bearers and the first teacher was appointed in 1847.

Early in 1853 The Rev. Clark was approached by a Mr. James Gibb representing the newly established Chalmers Church in Quebec, with a view to him becoming their first Minister. The Rev. Clark left for Canada early in 1853, with his family following him to Quebec later that year.

The Rev. Clark did not have a happy start to his life in Canada. On arrival there was a dispute about the method of his appointment which had to be resolved by the Synod. He was finally ordained at the end of 1853.

Shortly after her arrival in Canada, Janet Clark who suffered from ill health, died. The Rev. Clark continued as minister of Chalmers Church Quebec for 19 years, until 1874.

William married Amelia Torrance, widow of James Gibb's brother, Thomas, in 1870.

In 1889 William was Professor of Church History in Morrin College, Quebec, and in 1889 he became Doctor of Divinity in Montreal.

Amelia Died in 1890. The Reverend William Brown Clark died in 1893, aged 88, at the home of his daughter Bethia.

In 1870 when he was minister of Chalmers Church, William's daughter Bethia married James Moodie, a farmer of Scottish origin. They had 7 children. William's youngest grandchild, William Brown Clark Moodie, died in France in 1917. Bethia died in 1921 aged 79. Her sister Elizabeth who never married, died in 1919, aged 80.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Last year we celebrated 125 years of being a guild founded by the Very Rev. Archibald Charteris, former minister of Wamphray Church, where he is buried. Plans are in hand to make the church and his grave more accessible for visitors, which would make an interesting summer outing since Moffat is nearby.

This session our January meeting was held in the committee room due to the heating boiler giving up and it was very cosy. The speaker give a very factual talk on the Dunscore girl, Jane Haining, who became matron at a Jewish girls' school in Budapest and was arrested in 1944 by the Nazis and died in Auschwitz. A memorial to her now stands in Dunscore. In February, at the afternoon meeting, we will hear about "life in the prison service".

March 1st will bring our Coffee Morning to fund our project "Out of Africa and into Malta", which will help St. Andrews Church which is struggling to cope with hundreds of refugees fleeing from civil war in Africa. Our March speaker will give a fuller account.

The committee thank you for the support at the last coffee morning which allowed us to allocate £500 to church funds for Ministry and Mission, £400 to the Fabric Fund and £50 each to Christian Aid, Leprosy Mission, Bible Society and locally, Headway House.

Please come along to the next Coffee Morning on 1st March and enjoy meeting friends old and new as well as helping our project along.

A D, Convener

Good Companions

We start our Spring session on Wednesday, 26th February 2014 at 2.00pm. While we are looking forward to catching up with each other, we would be delighted to see any new faces if anyone would like to join us.

S H

Children's Corner

Chrissy, Davie and I welcome all boys and girls to our first edition of 2014. I hope you all had a lovely holiday and are raring to go with this year's K-Max and J-Max. We started this year with giving thanks to God and our family and friends for all that we appreciated in 2013. You wrote some lovely cards. We are continuing this year from the Old Testament with the story of Joseph and his relationship with his brothers. This is just one of the stories about Joseph you can find across 9 chapters of the bible but helps us to appreciate the differences we have in our characteristics and talents and to realise that each one of us is special in our own way.

What makes you special?

Joseph's dad Jacob gave him a beautiful coat of many colours. Why don't you try making your own coat of many colours using a coffee filter. It is fun watching the colours run together.

I am Special Song

(To the tune of Frere Jacques)

I am Special (Point to Yourself)

I am Special

Don't you see (Make binoculars with your fingers)

Don't you see

Someone very special (Hands out to the side, palms up)

Someone very special

'Cause God (point to heaven) **made**

me (Point to yourself)

God made me!

You will need the following:

Scissors, coffee filter, children's felt tip pens, water and paper to draw on.

Directions: Flatten out the coffee filter on a plate.

Roughly colour it with as many colours as you can, using your coloured pens. Splash drips of water onto the filter with your hands. Allow it to dry for half an hour, or if you are in a hurry you could borrow Mum's hairdryer. With Mum or Dad's help cut out a coat shape. You can draw your own Joseph and glue his coat on top. See what unusual coats you can come up with.

☺ Have fun and bring them into Sunday school for the wall if you would like.

Word Mine

How many words can you make out of the following words: **JOSEPH'S COAT**

Your answers must be 3 letters or more and must not be names (e.g. Joseph) or plurals (e.g. cats)

Have fun and remember to invite your friends and family to come with you to Sunday Club.

They will be made most welcome. You can contact me. See you all soon. Dawn ☺

Brownies

After the October holidays, the Brownies enjoyed a Hallowe'en party with games, scary music and gunge! For Bonfire Night we had a hot dog supper.

The Brownies took part in the Remembrance Sunday Church parade and at the end of November, we held a London-themed Sleepover in the Church hall.

In December all the girls achieved their Toymaker Badge and they also made Christmas cards to take to Roseland House where we visited to sing Christmas carols.

For our Christmas outing we went to the Theatre Royal and enjoyed all the fun of the Panto, which was Cinderella.

In 2014 we are celebrating The Big Brownie Birthday, as it is 100 years since Brownies were founded. Our programme has been designed around this celebration and there will be exciting events and activities both locally and nationally.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Scouts

The Scout group saw some changes at the end of December, when A Ainslie retired from regular work with the Cub section and J Brett retired from the Scout section. Our grateful thanks go to them for all of their work over the years.

We now welcome D MacPhee as an assistant to Scouts and CFlint to the Cubs.

Douglas was a Cub and a Scout at Maxwelltown West. Also thank you to the other leaders. There has been a suggestion to make the Scout Group aware of the J-Max, K-Max and Y-Max groups, to see if new members could be gained from that source.

The group are looking forward to the Thinking Day parade in February. The Beaver section has decorated the notice board in the Church.

H MacD, GSL.

Hamish has been selected to work in the medical centre at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The first training meeting is on Saturday 8th March. It will be another exciting time and he will again be keeping us up to date with events.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 1st March: Guild Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd March: Communion (11am in church and 3pm in Simmons Hall)

Sunday 20th April: Easter Brunch after the service

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
April		
6th	Mrs. J. Grant	Mrs. O. Geddes
13th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Allison
20th	Mrs. S. Muir	Mrs. P. Williams
27th	VACANT	Mrs. Boyer
May		
4th	Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. I. Scott
11th	VACANT	Mrs. J. McEwan
18th	Mrs. Anderson	VACANT
25th	Mrs. M. Savage	Mrs. A. Milligan
June		
1st	Mrs. K. Brown	VACANT
8th	Mrs. J. Sloan	Mrs. D. McWhirter
15th	Mrs. M. Donkersley	VACANT
22nd	Miss Biggar	Mrs. Adamson
29th	Mrs. M. Wallace	VACANT

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