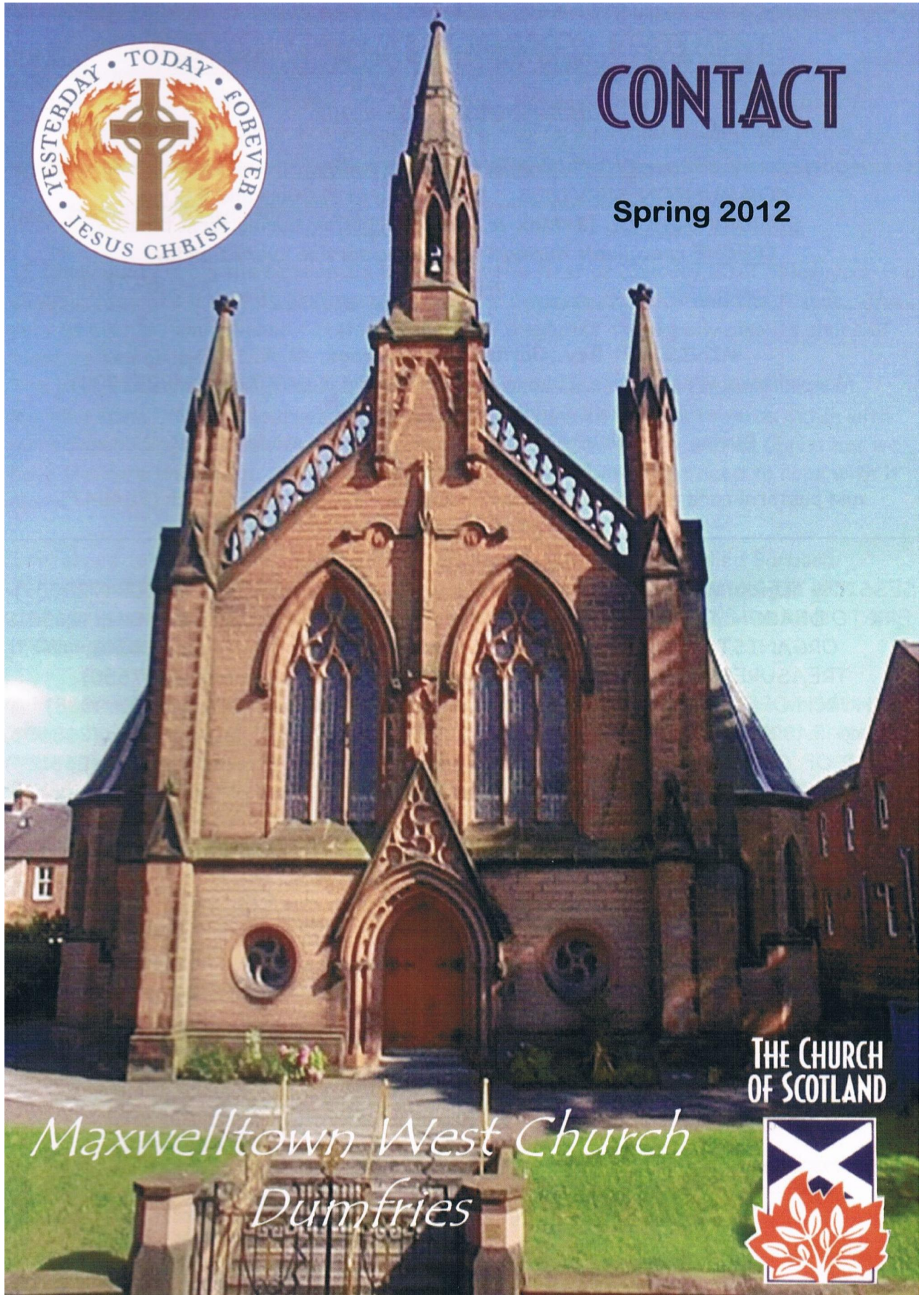


CONTACT

Spring 2012



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES: 11th March at 11.00am and 5.00pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL (J-Max & K-Max): 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

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

Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH

During Mr. Savage's absence, 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

ORGANIST: Mr. Stephen Crosbie

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. Robert Wilson

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. Fiona Saddington

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. Eileen Riddick

TREASURER: Mr. David McNay

'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. David Miller

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

12th November: Mrs. May Moonie

17th December: Mrs. Jeanette Thomas

03rd January: Mrs. Mary Todd

21st November: Alan Black

19th December: William M. Scott

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.*

Dear friends in Maxwelltown West,

If I may quote from the sermon I preached on the first of January 2012, "New Year is a strange time; it's a kind of limbo as we fluctuate between the past and the future. The past as ever is remembered for its traumas and tragedies and happily also its share of highs as well as lows.

The past we cannot change and as human beings we seem to be particularly inept at learning from it!!! The future is an unknown quantity which we look towards often with more foreboding than faith and wonder how we might cope with it, but as Christians we have the sure knowledge that whatever the future holds we do not need to cope with it alone."

I referred to the horrific events which assailed an American lady called Barbara Johnson and how she eventually came to terms with them all, finding strength and courage in words used so very many times in the King James Version of the Bible - "And it Came to Pass."

All the wonders of the Creation came to pass because God decreed it. The world coming into being was no accident. The great drama of all things starts with God and all that he created was good. Sadly, mankind and his consuming desire for power and freedom of action messed up the perfection, but because of His great love for us, warts and all, God did not leave us to be lost. He promised a way of redemption.

"And it came to pass... in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus." So begins Luke's account of the great Christmas story; the story of the birth of Christ born to be the Saviour of the world and the way for mankind back to God. As John so wonderfully puts it, "The light shone in the darkness and the darkness could not put it out." God in Christ entered our human situation, bringing light and hope into our lives; a hope so wonderfully fulfilled at Easter because there is no Christmas without Easter; the darkness of human life has been eternally penetrated; Christ is the Saviour who promises us "Behold I make all things new."

Do we believe it? Can God really guide us through the morass of fears and uncertainties of another year? Is He still in control of the world?

I offer a few lines from a wonderful book I was given; a devotional diary with the title 'God Calling.' The passage for 1st January says, "I stand between the years; the Light of my presence is flung across the year to come; backward over the past year my shadow is flung. Store on the Blessings. Dwell only on the present. I hold the year in my hand, in trust for you, but I shall guide you one day at a time. Leave the rest with me. Each day I will supply the wisdom and the strength you need."

Our remit here at Max West is to work and witness *in* and *to* the world around us as a people of faith. We must not lose heart by looking at life as the world sees it and we must not weary in our mission. All WILL Come to Pass. Our Creator God is still in control.

We go forward in faith. God bless us all.

Liz

Editorial

I feel as though I'm writing an advertising slogan for Maxwelltown West, but you only have to read through these pages to realise what a friendly, busy, thriving church we have. Our young people are involved in family services and our Praise Band accompanies us when they are home in Dumfries. We now have strong links with Mathia and Bondo. The church halls are well used by organisations of all types, catering for all ages. The list goes on ... Above all, we have a band of office bearers, committee members, leaders and helpers who are prepared to work to make all this possible. We may read in the press that churches in general are in decline and attitudes can be quite negative. I am sure there are many churches who would disagree and certainly here in Maxwelltown West we have good reason to be positive (although never complacent!)

F S

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met in November when a number of items, mainly of routine business, were discussed. One item raised, concerned young people in Church when it was noted that there has been a decline in the numbers of young people attending Sunday worship.

The Congregational meeting for the election of Deacons was held on Sunday 20th November when three new Deacons were elected. These three, Thelma Buisson, John Hastings and Bob Shepherd, were welcomed to the Deacons' Court at its meeting of 17th January.

At our meeting on 17th January several routine items of business were transacted. At the meeting, Session received an interim report from the CHYPS group which had been asked to discuss the youth in the Church. Their report and its recommendations will be discussed fully at a future meeting. The main item of business for the evening was the consideration of "Outreach" which will be discussed further at future meetings.

T B, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 23rd November 2011, with the Interim Moderator, Rev Donald Campbell in the chair. Our Treasurer, David McNay, presented a report on the finances to date. These are satisfactory but he did note that because of changes in regulations, Gift Aid income will be reduced. David Miller, the new Fabric Coordinator, presented his first report, and noted that all works in the annual budget had been completed and within the budget costs. Several other items of business were transacted. Tribute was paid to Alan Black who had died suddenly on 21st November.

On 17th January a special meeting of the Court was convened with Mr. Campbell in the Chair. This was for the purpose of deciding on the future of the organ. It was noted that the organ is in need of extensive repair and refurbishment at a cost of over £100,000 and it was agreed that we could not afford this sum. It was agreed that we purchase a replacement digital electric organ. Stephen Crosbie and Alistair McEwan had looked at several models and suggested their preferred model. Before proceeding with a final purchase it was agreed that a demonstration organ of that model be installed to allow Court members to hear the effect. By the time this appears in print it is hoped that you will have had the opportunity to hear this demonstration model.

T B

World Mission Live Link

The Christmas Eve service proved a great success with Rev. Liz Mack leading worship and members of all our organisations taking part. The highlight for many was a first for Max West, when we were able to speak to our Kenyan friends at **Mathia Church** live and exchange Christmas greetings.

This was made possible through the expertise of Douglas McLaren setting up speakers for all to hear and David Johnson, who arranged the link and spoke to John Njeru and passed on our Christmas messages and blessings to Mathia church.

Pictures from Mathia were shown on the screen of our people's last visit, students who received help through our bursary and their new church which they are anxious to complete due to a growing congregation.

We have funding in place from Church of Scotland World Exchange for a visit and hope to welcome two people from Mathia here in June.

Bondo is very happy, with their second well supplying more people with clean water. A party for the children was also enjoyed on the same day as the well opened. Pictures of this were seen on the screen along with the latest news.

Winnie is keen to finish building their new church which will also serve as a school and community centre. The WCT hopes to be able to help with this project also in 2012.

We thank everyone who supports us with our two Kenyan projects and hope you are happy with the excellent progress which has been made in a few years. Those Kenyan friends send you their blessings and good wishes for the year ahead.

The collection on Christmas Eve gave £434.00 to our Kenyan projects and the same £434.00 to Cancer Research. Grateful thanks to all who donated.

A D

Relay for Life Park Farm 30th June and 1st July 2012

We are delighted to confirm that Julie Smith has volunteered to be the Team Leader for the Max West Team. We still require more to join the team and to assist with the fund raising, so please contact her.

Relay for Life is one of the largest fund raisers for Cancer Research with every penny raised going to research for new treatments etc., so please consider how you can support this worthy cause either by becoming a team member, assisting with fundraising or making a donation. We hope to make the Candle of Hope experience at 11pm on the 30th June even bigger this year and candle bags will soon be available for members to make out their messages and donate to the cause. We aim to have over 500 candle bags round the track. Thanks to the uniformed organisations for agreeing to assist with this task.

Please contact Julie for further details of how to join on line and get your tee-shirt, or phone Bill Riddick.

Postscript from our Minister, Rev. Gordon Savage:

I would commend "Relay for Life" to all of you - either as participants or as supporters. Cancer Research UK depends entirely on fund-raising, and in recent years, "Relay for Life" has been one of the most successful events (£75000 in 2010, £65000 in 2011, in Dumfries & Galloway alone). Most of us have been touched by cancer among family or friends. This has been especially true for the Manse family these past two years. I personally am very grateful to those who have given of their time, and who will do so again this year, to take part in this event.

Gordon

Thank You

I was overwhelmed by the kindness extended to me following my recent illness. Sincere thanks to all of you who sent cards and flowers and those who visited and enquired on my progress. Rev. Liz Mack was particularly kind and supportive, not only to me but also to Lesley and Clark and we are all very grateful to her.

Thankfully I have made a good recovery but have been advised to take things easier – whatever that may mean! My brain is still fuddled so watch this space.

Our church family is such a comfort and support.

A happy, healthy 2012 to all of you.

E R

Church Treasures

One of the most regularly used church treasures is the toadstool which was presented to Maxwelltown West Brownies by the family of Liliias MacDonald, late sister of Hamish MacDonald. The MacDonald family wanted to gift something in memory of Liliias, and Miss Janie Morley who was Brown Owl at the time, suggested the idea of a toadstool. Miss Morley was the aunt of Jill McEwan who is the current Brownie Leader.

The Maxwelltown West Brownie Toadstool

6th Dumfries Maxwelltown West Brownies have had this Toadstool for 50 years, and they open every meeting with their song around the toadstool.

Liliias MacDonald was a little girl who came to Maxwelltown West Brownies. She loved to join in the fun, playing the games and singing the songs that Brownies sing.



The Maxwelltown West Brownie Toadstool

Girlguiding 100
Dumfriesshire
girls in the lead

6th Dumfries Maxwelltown West Brownies have had this Toadstool for 50 years, and they open every meeting with their song around the toadstool.

Liliias MacDonald was a little girl who came to Maxwelltown West Brownies. She loved to join in the fun, playing the games and singing the songs that Brownies sing.

Sadly, Liliias had a heart condition, which in those days could not be treated, and she died just before Christmas 1958, aged 7½.

The toadstool was gifted in memory of Liliias, by her family, in 1959.

The toadstool was rededicated at Maxwelltown West Church on the 50th anniversary.

Maxwelltown West Brownies, January 2010, with their toadstool.

Girlguiding Dumfriesshire Centenary

Sadly, Liliias had a heart condition, which in those days could not be treated, and she died just before Christmas 1959, in her 8th year.

This toadstool was gifted in memory of Liliias, by her family, in 1960. The toadstool was rededicated at Maxwelltown West Church on the 50th anniversary.

The inscription on the plaque says

**"In memory of
Liliias Marchbank MacDonald
aged 8 years
who tried to do her best"**

This article about the toadstool can be seen on the Brownie notice board and also shows Brownies who were members of the Brownie pack in 2010 at the time of the rededication.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

We had a very enjoyable evening to celebrate our 80th Anniversary at the Woodland House Hotel, with friends from other Guilds. Rev. Liz Mack gave us a short talk and Mairi read a message from Gordon, who was unable to be with us. After a lovely meal we were entertained by William Williamson, George McKinnel and Holly Little.

In December we were entertained with well known tunes and carols by Jim Fazakerley on the accordion and we were 'taken back to the old days.'

At our January meeting, which was held in the afternoon, our speaker was Jean Mair, who spoke on her Life as a Farmer's Wife. Jean was an excellent speaker who gave us an insight into her life as a farmer's wife before modern equipment was available.

We are looking forward to our next meeting when Sybelle Thomson will talk on 'treasured possessions' and we have two meetings in March with Jessie McKerrow and Eileen Riddick speaking on this year's Theme and Project (On the Other Side – CrossReach). Raymond Finnie will speak at the final meeting of the session (our AGM) and his topic is 'Adolescence in the Poorhouse.'

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in making our coffee mornings so successful and also everyone who comes along. The proceeds have allowed us to donate £500 to Maxwelltown West Ministries and Mission and £500 to Maxwelltown West Fabric Fund, with Christian Aid, the Scottish Bible Society, Leprosy Mission and the local branch of Marie Curie each receiving £50.

M H, Guild Convener

After Eights

We are now more than half way through the session which started in September with an informal evening of games and quizzes.

In October, we were shown a lovely PowerPoint presentation of photographs which gave an insight into what life is like for all the residents of the Loch Arthur Community at Beeswing, whether they have learning difficulties or not. Loch Arthur is a wonderfully integrated place where everyone works together either on the farm, in the dairy, making award winning cheese, in craft workshops, the bakery, the garden or the farm shop. In November, Brian Hammond shared his experiences of working for 3 Dukes of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig for the last 43 years. He spoke with enthusiasm and humour about the history of the castle and estate, the different jobs he had done and the wide variety of people he had met through his work.

In December we had a most enjoyable Christmas meal at the Woodland House Hotel.

In January, Tom Finlayson brightened up a miserable winter evening with slides of beautiful gardens and floral displays from all parts of the country that had been taken during his years as a judge for Scotland in Bloom.

J M

Brownies

The Brownies have been working on many activities as part of their Brownie Adventure.

In November, we attended the Remembrance Sunday church parade and also learned about Divali as another part of the Faith Awareness badge. The Brownies heard about the work of a paramedic and learned some basic first aid skills. They all passed their First Aid badge.

In preparation for Christmas, we visited the Theatre Royal in Dumfries to watch "Mother Goose". We made Christmas cards and decorations and took some of these as gifts when we went to visit the ladies and gentlemen who live in Roseland. The Brownies enjoyed singing some Christmas carols.

Five Brownies moved up to Guides after Christmas and we have since welcomed five new girls. We are currently busy preparing for Thinking Day celebrations and also for the Dumfriesshire County Pack Holiday.

This is being held at Netherurd, Blyth Bridge and twelve Brownies and two leaders are planning to attend.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Scout Report for Spring 2012

The Scout section is now running with 8-9 scouts and two Leaders. Unfortunately we have now lost Andrea Maas, due to her work commitments in Carlisle and Newcastle, so we are looking for a New Leader for this section to assist and maybe take over as a Leader along with Jonathan Brett. Thank you to Jonathan for his work with the Scouts.

Four of the Scouts and Jonathan were at a Brass Monkey camp at Ladypark Farm which took place on the 28th-29th January. They were together with scouts from Noblehill and others.

We are about to lose our treasurer, Billy Thomson, who has been carrying this role on well after any family connection. Thank you for his work with us. So anyone feeling that they could take on this role, please contact Hamish. The job is a quiet one as the subs are taken in blocks and the annual capitation is paid in January/February.

This is the Blair Athol year, being held in the last two weeks of July. It is always a great event and a chance to meet foreign Scouts.

There are 16 Beavers and 19 Cubs at this time. It is thanks to Bruce, Natalie, Ann and John for running these sections.

Unfortunately we have lost the Explorer section. There have been no regular meetings since last summer. A couple of leaders at Noblehill are going to take on the Explorers to meet at Noblehill on a Thursday. This may be temporary.

H MacD Scout Leader

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hey boys and girls! We're now into the second half of our Sunday school year after having our fabulous Christmas Party and Nativity Play. Big thanks to all of you and our helpers for all your hard work in making both events such a success. Our numbers have been starting to pick up again and it's lovely to see so many of you coming to church regularly. Please feel free to bring your friends with you. They will be made most welcome.

This month has been very busy with both K-Max and J-Max concentrating on the stories about Jesus' disciples, as well as practising songs for the family services. A note of the dates for these can be found on the Sunday school notice board.

Why not see how many of the 12 Disciples names you can remember:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

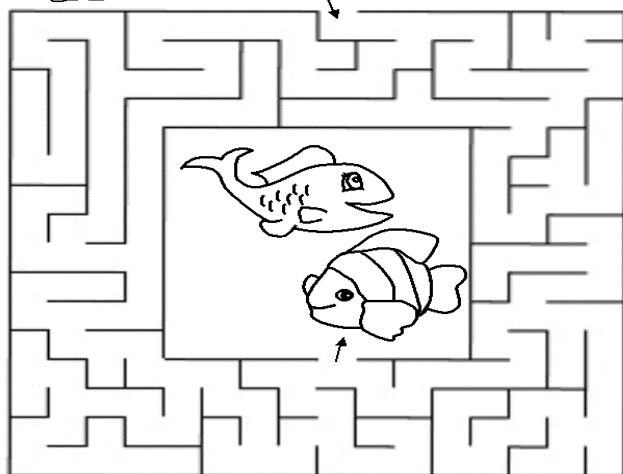
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____

If you got stuck, you can look them up in your bible in Matthew Chapter: 10 Verses: 1-5. Chapter 4 also will remind you of the story about Jesus calling the Fishermen that we did in Sunday school.

Twelve Disciples Maze



Why not try out the maze here and help the disciples to find their way to their fish.

We look forward to seeing you in Sunday school and welcome any new boys and girls who wish to join us. This month we will be looking at Love as our theme and we have many fun activities for you to do.

Please contact me if you have any queries.
Dawn ☺

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
April 1 st	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. O. Geddes
8 th	Mrs. J. Grant	Mrs. M. Allison
15 th	Mrs. McCall-Watson	Mrs. M. Savage
22 nd	Mrs. S. Muir	Mrs. P. Williams
29 th	Miss D. Hill	Mrs. Boyer
May 6 th	Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. Forsyth & Mrs. Scott
13 th	WEDDING	FLOWERS
20 th	Mrs. Anderson	Mrs. J. McEwan
27 th	Mrs. K. Brown	Mrs. A. Milligan
June 3 rd	Mrs. M. Donkersley	VACANT
10 th	Mrs. J. Sloan	Mrs. J. Johnstone
17 th	Miss Biggar	Mrs. D. McWhirter
24 th	Mrs. Mary Wallace	Mrs. Adamson

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

Dates for Your Diary

18th March: Mothers' Day family service at 11am.

8th April: Easter Sunday service at 11am.

Lent Course - During Lent, Scott Carroll will be running a five week course on "When I survey – Christ's cross and ours". This is a course based on a CD discussion by leading Christian minds with accompanying booklets to encourage group discussion. Each session is linked, but is also freestanding so attendance at all sessions is not essential, but would be advisable.

The first session will be on Wednesday **22 February** at 7pm in the Committee Room. See posters for details.



The top table at the Guild's 80th Anniversary Celebration at Woodland House Hotel



It's always a pleasure to have our Young Musicians take part in worship when home for the holidays at Christmas and Easter, along with music coordinator A MacDonald.

This photo was taken on Christmas Eve and shows: C McMillan (tenor sax), A MacDonald (guitar), C Singleton (alto sax), A Savage (bass guitar), D Savage (guitar), M Singleton (violin)