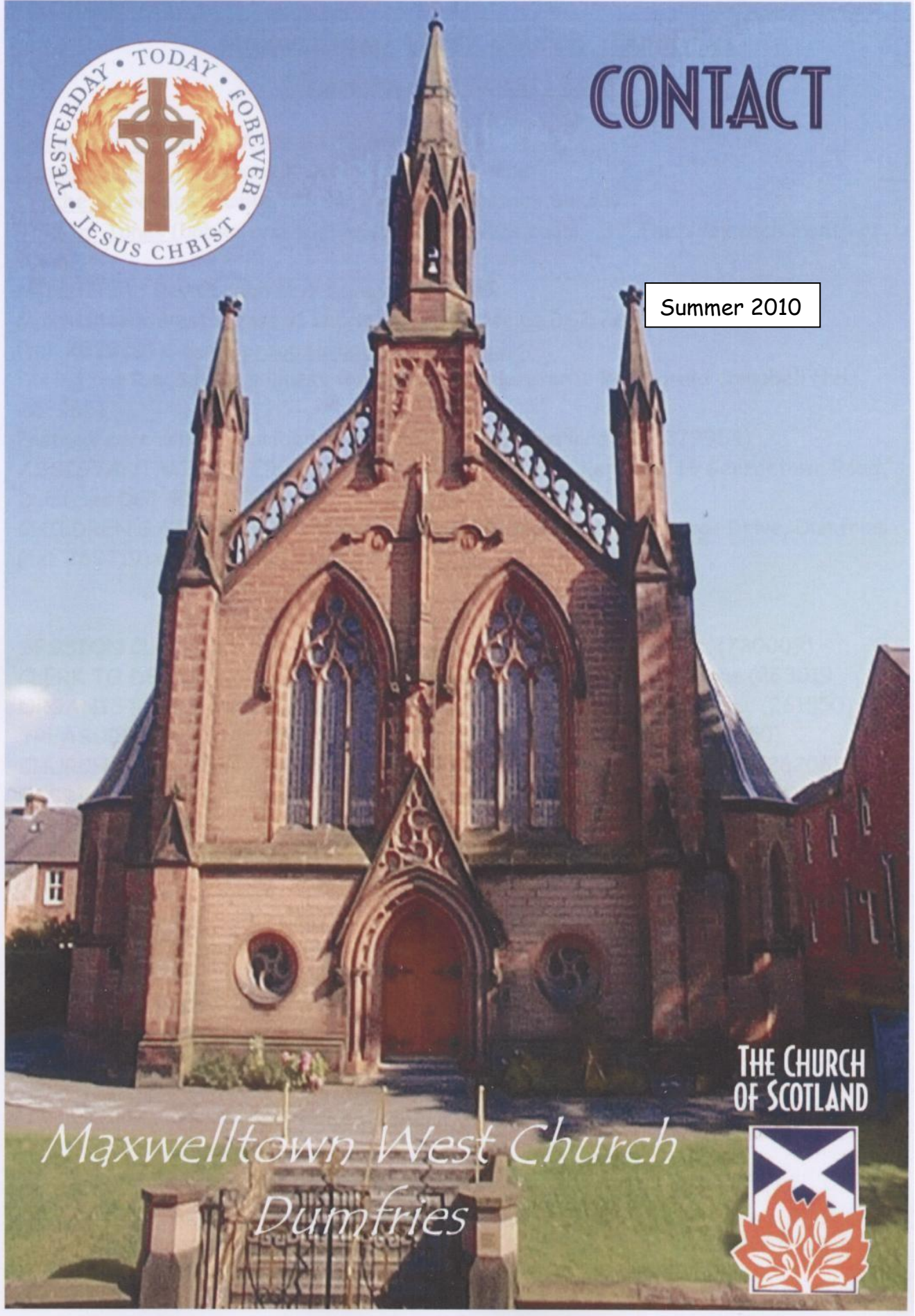


CONTACT

Summer 2010



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

SUMMER SERVICES : 27th June – 22nd August 2010

10.00 a.m. [Tea/coffee/juice served in the hall]

SUNDAY SERVICES (Other Dates) : **11.00 am**

SUNDAY SCHOOL (J-Max & K-Max): **11.00 am** [until 6th June]

CRÈCHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

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

Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH

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

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY WORKER: Mrs Rachel Lyagoba

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr T Bryden

ORGANIST: Mr S Crosbie

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr R Wilson

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Dr S Christie

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs E Riddick

TREASURER: Mr D McNay

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr B Riddick

***** ***** ***** *****

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

28th February: Samuel Dylan Cox

28th February: Blair Robert Dickie

Death

28th February: Mrs Jean Bannerman, Steilston House

***** ***** ***** *****

A Prayer of Dwight L. Moody [*Moody and Sankey*]

Use me then, my Saviour, for whatever purpose, and in whatever way, you may require.
Here is my poor heart, an empty vessel; fill it with your grace.
Here is my sinful and troubled soul; quicken it and refresh it with your love.
Take my heart for your abode; my mouth to spread abroad the glory of your name;
My love and all my powers, for the advancement of your believing people;
And never suffer the steadfastness and confidence of my faith to abate;
So that at all times I may be enabled from the heart to say,
'Jesus needs me, and I am his.'

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.

FROM THE MINISTER

May 2010

Dear Friends,

“Give Thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” [Ephesians 5.20]

“Give thanks with a grateful heart” was the first line of a hymn which we sang at the Family Communion Service on 9th May. It was Christian Aid Sunday, and we watched a short video clip which highlighted the tremendous faith of Christians living in the slums of Nairobi. Their gratitude for the provision of toilets, showers and running water certainly made us think about all that we take for granted here.

In the church we take many people for granted. The volunteers who help in so many ways do what they do, not in order to receive thanks, but because they love their church. Nevertheless, it is important to recognise service given, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who contributes in any way to the life and work of Maxwelltown West.

Towards the end of this edition of ‘Contact’ you will read of awards given to our Guide, Brownie and Cub Leaders, in recognition of the commitment they have given to the children who attend our uniformed organisations. I would like to thank and congratulate Nikki Hall, Jill McEwan and Gillian Little respectively; and I would add Hamish MacDonald who, having been a Scout in Max West himself, has given many years as Scout Leader, but who is retiring this summer, so far without replacement.

Max West is renowned in this area for its Scout and Guide groups. Through the uniformed organisations we reach out to many unchurched families: it is perhaps the principal means of outreach that we have, and vitally important to the life of our church [*see our Mission Statement above*]. We are indebted to those helpers and parents who give of their time to support this work. But no section can function without Warranted Leaders, and we face the prospect of having to close the Scout Section unless a new leader can be found. So I would ask everyone reading this: ***Do you know of someone who might consider becoming our next Scout Leader?*** If so, please tell them about this need, or contact Hamish MacDonald or myself.

In June we shall be giving thanks for the life and work of our church in the Celebrations of Giving, and on the 20th, a special service giving thanks for Sandy Geddes’s 50 years in the ministry. Give thanks to God indeed, for all things!

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

GORDON M.A. SAVAGE

'COME AND JOIN OUR CELEBRATIONS'

With this edition of Contact, you will have received a personal invitation to attend one of our **Celebrations of Giving** at Maxwelltown West Church in June 2010.

I do hope you will be able to come along and join us in celebrating all that Maxwelltown West Church means to you and its many affiliated organisations. I look forward to seeing you there.

VC – Planning Group

Dear Friends

During the month of June 2010 we are holding Celebrations of Giving within our Church. These Celebrations will allow us all to meet for a social occasion, share refreshments and explore the way ahead for our Church. The Celebrations of Giving will feature various displays of the work of our Church and associated organisations. You will also receive a presentation about the wider work of the Church of Scotland.

We will be addressing questions such as: -

What does our Church do?

Where does our money come from? Where does it go?

Where do we **ALL** fit in?

We hope that you will come along and enjoy yourself at one of the Celebrations and find out the answers to these questions. Please welcome your visitor into your home and respond positively to the invitation they bring.

Choose a date and put it in your diary!

Wednesday 9th June – 7.00pm

Thursday 10th June - 7.00pm

Sunday 13th June - 2.30pm

Yours sincerely,

The Stewardship Planning Group

..... And Another Celebration!

In June 2010, the **Rev. Sandy Geddes** celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination to the ministry.

Sandy served in parishes in Peebles, Paisley, Aberdeen and Stewarton before retiring to Dumfries and becoming Assistant Minister at Maxwelltown West. On Sunday 20th June (11.00 am) Sandy will conduct the morning service in Max West, sharing with us some of his favourite hymns.

Members of his family, and members from some of his former congregations, hope to be with us on that day. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Editorial

This is a rather unusual edition of Contact. The forthcoming Celebration of Giving plays a significant part. Publication does not coincide with a Communion season (Communion having been brought forward to 9th May), and the magazine is being distributed by the Stewardship Visitors.

Another unusual feature is the presence of two important pieces of information presented as received and not in our usual script. In addition the final page has a tear-off slip to which Bill Riddick wishes to draw your attention in a good cause.

One other matter I feel impelled to raise at this time. Our “stapling team” of Mrs Donkersley, Mrs Murray and Mrs Allison have intimated their intention to retire at the end of the year, i.e. after the December edition of Contact. There is some doubt as to how long they have been in post ... estimates range from twelve to fourteen years! I cannot overstate the impact that their enthusiasm has had on me as I wearily present them with the material at the end of the editing and printing process. To simply say “thank you” is grossly inadequate. I would like to return to the subject.

Inevitably the need to recruit a replacement team arises. This is complicated by the prospect of acquiring new printing equipment which may change the procedure. I should be grateful if anyone willing to form a team, or simply act as a team member, would contact me. Arrangements will have to be in place for the March 2011 edition.

S C

Kirk Session

The Session met on 16th March and again on 22nd April. The matter of the appointment of new elders continues to be pursued. The Planning Group for the forthcoming Celebration of Giving has been extremely active. This has included a visit by some of the group to Annan Old Parish Church to learn from their experience.

J Love, who is Chairperson of the Dumfries Christian Council, reported the change of name to Dumfries Christian Network. The DCN had organised Holy Week Services and were actively involved, along with the Presbytery, in the Pentecost Event to be held at The Barony College on 23rd May. He also reported on progress with the DCN website which gives details of most of the churches in Dumfries.

The Session agreed to grant the status of “Elders Emeritus” to those elders who were no longer active on Session but wished to retain their status as elders.

Mr R Braidwood having completed 3 years as Presbytery Elder, Mrs M Stockdale was appointed as our representative elder as from 1st July 2010.

It was noted with approval, that the praise group from Brightons Church (Falkirk) have agreed to give a Concert in Max West in aid of our Kenya Projects on Saturday 20th November. They plan to stay overnight and join us for worship the following day.

Reports of Elders’ Visits to Organisations were received at the April meeting.

A special meeting of the Session was held on 12th May to discuss the Consultation Paper produced by the General Assembly’s Special Commission on Same-sex Relationships and the Ministry.

T B & S C

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 23 February 2010 when three newly elected Deacons, L Crossan, M Darroch and J Wood, were welcomed. Mention was made of the Christmas tree outside the Church which had been much admired. Those responsible for decorating the Church for Christmas were thanked for their hard work. The Treasurer presented the Financial Statement for 2009 and acknowledged the support he had been given. The Trustees approved the Accounts, which showed a loss. The Accounts would be made available to the congregation at the service on 7 March 2010. Arrangements were intimated for the collecting and counting of the Fabric Fund Boxes. I McLauchlan was appointed Deputy Church Officer.

The Fabric report was presented and the Convener gave an update on works completed. Total fabric expenditure for 2009 had been £7,765 and the Property Register was duly signed. The major item of expenditure in 2010 would be re-slating the Manse roof which had given problems during the hard winter. Approval was given for the tender from Maxwelltown Roofers to be accepted.

The Court met again on 22nd April when new Deacon S Forsyth was welcomed. Mr A Girdwood of Maxwelltown Gallery visited the Court and gave a most interesting commentary on the 3 artworks by the late Tim Jeffs which were hung in the Committee Room. The mounting of these works left something to be desired, and Mr Girdwood had been engaged to re-mount them, together with the painting by Mr John Henderson which had been the basis of the Church Christmas Card.

The Treasurer again expressed some concern about the level of congregational income but also the hope that the forthcoming "Celebration of Giving" would redress the situation. The re-slating of the Manse roof would require the withdrawal of over £30,000 from the Fabric Appeal Fund. Once again the Fabric Convener appealed for volunteers to carry out minor tasks around the Church - a significant cost-saving exercise.

Arrangements were in hand for the appointment of a new Church Cleaner.

ER & SC

Prayer Team

Until recently there was a Prayer Team in our church. We would meet on a weekday afternoon, usually in the Committee Room, and bring our gratitude and concerns to God. There was nothing 'taboo' and if we perceived there was a need for God's support for any person, organisation or institution, it would be included in our 'Talk with God'.

Matthew 6 verse 33 has been interpreted as saying - *God will do nothing except through the prayers of His people*. The Power is His; the privilege is ours. I saw in print recently, that the main difference between Christians and others is that we take God seriously and they do not. There is nothing in this world we cannot take to God, e.g. thanks for springtime, the smile on a child's face; and there is no problem that we cannot take to God.

Can we resurrect our Prayer Team?

IS

The undernoted correspondence received from the Stewardship & Finance Department of the Church Offices is reproduced for the information of our members ...

**The Church of Scotland
Ministries and Mission Contributions 2010**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurer sends to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how your congregation's contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. This cost is the total for stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with ten years' service.

	Contribution
Congregation: DUMFRIES: MAXWELLTOWN WEST	
Parish Ministries (87%)	£42,341
The cost of ministry in your parish is: £39,100 Your contribution to the cost of ministries in other parishes and training for ministries: £3,827	
Mission and Renewal (5.5%)	£2,714
This supports the Church work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Church in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.	
Support and Services for Councils and Congregations (7.5%)	£3,700
This provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.	

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet funding our Faith, which is available free to all congregations.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely
Gordon D Jamieson
Head of Stewardship

Christian Care for the Homeless (CCH)

This organisation provides lunchtime meals for the Homeless on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at their premises in the Whitesands. The people providing the meals, using two toastie appliances, are volunteers from different churches and CCH would welcome volunteers from Max West to join the team so that eventually they may be able to open on Wednesdays as well.

CCH is providing support and helping homeless people to regain their dignity. One of the visitors lost his job and his home because he couldn't pay his mortgage. Those who help at CCH include people who have experience in dealing with such problems. A retired Baptist Minister from the Bethany Christian Trust, who provides advice for CCH, told me that at his church in the central belt, two of the homeless who used his Drop-In Centre went on to become ministers.

As the Bible says, *'You don't know who you may be entertaining'*; and St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verse 31 to the end makes interesting reading.

For further information contact Sian Hayward, CCH Co-coordinator, on Dumfries 259400, or myself.

15

Disabled Parking

Some years ago I arranged with the owners of the Dalston Hotel that Maxwelltown West members who had difficulty in walking could park in the Hotel Car Park.

As there was limited space available, I made up special Disabled Car Park tickets. These were given out and have proved extremely valuable to our less able members. I did ask that, when they no longer required this facility, the Ticket be returned to me to enable another person to benefit. This facility is not transferable.

Unfortunately this has not occurred in every case. I now have no accurate record of who has tickets and I believe some are no longer being used.

We now have some additional members who require this facility, but because tickets have not been returned the situation is confused. Can I please ask those who have Tickets to contact me and advise if they are still using them?

We are extremely grateful to the owners of the Dalston for allowing us this facility. Your help in enabling me to create an accurate record of members with Tickets and to assist another less able member will be much appreciated.

B R

Date for your Diary ...

On Saturday 20th November 2010 the Praise Group from Brightons Church (Falkirk) is coming to Max West Church to give a Concert in aid of our Kenya projects. They plan to stay in Dumfries overnight and to join us at the morning service on Sunday 21st November.

Some years ago this group gave a Concert in Max West and this was largely the inspiration behind our own Praise Group and musicians. It promises to be a very special weekend!

----- **Reports from Organisations** -----

The Guild

Our session for 2009/2010 came to a close with the AGM on Tuesday 23 March when we had an entertaining talk from Hilary Irving from Kirkcudbright.

The Coffee Morning in February allowed us to send £543 to our Project - *A Place for Hope*. A Dunbar led us in devotions and A Beggs presented the Treasurer's report which showed we were in a healthy position.

Our outing on 13 May is to Bladnoch via the Solway Coast and we are eagerly looking forward to this and hoping we will be blessed with sunshine as we have in previous years. By the time you read this report we should all have memories of a happy day spent in fellowship and friendship.

We now look forward to our new session starting in October and planning is already underway. We would welcome new members so please come and join us.

E R Guild Secretary

Good Companions

We have had a varied and interesting session. This has included a lively musical afternoon with Ian Holmes. Our final meeting before adjourning till October was a meal at the Moreig Hotel. Almost all of our members were able to attend and it proved a lively occasion.

Our new treasurer is M Brown. J Wilson and P Mitchell will look after the catering. With the retiral of S Haines we are looking for a new pianist.

New members are welcome.

D W

After Eights

For the February meeting the Dumfries Historical Dancers showed us some very graceful dance steps from the days of Robert Burns. The ladies were dressed in authentic costumes of the period and their leader, Sue Knight, told us a bit about the history of the dances. After the entertaining demonstrations, Sue and the dancers offered to teach us a couple of simple dances and with various degrees of enthusiasm and ability, most of us joined in. It was a very enjoyable evening.

In March Libby Welsh came along to tell us about the Quarriers Respite Care scheme that she manages locally. A few of us had heard of the Quarriers organisation, but had not realised that nowadays a large part of the work entails providing support for families with mentally and physically handicapped children. Libby spoke passionately about her job, and we also learned that one of our members is one of her volunteer helpers.

By the time you read this we will have been for our end of session meal at the Somerton House Hotel in Lockerbie.

J M

Scout Report

Scout numbers have been running at 14 for the year and they are an enthusiastic lot. We have been doing cooking, map work and pioneering as part of the evening activities.

We are still looking for a new leader to take over from H McD. We have advertised on the radio and on television, but no one has come forward. Jonathan will stay on as assistant leader, but with his work commitments he cannot take on the full leadership.

If you know of anyone who could do this job, please let me know or contact any of the other leaders.

I hope to finish in the summer, which is not far off now, so we are desperate for a leader to prevent Maxwelltown West Scout Group having to lose the Scout section. My thanks go to Jonathan and D Rosie for all their help.

I must also thank the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court for supporting the Scout Group as a whole.

H MacD, Scout Leader

Cub Report

We are still working with 14 Cubs and have recently welcomed a Beaver, who will be invested at the group barbecue. We are still working towards the new Cub Scottish Challenge Badge and over the next few weeks we will have tried playing rugby and golf, designed posters promoting Dumfries and walked the equivalent of Mount Everest. Luckily we are walking a flatter route rather than up the mountain!

Nine Cubs will be going to a camp at St Ann's at Raehills with Cubs from the 57th Cub pack towards the end of May. We finish the Scouting year with our group's annual family barbecue.

G L Akela - Cub Leader

At our Scout Group AGM back in March, I was presented with a new award, the Medal of Merit. This was given to me in recognition of service to the group. Through the magazine, I would like to reiterate what was said after this presentation and thank all the boys who have been through the Cub pack, as well as parents and leaders/helpers, both past and present. I would also like to thank all members of Maxwelltown West who have supported the Cubs, through fundraising and by other means, and I do hope this will continue for many years to come.

G L Akela-Cub Leader

Brownies

We celebrated Thinking Day with our church parade and also joined in a celebration of the Centenary of Guiding at the Crichton Church. Our Thinking Day party involved "flying" around the world to visit other countries to play games and enjoy different foods. We made coin trails in aid of the Haiti appeal, raising £55. Several members visited the Guiding exhibition at the museum and enjoyed seeing our toadstool, photographs and memorabilia.

Two more 'Adventure 100' challenges have been completed: "Moving" where the brownies managed to cycle 38 miles on exercise bikes, resulting in £38 being donated to Sport Relief, and our "wacky" challenge when we held an Easter bonnet competition and played games.

The brownies were delighted to retain the trophy for country dancing at the Dumfries and District Festival and also demonstrated a special dance arranged for the centenary. The girls received a letter of thanks from the Scottish Chief Commissioner for demonstrating this dance. They were also invited to dance at the Dumfries Annual Review held at the end of April.

J McE Brownie Leader

P.S. At the annual review of Dumfriesshire Girl Guiding a special award is made to a guider who has given girls an opportunity to follow a wide and varied programme throughout the year, both at weekly meetings and additional activities.

The award, called the 'Hazel Award', was donated in memory of Hazel McCulloch who was involved in guiding for many years. Last year it was awarded to J McEwan of Maxwelltown West Brownies, and this year it has been awarded to N Hall of Maxwelltown West Guides.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Flowers
July 4 th	Mrs M Wallace	Mrs P McKenzie
11 th	Mrs Wardrop	Mrs Anderson
18 th	Vacant	Mrs Goodwin
25 th	Mrs N M'Cubbin	Vacant
August 1st	Mr S Carroll	Mrs M Brown
8 th	Mrs Flockhart	Mrs Lindsay
15 th	Mrs Howitt	Mrs Howitt
22 nd	Mrs E Campbell	The Misses Bryden
29 th	Mrs B Wilson	Mrs Christie
Sept. 5 th	Mrs H Campbell	Mrs C Whipp
12 th	Mrs M Stockdale	Mrs J Moffat
19 th	Vacant	Miss P Jardine
26 th	Mrs H Cross	The Misses Gemmill

If you would like to fill a vacant date or help arrange flowers I would be most grateful.

Please telephone A Dunbar.

RELAY FOR LIFE : Park Farm, 17th - 18th July 2010

Maxwelltown West Church has entered a Team!

What is 'Relay for Life'? Relay for Life was formed 20 years ago when a Consultant, Doctor Klatt, walked round a track for 24 hours to raise awareness that Cancer never sleeps but is with us 24 hours of the day ... emphasising the need for Cancer Research.

Relay for Life Rallies are now held in 22 countries and 128 will be held in the U.K. this year. The first one ever to be held in Dumfries will be at Park Farm on 17th and 18 July and the Max West team, along with many others, will be walking or dancing round the track for 24 hours, depicting that cancer is with us 24 hours of the day and never sleeps. All the organisers are volunteers and every pound collected goes to Cancer Research in the UK.

How can you help?

There will be live music throughout the 24 hours creating a carnival atmosphere. There will also be stalls and other entertainment. Additional volunteers will be appreciated to support the team and possibly run a stall with a view to selling items such as baking etc. Visitors will be welcome during the whole of the 24 hours. A Survivors' VIP lap of honour will take place at 11 a.m. on the 17th to start off the event and to demonstrate that cancer research does work. Also, at dusk, a "candle of hope" ceremony will take place when candle bags with dedications for loved ones written on them will be placed around the track. Donations for bags can be made prior to the event.

I MacPhee will be the Max West team leader. The team members are L MacPhee, N Collins, A Walter, J Wood, M McLeod, D Rosie, A Rosie, H MacDonald, T Buisson, T and K Bretherton, J & A Beggs and B Riddick. **We can still take more!**

During the period up to the relay weekend, all these team members will be fund-raising to assist our team to make as much as possible for the cause of Cancer Research. Everyone can help in the struggle to find improved treatments for cancer by fundraising for the team, or by simply making a donation to any member of the Team. An example of fund raising: One lady has been making and selling tablet, and is aiming to donate £100. What can you do? We all have different abilities and everyone can do something to help. All donations from taxpayers qualify for Gift Aid which means for every £10 donated a further £2.80 can be claimed back from the taxman.

If you can help ... Cheques made payable to Cancer Research UK, along with a completed Gift Aid declaration (below) can be handed to any of the Team Members. Every pound donated goes straight to Cancer Research UK.

TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT CANCER

Further information can be obtained from I MacP or me.

B R

..... Please cut along this line if you are a Taxpayer

Gift Aid Declaration:

I would like Tax to be reclaimed on my enclosed donation to Cancer Research UK

Title _____ Full Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Donation £ _____