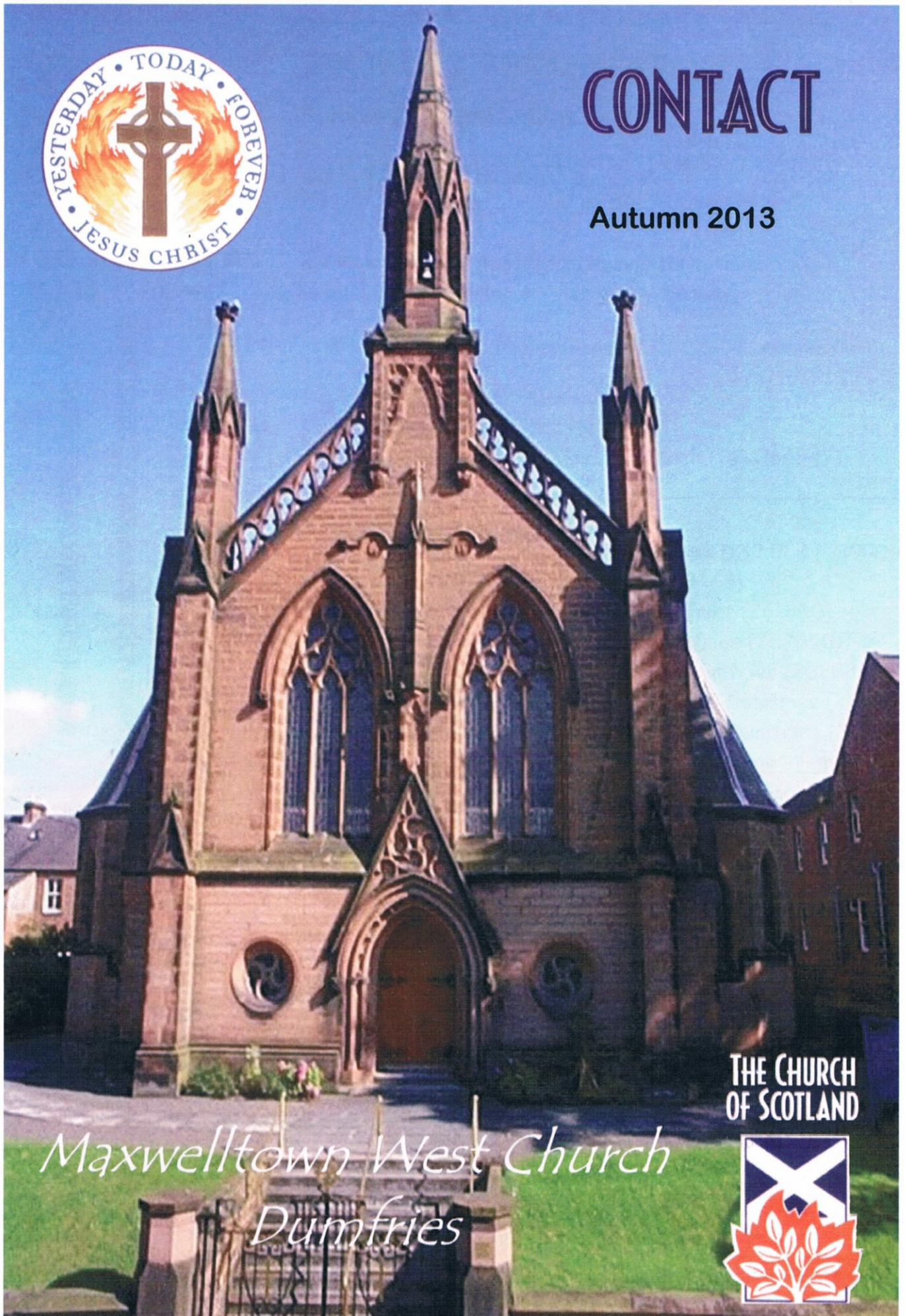


# CONTACT

Autumn 2013



*Maxwelltown West Church  
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND



**MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES**

[www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk](http://www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk)

**SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am**

**COMMUNION SERVICES:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 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.

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During the vacancy, the Interim Moderator is **Rev. Donald Campbell**

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: Mr R Shepherd

TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller

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**CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER**

**Deaths**

16<sup>th</sup> June: Ernest Smith, 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 Max West,

You will see from the update from our Interim Moderator the ongoing problems and processes our Session is faced with as we seek to find, with Presbytery, an acceptable way forward for Maxwelltown West in calling a new Minister.

With the huge dearth of Ministers and continuing financial constraints in the Church in general, all kinds of measures are being considered to resolve the problems. Things sadly "ain't what they used to be!!" The reluctant acceptance by Session of the only real offer by the Ministry and Resources Committee of a 7 year reviewable tenure may not be what we hoped for but after all this time of stalemate it is perhaps our best hope of proceeding on our own to try to call our own Minister. And hopefully after the next meeting of Presbytery at the end of September, if approved, we might begin that process. We accept that in the future adjustment may have to be made.

So, with a glimmer of light on the horizon to lift our spirits we can go forward in faith.

Perhaps it is appropriate that this summer series has been looking at the beautiful letter from Paul to his beloved Church in Philippi. It is a letter of joy and there are so many parts of it that we might take and hold for ourselves. Let me pick out just a few.

Chapter 1: *"I thank my God every time I remember you; in all my prayers I pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel."* Is this not the very essence of our commitment - to be partners in spreading and living the Gospel? Then a word of great encouragement - *"being confident that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."* Christ is not going to walk away from us as He will bring His work in us to completion.

Then in chapter 2: *"If you have found encouragement in being united with Christ then try to imitate His behaviour."* Our attitude should be as His. And at verse 12, the great exhortation of John Calvin - *"work out your own salvation for it is God who is working in you according to His good purpose."* We need to keep active in faith and service - our part in God's agreement.

In chapter 3: *"Forgetting what lies behind and straining to what lies ahead to win the prize in Christ."* We dare not harp back to the past, but strive to our future.

*"Be anxious for nothing but take everything in prayer, with thanksgiving, to God."* He alone can give us the strength we need and finally the wonderful Blessing we will find *"the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

There is nothing I can add to these wonderful words. Read them often, pray consistently and let us together work towards the goal Christ has in mind for us.

Every Blessing  
With love,  
Liz

## **An update from the Interim Moderator**

It is some time since I have written with an update and that is because there has been little really to say. The Kirk Session is still in conversation with Presbytery's Ministry and Resources Committee about the future of Maxwelltown West but no real progress has been made.

When I last wrote with an update in Contact I reported that the Kirk Session had until Presbytery met on 26<sup>th</sup> June to come up with alternative proposals. The only realistic proposal that the Kirk Session could see was a linkage with Lochend and New Abbey. This proposal was taken to the Kirk Session of Lochend and New Abbey but the office bearers rejected that proposal preferring to look for a minister on their own. This is not surprising since they had just been given permission by Presbytery to buy a new manse and extend it in preparation for a new ministry. This effectively meant that the Kirk Session of Maxwelltown West were unable to pursue any realistic alternative.

In the absence of any realistic alternative proposal it was the intention of the Ministry and Resources Committee to recommend a seven year reviewable tenure ministry for Maxwelltown West to the June meeting of Presbytery. However they decided not to do so in order to put forward an alternative suggestion of their own, namely that Maxwelltown West consider working more closely with the congregation of Dumfries Northwest, perhaps leading to a union of the two parishes and a full-time unrestricted ministry which would see the current minister of Dumfries Northwest becoming minister of the new united charge.

The Kirk Session discussed this suggestion and for a number of reasons decided to reject it as a realistic way forward for Maxwelltown West. They have instead agreed that it would be best to accept a ministry on the basis of a seven year reviewable tenure rather than delay calling a minister any longer and have communicated this to the Ministry and Resources Committee. We now await a response from that committee but in any case nothing will be decided before the next meeting of Presbytery which is 25<sup>th</sup> September.

I realise that many of you may be frustrated by the length of time this process is taking but I would urge continued patience (which is of course a fruit of the Spirit) and ask again for your continued prayers for the Kirk Session and Presbytery that the correct way forward for Maxwelltown West may be discerned.

*Donald Campbell*

## **Kirk Session**

The Kirk Session met for an ordinary meeting on 20th June when a number of items were discussed. This meeting should mainly have dealt only with routine items of business. However, representatives of the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee asked to attend the meeting to bring a proposal regarding the future of Maxwelltown West Church.

The proposal they brought was that we should unite with Dumfries North West Church with the incumbent there, Rev. Neil Campbell, becoming the minister for the new charge. This led to a full and frank discussion with no decision being reached at the meeting. Session agreed to have a meeting at a later date to discuss the proposal.

This meeting took place on 4th July when Session considered the previous proposal and after a lengthy discussion overwhelmingly agreed to reject the proposal. The Convener of the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee has been notified of this decision. We now await the next stage in the process of reaching a decision on our future.

*T B, Session Clerk*

## Visits to Organisations 2013 - 2014

For the benefit of the leaders of the various organisations the following is a list of Elders who will visit these groups over the next few months:

Guild and After Eights	Mrs. H. Johnson and Miss A. Stott
K Max and J Max	J. Love and Mrs. E. Riddick
Y Max	Mrs. F. Saddington and D. Johnson
Good Companions	D. McNay
Scout Group	D. McLaren and J. Denholm
Guide Group	Mrs. C. Murray and Miss L. Riddick
Badminton Clubs	D. Fraser

## Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 with the Rev. Donald Campbell in the chair as the Interim Moderator. There were 38 members in attendance and 13 apologies.

The Treasurer's report shows that for this period expenditure exceeded income by £2619. However we still await £4,000 from HMRC in Gift Aid and therefore our finances continue to be satisfactory. Due to problems over the Gift Aid Claim, W. Little was re-affirmed as the Gift Aid Convener.

The Fabric Committee made their annual inspection of the church and reported that maintenance work would continue as and when required. The Relevant Presbytery Committee has recently visited the Manse. They reported it to be in a good condition and ready for immediate use.

D. Rosie, on behalf of the Organ Fund Committee, thanked everyone for their help and support at the "Organ Concert". The meeting expressed its thanks to the two organists and the committee for all their hard work in making the event such a success.

The next meeting of the Deacons' Court will be Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

*B S, Clerk to Deacons' Court*

## **World Church Team News from Bondo and Mathia**

### **Bondo**

Since 2007 our Bondo project continues to develop well and the community is progressing to become self sufficient.

Our Christmas catalogue gifts resulted in £140 to purchase more beehives. The bees were provided by the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture and the first honey is expected in December. The Sunday school benefited by £110 for new books.

From their little businesses mainly the sale of tomatoes, cash has been raised for second water pump which they aim to complete soon.

The Ministry of Education has now officially registered the school which Winnie has set up. They were impressed to learn she has support and assistance from the Church of Scotland and that Max. West is sending a monthly donation to provide food for the children.

Our World Church Team is indebted to the sponsors who have constantly over the past 4 years enabled us to send £250 every month to the Usenge Development initiative, the charity set up by Winnie to assist in feeding 300 children and now approx 500.

Recently two classrooms and a kitchen have been added to the church building and we forwarded £260 to complete the roof before the rainy season begins. This donation was funded from a funeral collection which specified it was to be used for the benefit of the children of Bondo.

Winnie continues in every mailing to thank the people of Max West “for sowing the seeds hope in her community which allows them to see a brighter future ahead”.

### **Mathia**

Thanks to improved electronic connections and mobile phones our links with Mathia have become stronger. Senior elder John writes “It is with much joy I send warm greetings to the congregation of Max West from my family and Mathia Church. We are constantly praying for your Presbytery to help you find a new Minister”.

Mathia church is running well and the congregation is growing in size. In fact their large parish will be sub-divided on 8th September with the Moderator of the General Assembly presiding. Mathia will then have five congregations and Kagumo parish will have seven congregations. This will give Rev Erastus more time with Mathia which they are all looking forward to. John tells us the cost of this division is high therefore the completion of their new larger church will be delayed yet again.

Bursary grants from our own fundraising over the past five years have enabled over thirty young people into senior education and university. This November four people will graduate and five others continue their studies. Our help has been greatly appreciated and we hope it will continue for some time to come.

The WCT is aware of the wider World Mission work and traditionally Max. West has been involved with The Christian Aid door to door collection for many years.

The theme for this year was “Bite Back at Hunger” and organised by Heather Johnson with over 20 collectors in the parish. They raised £2,676 - a wonderful result for which we are indebted to everyone who donated and collected.

In September Ian and Rosemary Slack have decided to return to Bondo for the third time and Mathia for the second time.

The WCT is very grateful to them and look forward to their first hand news which will be reported to the congregation as well.

Some parting words from John Njeru Karuoya “What you do for yourself dies with you, but what you do for others will live for ever”.

*A D, WCT Convener*

### **A Treasurer’s Thanks**

Dear Friends in Max West,

Just a very short note to say a wonderful thanks to you all for your most generous donations to our Organ Fund Account, following my appeal in our last edition of Contact.

The generosity of our membership continues, with the total of our fundraising now currently standing at the grand sum of £27,835 against our original target set at £30,000, to cover our costs of the replacement. Thank you all very much again for responding to my appeal. It is most heartwarming and I am sure, with our Dumfries Male Voice Choir Fundraising Concert to follow shortly, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, we will hopefully exceed the original target figure of £30,000.

Kindest regards and many thanks again to you all

*D McN, Treasurer*

### **REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS**

#### **The Guild**

This summer the Church of Scotland Guild celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Local members enjoyed an afternoon tea and fashion show at Easterbrook, along with members of the National Committee. Iain Whyte, national secretary, commented “on reflecting on past achievements it is important to look forward with renewed confidence and enthusiasm”.

Locally Max. West Guild is flourishing with approximately 50 members and an excellent leadership team, now moving into our 82<sup>nd</sup> year.

To begin the season on 8<sup>th</sup> October we are holding an Open Social Evening with TV presenter and journalist Gilly Fraser. Her latest topics of “Horsetails and other tails” no doubt will prove interesting and amusing and we hope to welcome many church people and friends.

Nationally the Guild is involved with Inter Faith Groups on Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking and many other concerning issues of our time. The national projects over the last three years raised over £800 as well as similar figures supporting the Church of Scotland.

Last year Max West sent £500 to help “Mary’s Meals’ ” and this year have chosen the project “Out of Africa and into Malta”. St Andrews Kirk, Malta has a huge number of refugees for their small island and is struggling with hundreds of people fleeing civil wars in east Africa. More information can be found in Life and Work or [www.saintandrewsmalta.com](http://www.saintandrewsmalta.com).

Looking forward now to next season in our Guild to continue God’s work with optimism and joy as well as much fun and friendship. We are always open to welcome new people, both men and women.

*A D, Convener.*

## **Badminton Club**

The 2012/13 season was again very successful and great fun. The annual dinner was held at the beginning of March at the Manor Country House Hotel, Torthorwald, and in April an evening was spent ten pin bowling at Carlisle. There is a wide range of players in the club, from teenagers to octogenarians (the minimum age for membership is 16, but there is no upper age limit) and everyone mixes well. The social aspect of the club is just as important as the badminton.

The new season starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and we meet on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. New members will be made most welcome. Don't worry if you haven't played for a long time – come along and have a few games and be amazed at how quickly your skills return.

*J M*

## **Brownies**

Between Easter and the summer holidays, the Brownies enjoyed a variety of evenings including making and eating pizza, a detective and a jungle fun night. The older Brownies organised a "Max West's Got Talent" show and produced an excellent evening of entertainment.

We made decorations and decorated the hall for a Brownie Hen Party for Steph, our assistant leader. The following Saturday the girls were very pleased to be part of her wedding to Gareth and we send our congratulations to the happy couple.

Our sponsored walk in Mabie Forest raised over £300 which has been sent to the Kiltwalk appeal to help children's charities.

On our last meeting of the session, all the Brownies enjoyed a meal at a local restaurant and we said goodbye to Eve, Megan and Niamh who have moved to Guides at Max West. We also said thank you to Emma, Young Leader, who is starting university in Aberdeen in September.

Our Brownie Adventure starts again on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

*J McE, Brownie Leader*

## **Good Companions**

Our autumn session begins on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 2.00 pm. We are looking forward to catching up with each other and would love to welcome any new members.

*S H*

## **Children's Corner**

Hi boys and girls. I do hope you are all having a lovely summer holiday and enjoying all this hot weather!! God has truly blessed us this summer giving us beautiful sunshine and just enough rain to prevent us having a drought.

Sunday School starts again on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 11am and Chrissy, Sharon and I are looking forward to have you all join us. Hopefully we will see some new faces at K-Max and J-Max. Tell your friends that everyone is welcome and that we will have some fun activities for you next session if they want to pop along. If they want more information they can contact me (D McLeod).

In the meantime, why not try out this wee game that you can play indoors or out, based on the story of David and Goliath which can be found in the Old Testament: 1 Samuel Chapters: 16 & 17



## David and Goliath Game

**Materials:** Gather 5 small flat stones and 1 large flat stone  
(Marbles can be used instead if preferred)  
1 Permanent marker or poster paint  
Masking tape or any other similar tape

**Set up:** Use the masking tape to stick a square shape on the floor  
(The larger the square the more difficult it will be)  
Put a small cross in the centre of the square  
Paint the stones different colours or just write names/initials on them as follows: G-goliath,  
your names or initials on the others

### How to Play:

The object of the game is to knock Goliath out of the square in the smallest amount of moves. Place his large stone on the X in the centre of the square then take turn about to slide your little stones at the large one in the centre and knock him out of the square. Some of you might be very good at this if you play marbles.

Alternatively each of you can add up how many times it takes you to knock him out then swap player. The winner is the one with the lowest number of throws. Have fun.....see if you can beat your Mums or Dad's score!

**Tip:** You may wish to glue a piece of felt on the bottom of your stones if playing on a wooden floor to stop them getting scratched.

Try reading the story from your bible and answering the following questions:

1. What did David do when he didn't have much to do in the fields?
2. Why wasn't David in the army?
3. What did David use to protect himself against Goliath?

### Remember:

God doesn't care about our age or outer appearances but looks at the heart. During the holidays try and do something nice for someone in your family but don't tell them. God will see what you do and will reward you for it someday! See You All Soon

*D McL*

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Communion (11.00am and 3.00pm)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Guild Coffee Morning

### ADD MORE DATES

### Once again, a plea from the editorial committee

If any of the organisations have events coming up between December and the beginning of March 2014, please let us know so that we can include them in the 'Dates for your Diary' in the winter edition of Contact.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
<b>October</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. McCall-Watson	Mrs. L. Hyles
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M. Allison	VACANT
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M Brown	Mrs. Carruthers
<b>November</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs. B Walker	VACANT
10 <sup>th</sup>	VACANT	Mrs. M. Coulson
17 <sup>th</sup>	Miss S McDowall	Mrs. S. Robin
24 <sup>th</sup>	VACANT	Mrs. L. Hyles
<b>December</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. Shearer	Mrs. V. Saunders
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. H Campbell	Mrs. Cameron
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M Wallace	VACANT
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs. A Dunbar	Mrs. S Brown
29 <sup>th</sup>	VACANT	VACANT
<b>January '14</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. J Sloan	

We have several vacant spaces in our flower calendar and I would be happy if new people could take these dates.

For more information please phone A Dunbar