

### **MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES**

## www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

**COMMUNION SERVICES:** 9<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am and 3.00pm (in Hall)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (J-Max & K-Max):** <u>11.00am</u> 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. Tom Bryden CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. Eileen Riddick

ORGANIST: Mr. Stephen Crosbie TREASURER: Mr. David McNay

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. Robert Wilson 'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. David Miller

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. Fiona Saddington

#### **CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER**

# **Baptisms**

17th June: Noah Jackson Taylor

22nd July: Linda Hyles

### **Marriages**

12th May: Fiona Hazel Reading to Andrew Douglas Thompson

# **Deaths**

20th April: Mrs. Mary Paterson 10th May: Dr. Roy McGillivray 13th May: Mr. Robert McWhirter 23rd May: Rev. Gordon Savage 13<sup>th</sup> July: Mr. Malcolm MacLeod

24<sup>th</sup> July: Mr. Alan Marr

# **New Members by Certificate**

Mr. Stewart Imlach & Mrs. Dorothy Imlach

Mr. Alexander Campbell

### **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,

Since the last issue of Contact we have had the great sadness of Gordon's death. His loss to Mairi and the boys and to Maxwelltown West Church is immeasurable, but as Christians we are charged with the continuance of Life in the Church and Witness to the Community.

As you know, I have been focusing on the philosophy of a Church Without Walls where we develop as a people called BY God FOR God - a Church shaped by the Gospel and the Community we live and witness in and a Church shaped by friendship and the gifts God has given to each one of us by the Holy Spirit.

This is a time for Max West to take stock - to look at ourselves and see how we are shaping up in all these categories. We need to be sure what it is we actually believe before we can share it with others, and our walk through John Stott's wonderful book on Basic Christianity challenges us to check the basis of our personal faith. Then we have to see if we really are a community into which others will want to come and where they will feel at home. Hopefully our coffee times have a new focus as we have got to widen our fellowship together. We need to look for and encourage the gifts among our own membership that they might be used for the work of Christ's Kingdom and finally we must be bold to live and speak our faith. Perhaps our best method of evangelism is to love and care for others. People do want to belong and we are each a channel to Christ.

A new Minister for Max West must not come and find us in the "Waiting Room" but on the track as a vibrant and active force of God's people in this place.

In John's Gospel chapter 21, we have the encouragement we need. The disciples had given up on their fruitless fishing trip until Jesus came and took charge of the operation, then the catch was immense.

When God calls and we respond, He will bless our efforts.

May He bless and strengthen us here.

With Love, Liz ( Locum Minister)

## An Appreciation of Rev. Gordon Savage

With great regret we heard of the passing on 23rd May of our much loved and respected minister, Gordon, following a long illness. Having been inducted on 2nd February 1984, he provided 28 years of devoted service to Maxwelltown West Church and the wider community. It really seems almost yesterday that we welcomed Gordon and Mairi into our midst. Indeed many of you will remember his induction and introduction, each attended by a former Moderator of the General Assembly. You may not know that within three weeks of his arrival a mini earthquake was recorded in the Dumfries area - the first time ever.

I am not sure if this was a coincidence or not, but from that time on we saw many welcome changes in Maxwelltown West. Indeed it is interesting to note how many things that we take for granted were introduced during Gordon's ministry. Some, like the introduction of pew bibles, the reforming of a Bible Class and a Youth Fellowship, now merged into Y-Max and the formation of the Good Companions, came early in his ministry. Yet, as the years passed, he did not rest on his laurels and further innovations came in the form of, for example, monthly Family Services with the involvement more and more of younger members of the congregation, a Praise Band, a Praise Group and a guitar group. For Gordon, music was always an important aspect of worship and indeed, with his encouragement, we were one of the first congregations in Presbytery to introduce CH4.

We also saw the introduction of an Assistant Minister, to provide much needed support for both Gordon and the congregation. At his instigation we also saw the use of a Children's and Family Worker. Throughout his ministry we have supported many outside groups, but over the past few years we have seen this concentrated on the provision of aid to Bondo and a link with Mathia Church. Gordon was instrumental in

progressing these African links and led a group from Maxwelltown West in a visit to Mathia. I am sure he appreciated the live link at last year's Candlelight Service. Mathia's sadness at his death was conveyed in a heartfelt message of condolence.

Gordon was proud of his own Church but we must not forget his immense input to Presbytery through his work as Presbytery Clerk and his contribution to the wider Church through his service on various Church committees. In all areas Gordon was a stickler for detail and I am sure several people would willingly have presented him with a set of red pens lest his own ran out. He was meticulous in his planning and preparation whatever task he was presented with.

We also have to remember the support Gordon received from Mairi, David and Alasdair throughout these past two difficult years. We all express our sincere hopes and good wishes for their future.

Contributed

# A Message from the Interim Moderator

Dear All,

We were all sad to hear of the death of the Rev. Gordon Savage back in May after such a long illness and the thoughts and prayers of everyone at Maxwelltown West have of course been with Gordon's family. The congregation of Maxwelltown West has also been in the thoughts and prayers of many people, especially those from other churches in the area, as members come to terms with the loss of Gordon. Gordon was loyal not only to his Lord but also to the people of Maxwelltown West. Many people were helped by him over the years as he ministered faithfully to congregation and parish as well as to the wider world. The work he has done as minister must now be seen as a foundation upon which to build, as Maxwelltown West moves into the future.

At the last meeting of the Kirk Session the elders were very clear that, when the time is right, they should seek to find a new minister to take the work at Maxwelltown West forward. The next step lies with Presbytery who will decide when the time is right. It may be that Presbytery will decide to allow Maxwelltown West to call a minister very quickly, or it may be that matters of Presbytery Planning will first have to be discussed before a call can be granted. Either way the process is likely to take a few months to complete but I would hope by the autumn we would have a clearer idea of what the future might hold.

In the meantime I would urge you all to pray that ultimately the right person will be found to lead Maxwelltown West into the future.

God Bless, Donald Campbell Interim Moderator

#### **Kirk Session**

The Kirk Session met on 21st June when a number of items were discussed. However, Session concentrated on two main items concerning the future of the Church.

The first regarded its concerns about the number of young people in the Church. It was presented with a full report from the CHYPS Group regarding the involvement of young people in the Church and suggestions for a future strategy for further involvement of the young people. Before the proposed strategy was fully discussed it was noted that uniformed organisations continue to be well supported. Session was pleased to note the success of the youth organisations and appreciates the work carried out by its leaders. It also expressed its appreciation of the work of our Sunday School staff. At the end of the discussion Session thanked the CHYPS Group for its work in producing the report.

The other main item was a consideration of our approach to the vacancy caused by the death of Rev. Gordon Savage. This wide ranging discussion concluded that we would wish to call a minister but recognised that we will have to wait to find how changes to the Presbytery Plan could affect us. At this point Session expressed its thanks to our Interim Moderator, Rev. Donald Campbell, and to our Locum, Rev. Liz Mack.

T B, Session Clerk

#### **Deacons' Court**

The Deacons' Court met on 14<sup>th</sup> June and we were joined by Susan Cord, a divinity student from St. George's Church. Rev. Donald Campbell, Interim Moderator, opened the meeting and referred to the death of our minister, Gordon.

D McNay, Treasurer, presented his report. He had prepared a comparison to the same period last year and was pleased to report that our finances were currently in a satisfactory position. Gift Aid tax recovered was fully up to date and he thanked W Little, Gift Aid Convener, for his diligence.

In the absence of R Slack, Convener, J Marchbank presented the Finance report. J Beggs had intimated his resignation from the Finance Committee.

D Miller presented the Fabric report and confirmed that preparatory work had been completed and that the organ had been successfully installed. He again referred to the hard work put in by S Crosbie and A McEwan, organists, also B Wilson, Church Officer and D McLaren. The Annual Inspection had been completed and he highlighted a summary of items discussed, including the security and insulation levels in the Centenary Hall and minor water ingress in the Simmons Hall and West Lobby.

Organ Fund – D Rosie advised that the group had held its first meeting when various topics were discussed on how to raise funds to replace money used for the new organ.

The Embroiderers' Guild had sent a letter of condolence following Mr. Savage's death and this was much appreciated by the court.

E R, Clerk to Deacons' Court

E Riddick had submitted her resignation as Clerk to the Deacons' Court and Rev. Campbell thanked her for her work and invited someone to take over this role.

### **World Church Team**

Since my last report a lot has happened in our church and plans for the Kenyan visit were postponed due to the sad death of our beloved Minister, Gordon. Now we are looking ahead to the new programme for welcoming John and Bernice from Mathia Church, Kenya on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August for two weeks. Their profiles were printed in the June edition of Contact.

John visited us in 2008 and has a small tea plantation which has struggled this year due to lack of water, and to buy water to supplement this is impossible we are told, due to cost. He is the senior elder and our contact person who is very involved with his church. Due to sharing their Minister, who has ten congregations to care for, John regularly takes services, is on the Board of Governors for Kiangi Secondary School and is a youth councillor, serving on many committees.

Bernice, a retired teacher, is also an elder and very involved with Mathia Church. We are told she runs a hardware store since retirement. She hopes to meet as many people as possible and make new friends at Max West.

The WCT have planned an interesting programme for their visit and hope our congregation and friends will come and support the events.

#### Some Important Events to note

**Friday 31**<sup>st</sup> **August: A Scottish Evening** for all the family from 7-9 pm: no tickets - just come along. Cost: Adults £2.00, Children £1.00 - includes a light supper.

**Sunday 2**<sup>nd</sup> **September: 11am New Communicants' Service** and a special coffee/tea fellowship to join Kenyan friends.

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September: visits planned to Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September: Communion Service when John and Bernice will join us.

Please watch "Church Intimations" for other events still to be confirmed at the time of writing this. We look forward very much to meeting you during this visit.

A D, World Church Convener.

# **Organ Fund**

By this time, the majority of our membership will have seen and heard the new digital organ. From all accounts it has been favourably accepted to be a satisfactory replacement for the original pipe organ - an organ which served us for many a good year, but alas arrived at the stage where refurbishment costs would be excessive and not necessarily extend the life of the organ for any significant years.

The cost of acquiring and installing the new organ was in the region of £30,000 and therefore it is necessary for us to instigate a series of fundraising events to help defray this cost. It is proposed that our first event will be a musical evening of varied light music, which will be presented by our organist, Stephen Crosbie and colleague Alistair McEwan on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012 here in Maxwelltown West Church. This event will be supported by the Social Group, who will be providing light refreshments of wine and cheese. Tickets are available from any committee member or at the door, at £7.50 per adult. Children under 16 accompanied by an adult will be free.

This fundraising event should promise to be a most enjoyable evening and it is hoped that you will give it your full support. An opportunity will also be available to anyone wishing to contribute an additional donation at any time to our organ fund and this may be handed to any of the committee members – Mrs. R Slack, Mr. D McNay and Mr. S Crosbie.

D R (Organ Fund Convener)

# **Friendship Craft Group**

The new Friendship Craft Group met for the first time on July 23 in the Committee Room. It was very encouraging that 12 of us turned up and we were kept busy making lavender sachets, with lots of chat and laughter.

We hope that everything we make will be sold to raise money for the Kenya Project.

Meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month in the Committee Room from 11am until 1pm. All are welcome. Please bring scissors with you.



### Treasures and Artefacts - "Rose's Banner"

The story of this beautiful and colourful six-foot embroidered wall hanging, made by sixteen Guild members telling the Christian history of the district, is contained in a diary carefully put together by Rose McClymont and added to by various people involved in its design, production and subsequent display. Below are some extracts of the diary entries explaining the project and what it has meant to those involved:

# Church of Scotland Department of Ministry & Mission Women's Council Annual Meeting in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1987

'Let Everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!' Psalm 150 v6

One way in which the Church is learning to do this is through banner making. A banner is a 'picture' using various fabrics as the medium and each Presbyterial Council is being asked to provide a banner which will be displayed at the Annual Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1987.

## Ministry and Mission Women's Council

A picture of Scotland was drawn at the Assembly Hall on the historic mound in Edinburgh at the 1987 meeting when more than 40 banners depicting Presbyterial districts of Scotland and one from the Presbytery of England were on display, each carrying a Christian text. The idea for the Dumfries banner was developed and carefully sketched for us by Mr and Mrs J.D.M. Brown, Maxwelltown West.

### Extracts from a Letter from Mr Brown

"I was most flattered when Rose asked if I would design a banner which would be 'worked' by Guild members of Dumfries Presbytery and be shown at their annual meeting in Edinburgh on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1987.

To illustrate some of the history of the area I sketched **Ruthwell Cross, Devorgilla Bridge** and **Irongray Church**. As **farming, fishing and forestry** are important to this district, they too were incorporated as were Dumfries' most outstanding landmarks – the **River Nith** and **Criffel**. The component scenes were beautifully 'worked' by Rosie's team."

### A Diary Note from Rose McClymont - Our Banner Carries a Message to Edinburgh

"A picture of Scotland is being drawn this week and it is likely to make banner headlines for churchwomen all over the land.

For more than forty colourful banners, depicting Presbyterial districts of the Church of Scotland and carrying a Christian text, have been received at Kirk offices in advance of the Annual meeting of the Women's Council of the Board of Ministry and Mission, due to take place on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Among them is one from Dumfries, designed by Mr J Brown, Organist and Choir Master at Maxwelltown West Church and which was made by several members of the Women's Guild from various Churches."

Each banner measures 6 x 2 feet and among the motifs are the light houses that surround Scotland, the fishing and oil industries, the pit head wheels and the agricultural scene, the rural cottage and the tower blocks of Glasgow. Scotland's Christian history is depicted in the abbeys and churches while on the English banner, the thistle grows alongside the rose.

Nessie Glendinning, President, Dumfries Presbyterial Council 1986-89: 'Brightly gleams our Banner'

What banner? – "The Ministry and Mission delegates are making a Banner!"

Why? - "For their Annual Meeting next April!"

But why? - "I don't know; to make the place look festive I suppose!"

Who's in charge of the banner-making? - "Rose!"

Has she made a Banner before? – "I don't know, but if she hasn't, then I trust her to find help from folks who have the knowledge of such things!" And so the problem of the Banner (it became known as Rose's Banner!) was thrust to the back of my mind; Presidents after all, have to learn to delegate and to trust. [.....] 'Rose's Banner' came home to Dumfries in time for our Echo Meeting in St Mary's Church and only then did the full Council become aware of the combined talents and skills which had gone into its making.

On behalf of Council, thank you Rose, for having the courage and the determination to mastermind the project: and thank you 'team' for all those hours of painstaking work. My confidence in delegation and trust is

A Diary Note from Kathleen Brown – 05/06/00

"The Banner" made by Women's Guild members of Dumfries Presbyterial Council, was first displayed in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1987.

Over the past 13 years the banner has been on show at many Guild meetings throughout the region. The Presbyterial Council Committee decreed that Maxwelltown West Church should become 'HOME' for the banner and it is now on permanent display there.

K B, Past President Maxwelltown West Guild (1996-1999)

Anyone wishing to read more about the banner and enjoy the lovely comments in the diary, please see Rose

## **News from the Olympics**

unshaken.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July. My first day started with socialising at the team briefing. This included all departments from the Polyclinic, the large medical centre. They were a very friendly and well-motivated group of people and a great way to start the day.

Then the fun began - dispense after dispense from three Optometrists. It was constant all day, so there was no concept of time. There needed to be translators for most of the patients. They were from Cuba, St Kits, Belarus, Mauritius, and The Ivory Coast, to name but a few. There were people from Australia and not one of them could speak English. They were from the old Soviet Block countries. Most of these people were team support staff, as the athletes were still at their training grounds.

It was difficult to get away for a meal until after 8.00 pm. I went with one of the optometrists, who does a lot of work for Vision Aid Overseas and for the Association of Optical Practitioners, to a huge dining hall divided into sections for the athletes and the working staff. It was set up by McDonalds, but so far I have kept to conventional food - mass produced but edible.

Although the Dispensers were taken on as Contact Lens Opticians, most people were looking for glasses to replace their 'lost specs'!! They are entitled to free basic specs while here. In a week we must have dispensed around 150 pairs. There has been little contact lens work so far, but as the athletes arrive, we will see more. We were still seeing to patients up to 10.30pm.

When it got quiet we got away around 11.00pm for the tube at Stratford station.

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> I was privileged to see the arrival of the team GB athletes. It was quite moving at times. From the 27<sup>th</sup> it will be the early shift for me, starting at 6.30am and finishing around 3.30pm. That will be for 5 days and then I will return home on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. What a brilliant experience for us all.

#### REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

#### The Guild

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. We in the Guild are looking forward to our new session which starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with our Dedication Service in the Church at 6.45pm, followed by a talk from Captain Ferguson on James Clerk Maxwell. I look forward to meeting our members but we would welcome new members.

M H, Guild Convener

## **Good Companions**

We ended the Spring session with a meal out, joined by our friends from Roseland. In the last edition of 'Contact' I appealed for speakers. It just goes to show if you have faith anything can happen, because I got a response! So, now I'm asking again (although it wouldn't be until Spring 2013) for speakers to talk about anything at all.

Our next session commences on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

SH

# **After Eights**

After the summer break we are looking forward to hearing about some interesting topics during the new session. Subjects will include the Dumfries and Galloway Magazine, Clydesdale migration from Skye to Cumbria; jam making for farmers' markets, cheese making, the life of Jane Haining, and the Nith Inshore Rescue. Also during the session we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The first meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> September and everyone who comes along will be made most welcome. Tea and biscuits are served at the end of the evening so there is plenty of opportunity to mingle and chat, catching up with old friends and, hopefully, making some new ones too.

JM

## **Scouts**

I said in my last report that it would be my last as the Scout Leader, so I have managed to shed the role of Leader at our last night of the session. The Scout Group met at Mabie Forest for the end of year barbecue. Although it was a rather wet and dull weekend, we had a glorious Monday and evening. The sun shone and no rain! I was presented with a facetted glass Scout paperweight from the parents' committee. That was a most appreciated gesture.

K Eggo managed to enrol M Sinclair to be the next leader. Unfortunately, due to university courses she was not able to take over, but, luckily for the troop, her husband Stewart will take over in September. Marie's father is H McCulloch who was the leader of Lincluden Scouts for many years.

I have decided to carry on in the movement as a Group Scout Leader. It will be less time consuming and will allow me to support the leaders of the various sections. We could recruit more scouts now. John, Ann and Andrew will continue with the Cubs. Bruce, plus a new assistant leader and young helpers, will be in charge of the Beavers and Jonathan, with Stewart, will run the Scouts. Unfortunately we have lost Natalie to a teaching post in Clackmannanshire. So thank you to everyone for running their various sections.

K Eggo will carry on as parents' committee chairman until the AGM in March. G Albriene is taking over as treasurer and I Skilling is staying on as secretary. Thanks go to the committee members for their work and to B Thompson for being the recently retired treasurer - a post which he carried out for many years.

H MacD, ex Scout Leader

#### **Brownies**

We would like to congratulate our Unit Helper, Mrs. S Aird, who was recently presented with the Hazel Award by our retiring County Commissioner, Mrs. J Purves. This award is presented annually to someone who has given outstanding service on a regular basis to Girl guiding.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we held an activity day and visited Shambellie House Museum of Costume where the girls enjoyed dressing up in Victorian costumes before touring the exhibitions. After our return to the hall, we had a Jubilee lunch and then made crowns, origami swans and jam tarts and designed jewellery for royalty before preparing cucumber sandwiches for our garden party which was held at the side of the church. We also enjoyed strawberries and cream although the wind blew the cups and plates around!

We visited Mabie Forest one evening and enjoyed a walk followed by Ellie's Promise Celebration and outdoor games when the sun shone.

In June we learned about the Olympics and held our alternative Olympic Games where everyone earned a gold medal. We also held a Beetle Evening when we held a beetle drive and then decorated cakes to look like beetles.

On our final evening of the term we said goodbye to five girls who are moving on and enjoyed playing games before dipping strawberries, bananas and marshmallows into a chocolate fountain!

Our Brownie Adventure starts again on 28<sup>th</sup> August when we are welcoming five new girls.

J McE, Brownie Leader

#### Children's Corner

Hi boys and girls. I hope you have had a lovely holiday. This month I have given you a small parable to think about:

## The Parable of the Sheep:

Imagine you have 100 sheep and lose one of them. Would you leave the other 99 sheep to go find the missing one? If you did, would you phone all your friends to tell them you had found it so everyone could celebrate?

Jesus told us this parable to explain about sin. He said that there will be a big celebration in heaven when just one person does wrong but says "sorry". This is far more important to Jesus than the other 99 people who think they are perfect and don't say sorry for anything. Just imagine ...if, when you say "sorry" to God, all of heaven has a big party just for what you've done! God is much more excited when we say we're sorry than when we act like nothing has happened and don't think we need to repent at all.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of our new session.

D McL

### **Distribution of Church Flowers**

I am looking for volunteers to help with the distribution of the church flowers after the service. Some of our members who have been distributing the flowers for a number of years are stepping down at the end of this year. At most, distributors help on two Sundays in the year. It is not an onerous task, but one which is very much appreciated by the recipients of the flowers.

If anyone is interested or would like further information, they can contact me or catch me in church on Sundays.

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
October		
7th	Mrs. McCall-Watson	Mrs. L Archibald
14th	Mrs. M. Allison	Mrs. Edgar
21st	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
28th	Mrs. M Brown	Mrs. Carruthers
November		
4th	Mrs. B Walker	Mrs. B. Steven
11th	Mrs. M. Barbour	Mrs. M. Coulson
18th	Miss S. McDowall	Mrs. S. Robin
25th	VACANT	VACANT
December		
2nd	Mrs. B. Shearer	Mrs. V. Saunders
9th	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. Cameron
16th	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. S Brown
23rd	Mrs. A Dunbar	VACANT
30th	VACANT	VACANT

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

# Dates for your diary

Fri.31<sup>st</sup> August – Scottish Evening 7-9pm

Sun.2<sup>nd</sup> September – Admission of new communicants. Tea/coffee with Kenyan friends

**Sun.9**th **September** – Communion at 11am and 3pm

**Sun.16**<sup>th</sup> **September** – Presbytery Sunday and ordination of new elders.

Sat.29<sup>th</sup> September – Fundraising Concert for Organ Fund at 7pm.

 $\textbf{Sun.30}^{\text{th}}~\textbf{September}-\textbf{Harvest}~\textbf{Thanksgiving}$ 





Some of the team at the end of the 24-hour relay

The first meeting of the Friendship Craft Group.