In 2003 Anna Riddick, a member of the congregation of Maxwelltown West Church, conceived the idea of a wall hanging on the south wall to the west side of the Pulpit. While Rev. Gordon Savage was visiting her during an illness, the subject was first mooted and the idea grew.

Anna’s husband Bill then discussed the idea with Valery Bruce who was the Chairperson of the Dumfries and District Embroiderers’ Guild at that time. After liaising with the minister to decide on a suitable theme and content, a meeting in 2004 agreed how the Embroiderers’ Guild would accomplish the work.

Twelve scenes from the life of Jesus were selected and Anna was delighted when master drawings were created.

After Anna died in December 2004, Bill decided it would be a fitting tribute to continue with the project and have the wall hanging presented to the church in her memory.

Consequently, members of the Embroiderers’ Guild, together with some of Anna’s friends, numbering 22 in total, began the work which was completed in November 2005. A Service of Dedication took place on 11 December 2005 when most of the members of the Embroiderers’ Guild who had participated in its production were present.

Anna would be proud to see this lovely hanging in Maxwelltown West Church where she was so involved.

The history of the work involved in this huge project has been compiled in a folder which is available for church members to see. It details the technical information of the stitches and the names and thoughts of those who worked with such skill and dedication to complete this beautiful treasure.
The Burning Celtic Cross
embroidered by Mrs. Jenny Hyslop
The Nativity Scene - with baby Jesus in the stable
embroidered by Mrs. Betty Elliott and Mrs Margaret Bonner
Baby Jesus presented to the Temple

embroidered by Mrs Marlene Baird
Jesus baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist

embroidered by Mrs. Pat Cowdery
Jesus calling the Fishermen

embroidered by Mrs. Jan Millar
Jesus heals Jairus’ daughter

embroidered by Mrs. Joy Gardiner
Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus
embroidered by Mrs. Rosemary Lockerbie, Mrs. Margaret Miller, Mrs. Mary Whyte
The Sermon on the Mount
embroidered by Mrs. Margaret Flemming
Jesus walks on water

embroidered by Mrs. Mary Todd and Mrs. Fiona McGlynn
Jesus enters Jerusalem – Palm Sunday

embroidered by Mrs. Valerie Bruce
Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

embroidered by Sheila McKay
Jesus crucified and Roman soldiers gambling for his Cloak

embroidered by Mrs. Cissie Thompson
The risen Jesus meets the two Marys in front of His tomb
embroidered by Mrs. Jan Johnson
Gold work pennant and lettering of the church name

embroidered by Mrs. Shirley McKeand
Constructing the hanging

by Mrs. Christine
Muirhead and Mrs. Anne
Dougan