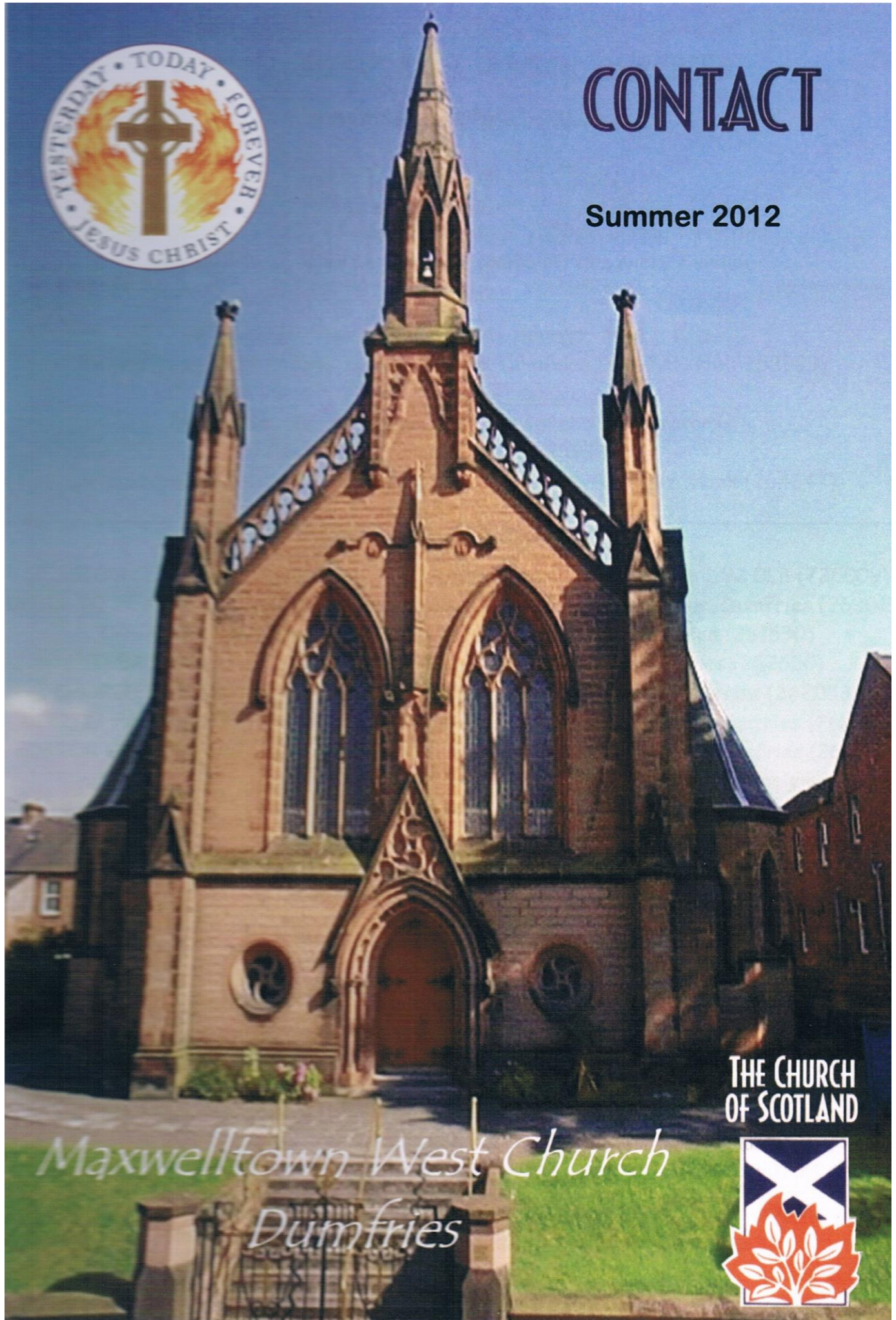


CONTACT

Summer 2012



Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES: 10th June at 11.00am and 3.00pm.

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

Marriage

14th April: Shona Donaldson to Stuart Japp

Baptism

18th March: Rob Summers Millar

Deaths

14th February: Miss Minnie Purves

28th February: Mr. Desmond Park

20th April: Mrs. Mary Paterson

New Member

17th January: Mrs. Janet Nye

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,

It was a year ago, on Palm Sunday 2011, that I was asked to step in to Max West on the departure of Rev. Colin Sutherland. The passage of time has not made the Ministry situation any clearer. Our prime care and concern is for the health and wellbeing of Gordon and we continue to hold him and all the family in our most ardent prayers. Our next care is for the wellbeing of the congregation and the life of the church here.

I am perpetually thrilled by the willingness of the congregation to rise to the many challenges which present themselves. With the loss of Rev. Sandy Geddes, over 40 housebound members were without a regular visitor. My suggestion of a Parish Visitors Group was readily agreed by the Session and my call for volunteers brought around ten offers. By the time this magazine goes to print, this scheme will be up and running and those housebound members who wish a visitor will have a new parish friend. It is right that we continue the church's love and care for those no longer able to attend worship.

Our Good Companions Group has also reached out to our neighbours in Roseland House and a two-way friendship is being built up there. Residents are warmly invited to attend the Good Companions meetings. (Does anyone have, or know of, a small keyboard we might donate to Roseland?)

We also lost the services of Rachel Lyagoba, though happily for me, Rachel still shares the Assemblies at Laurieknowe Primary school. However, the young children in our midst at K-Max and J-Max are being wonderfully well served by Dawn, Chrissie and Sharon, helped when possible by Mary and it is a joy to have them present in Church and sharing in Family Services.

Sadly, with Alison being off, Y-Max is not in evidence in Church, although happily they still meet under the guidance of Sarah, whom we congratulate in being selected as Presbytery Youth Representative at this year's General Assembly. I would welcome input from our teenagers, vocally or musically! Please encourage them to come to church.

This month we had the joy of having our new organ installed - made necessary by the prohibitive cost of restoring the old pipe organ. The new instrument is wonderful and we are so fortunate in having Stephen, ably backed by Alistair, as our organist. 'Boys' toys' springs to mind as Stephen has to be forcibly dragged away from it!! The cost of £30,000 has been met from church funds and while fund raising will take place, if anyone would care to make a contribution towards this it would be hugely welcomed.

So Max West is moving onwards and outwards in many wonderful ways and I feel privileged to be part of it. Sharing in worship together Sunday by Sunday is a perpetual joy.

The beautiful Hymn we sang on Easter morning tells of the wonder of new Life in Christ.

"Now the Green blade riseth from the buried grain.....

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,

Thy touch can call us back to life again."

This is the promise of the resurrection. In Christ there is always renewal.

If we put our faith and trust in Him, we move forward in hope and joy.

May God bless us all.

Liz

A Letter from 121 George Street

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 how your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution of £55,727 is used to enable the work of the Church.

Ministries (86%) - £47,925

This provides over 1,000 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and in the Presbytery of England, and supports the cost of recruitment and training. The 2012 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is **£39,895** (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions.)

Mission (14%) - £7,802

This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the most vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today. It also provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services for congregations and committees, and supports 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 '2012 Ministries and Mission', 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)

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met in March when a number of items, mainly of routine business, were discussed. It was reported that a group of some 30 people had attended a meeting on outreach and will report back to a future meeting. Session agreed to celebrate all afternoon communions at 3.00pm in the main hall.

The April meeting agreed that Summer Services this summer should be held at 11.00am.

Visits to organisations 2012 – 2013

Guild/After Eights.....	Miss P. Jardine & Mrs. H. Johnson
K Max and J Max.....	Mrs. J. McMillan & Mr. J. Love
Y Max.....	Miss J. Marchbank & Mrs. F. Saddington Good
Companions.....	Mrs. M. McLeod
Scouts/Cub Scouts/Beaver Colony.....	Mr. J. Beggs & Mr. D. McLaren
Guides/Brownie Guides.....	Mrs. V. Coltart & Mrs. C. Murray
Badminton Clubs.....	Mr. W. McMin

T B, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

At their meeting on 1st March, the Deacons' Court approved the Financial Statement for 2011 and David McNay was thanked for his hard work.

Everyone agreed that the demonstration organ was satisfactory and it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the Makin organ designed to the specification selected by Stephen Crosbie and Alistair McEwan. Fundraising towards the cost would be discussed at the next meeting. Letters of thanks would be sent to Stephen and Alistair.

The Deacons' Court met again on 18th April. Thanks were extended to Stephen and Alistair for their efforts in finding the right organ for Maxwelltown West. A fundraising committee was set up and efforts will be made to raise money to replace the cost of the organ.

The Brunch organised by the Social Committee on Easter Sunday was a great success with 90 people attending.

David McNay, Treasurer, reported that Gift Aid Tax of just over £5,000 had been recovered during the last quarter. He also said we must not lose sight of our need to replace some of the £40,000 spent over the last few years. (Since this report, a further £20,000 has been spent on the organ.)

Rosemary Slack, Finance Convener, advised that £943.01 had been raised from the Fabric Fund Box Appeal and everyone who helped with the count was thanked.

E R

Kenyan News and June Visit

This is now our 5th year helping **Bondo** progress to independence with our assistance and so now it is time to re-assess some future plans which will eventually be approved by the Kirk Session and reported in Contact.

Winnie asks me to convey her thanks and good wishes to all who have made this possible.

Mathia Church, our Faithshare Partners, is sending two people to visit us this June. They are keen to meet as many church and community people as possible, exchange ideas and learn about each other. We look forward to welcoming back John Njeru Karuoya who visited us in 2009 and who spoke to the church on Christmas Eve by the live link. He is the senior elder and main contact person with us. He is a small time farmer growing tea and vegetables as well as serving his church and being involved in youth activities. He is currently a member of Kiangai Secondary School Board of Governors. His wife Esther leads the Guild, is also an elder and they have two sons and one grandchild.

The lady visitor is Bernice Wanjiku Kabath, a retired teacher now operating a hardware business in the nearby town of Karatina. She is married to Francis and they have three children, now all graduated from university.

The WCT are currently planning an interesting programme which will give you all an opportunity to meet our Kenyan friends, so please watch the church notices and do come to some events as well as meeting them at church.

A D, WCT Convener

The New Organ

Alistair McEwan and I would like to express our extreme gratitude and thanks to Rev. Donald Campbell, Rev. Liz Mack, D Miller, D McNay, E Riddick, the Deacons' Court, the Fabric Committee and everyone else who has been involved with the purchase of the new organ, not forgetting B Wilson. Everybody was most supportive. We are hoping to do a concert towards the end of summer to raise funds – details to follow.

Anyone who was in Church on Sunday 22nd April, when the new organ was dedicated, would probably have gathered from the expression on my face that it met my expectations.

S C, Organist

Max West Social Group

21 interested parties attended an initial meeting on 6th February, held with a view to forming a social group, and the Max West Social Group took off from there. The objectives and format of the group were discussed and agreed at this first meeting and these can be summarised as follows.

The group intends to organise a variety of events targeting different sections of the congregation in order to create a greater awareness of our Church within the community. It was also felt that the group should facilitate fellowship within our congregation and to visitors. It was agreed that the group would operate without a formal committee but smaller groups will be formed to be responsible for different aspects of the group's work. The names of all members will be intimated in a future issue of Contact.

The first event to be organised by Max West Social Group was an Easter Sunday Brunch after the morning service on 8th April 2012. Approximately 90 people enjoyed lunch with a choice of soups and rolls filled with sausages. 18 children took part in activities in the Church Hall after attending the earlier part of the service and they enjoyed a 'hunt' for Easter goodies after the conclusion of the service. All feedback to date has indicated that the Brunch was a huge success.

Any ideas for future events to be considered by the Group will be gratefully received. Our next planned event is a Beetle Drive/Quiz on 9th June to coincide with a visit by two representatives of Mathia Church in Kenya.

D F

Church Teas

As some helpers on the current list are no longer able to help with teas, I would appreciate it if some more volunteers, either male or female, would offer their services.

At present I try not to call upon people too often, but this has not always been possible in recent months. All that is required of volunteers is that they pour out tea/coffee and help with the clearing up afterwards. Teas are usually served once a month after Family Services. Occasionally there may be teas on additional Sundays.

During the period mid-June to mid/late August, there are normally 'Summer Teas' every week. For this, a dated sheet is displayed on the Simmons Hall notice board asking for four helpers each week.

Volunteers are asked to sign up on the date/dates convenient to them and the person at position '1' is in charge for that week.

A set of guidelines is provided for those in charge and if there are any queries regarding Summer Teas I can be contacted at Church. Last year there was some difficulty in filling all the slots so a good response would be appreciated.

Thanks are due to all helpers, both past and present. Anyone wishing to help with the Church Teas can contact me and it would also be helpful if anyone on the current Church Teas list who is no longer able to help, would let me know. Thank you.

A B

RELAY FOR LIFE AT PARK FARM - 30th June and 1st July 2012

This two day relay event will be kicked off at 11am on Saturday 30th June with the highlight of the event, the Candle of Hope ceremony, held just after dusk on Saturday night, when lighted candle bags will be set out around the track. These Candles of Hope bags will have special messages written on them in memory or in celebration of loved ones. Bags will be available on Sundays from J Smith, myself or from any team member.

Your participation in any way will be much appreciated, including baking or making home produce, to sell at a coffee morning or at the event itself (or hold an event at home!)

Donations can be given /sent to J Smith, B Riddick, or any team member.

(Please make cheques payable to '*Relay for Life Dumfries*')

Donations can also be made on line via this link and donating to our fund raising accounts:

http://relay.cancerresearchuk.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/General?fr_id=1114&pg=entry

Donations from tax payers can have tax reclaimed by Relay for Life, through Gift Aid.

Please include a Gift Aid Declaration slip with name, address, date, amount of donation and signature.

B R

A Great Adventure

I always regretted not applying to work as a volunteer in the early 1980s, at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, so in the autumn of 2010, when I saw an advertisement in the 'Optician' magazine, asking for volunteers to work in the polyclinic medical centre at the 2012 Olympics, I applied on line. In early 2011 I received an e-mail to say that out of 100,000, I was one of the 10,000 chosen for interview, so on 23rd May 2011 I headed for an interview at Gateshead.

There, I was asked about my lifestyle and interests, also what I could bring to the Olympic Games and I had to write on a wall what the Olympics meant to me.

It was almost Christmas and I thought there was no hope of being selected, but on 23rd December I got another e-mail congratulating me on my selection.

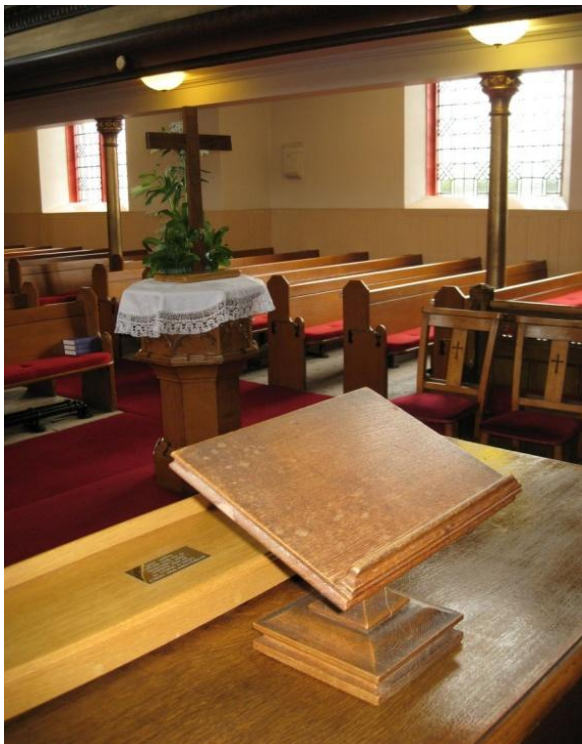
There would now be training events to attend in London, the first one being for Orientation. The TV commentator John Inverdale compered the event, held in the Wembley Arena. We were told about the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This would be the first games where one organising committee would be organising both events: 'London Organising Committee Olympic Games' - 'LOCOG'. We had an imaginary news desk set during the middle weekend of the Games and were shown the expected day in the life of a 'Games Maker' as the volunteers are called. There are 70,000 of us covering the medical centres, venues, hotels, airports, etc. There was great emphasis placed on 'Legacy building' and recycling. This would be the greenest Games ever.

The second visit on 18th February was for 'Role Specific Training', held at City Edge, London Fields, Hackney. This event was for doctors, nurses, dentists, dental nurses, podiatrists, optometrists, dispensing opticians, contact lens opticians, pharmacists and other people working the 'Polyclinics' at the Olympic village, Eton Dorney and at Weymouth. We went over our motto 'I DO ACT'. This told us what would be expected of us. Inspirational, Distinctive, Open, Alert, Consistent and Team.

My third visit to London will be on the 1st June, to collect my uniform and the Accreditation security pass, and then the fourth and final visit before the Games will be to the Polyclinic itself, for Venue training. My two weeks' work will be from 20th to 31st July, as the athletes arrive on 16th July and the games start on the 27th.

H MacD

Church Treasures



"REV. H.G.A. SIMMONS M.A.
A TOKEN OF ESTEEM
FROM THE SESSION
PARKHEAD EAST CHURCH
DECEMBER 1940"

How many people have read the above text or would know where to find it? The picture is the clue and the words are engraved on a plaque at the base of the lectern which is always used in our worship at Maxwelltown West. Parkhead East Church was Harry Simmons' first charge and the lectern was gifted to him by the Session when he left.

Harry Simmons was a much loved minister of Maxwelltown West Church from 1944 to 1983 and preceded Gordon Savage. Coincidentally, Gordon actually preached in Parkhead East while studying for the ministry.

M N

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Here we are at the end of another Guild session. Since the last report in Contact we have had a very interesting meeting with Sybelle Thomson from Thomson, Roddick & Metcalf, Auctioneers, who described the origin of antique memorabilia which members had brought along.

Jessie McKerrow gave us an insight into how the Guild Theme was put together, with our own E Riddick describing how our project 'On the Other Side' would benefit the families of prisoners. Our coffee morning for the project allowed us to donate £550.

Our last meeting of the session was our AGM, when Raymond Finnie spoke of the working of the Poor House at Kirkcudbright.

The Presbyterial Council are having a 'Let's Celebrate' event at Kirkmahoe Church on 7th June at 7pm, when all are welcome.

We had high tea at Garden Wise on 24th April to finish our session.

We will resume in October, when we would be delighted to see some new members.

I wish all our members a very happy and healthy summer.

M H, Guild Convener

After Eights

In February, Mary Buckley from the Dumfries Musical Theatre Company spoke with enthusiasm about what is entailed in staging an amateur dramatic production, whether it is a play or a musical, particularly all the work that goes on behind the scenes.

In March, Andy Armstrong from Moffat gave a fascinating talk and PowerPoint presentation about his cycling trip across America in the spring of 2009. He cycled on a recumbent bike from Jacksonville, Florida to San Diego, California in 63 days.

For the last evening of the session in April, we had an excellent meal at the Pizzeria, Dock Park.

J M

Scout Report

This will be the last report given by me as the Scout Leader, as I will be giving over the reins to a new Leader, assisted by J Brett. I have enjoyed my time working with the Cub and Scout sections, but it is time someone who is younger and more in tune with the boys runs the section.

After the Easter holiday, we managed to finish the Murder Mystery in Dumfries. The boys have also paid a visit to the Loreburn Police station. Hopefully none were left behind in the cells!

A second Scout Group AGM was held on the 30th April, as only one parent turned up for the first meeting - disappointing, considering how much time is spent looking after the children in the various sections.

I am hoping to do some 'Backwoods' cooking and maybe fit in a walk for the boys, some weekend.

There will be the annual barbecue at Mabie Forest on Monday 18th June, after which will be the summer recess.

My thanks to the many Leaders with whom I have worked. I shall keep my 'Warrant' for special occasions.

H MacD, (Scout Leader)

Brownies

Twelve Brownies and two leaders enjoyed the Dumfriesshire County Pack Holiday at Netherurd, Blyth Bridge. The theme was Alice in Wonderland and we took part in various activities connected to this theme.

To celebrate Thinking Day, we were joined by our County and District Commissioners. We learned about the chosen countries of Guyana, Ivory Coast, Japan, Russia and Tunisia, through crafts and activities. We lit candles to think about members of Girl guiding throughout the world.

In March, our team of country dancers enjoyed taking part in the Dumfries and District Dancing Festival. The girls danced extremely well, considering 7 of the 8 team members were aged 7 and they were excellent representatives of the Pack.

We are now working on our Queen's Diamond Jubilee Challenge. This involves earning diamonds to achieve the badge. We are planning to have an activity day to earn diamonds and will visit the Museum of Costume in New Abbey before returning to the Church Hall for lunch and activities. We will finish the day with a garden party with cucumber sandwiches and strawberries and cream. Should anyone have any queries regarding Brownies, please get in touch.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Good Companions

The Good Companions met at the beginning of February to discuss the way forward after a rather troubled end to the previous session. It was decided that we wished to continue meeting as it is the only facility for elderly people and we enjoy getting together for a cup of tea and a blether. It was agreed only to have occasional speakers.

Sadly, our numbers have declined over the years and we would love to see some new faces. Any ladies AND gentlemen of mature years would be made very welcome when we recommence for the Autumn, on 26th September. However, we have been delighted to have some residents of Roseland House (the residential care home in Rosemount Street) join us for our meetings and we ended the Spring session by going up to Roseland to take part in an Easter service with them, conducted by Rev. Liz Mack, followed by Communion at which 22 of us shared the Sacrament. This seemed to be well received and we intend to continue our association with them as part of the outreach of the church. If ANYONE feels they could come and talk to the Good Companions on any topic for about twenty minutes on a Wednesday afternoon, please contact me.

S H

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls, to another edition of your children's corner. We have had a fairly busy few weeks with a well-deserved nice long holiday for Easter.

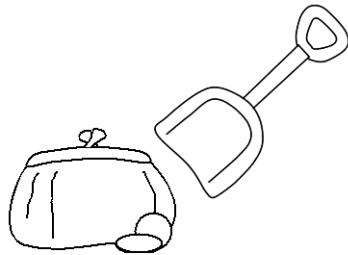
In Sunday School, we have been looking at the 'Parable of the Talents' taken from Matthew Ch25 Vs. 14-30, in which Jesus pointed out that if we use the special gifts and abilities God has given us, then we will continue to gain more, but if we don't use them....we will lose them.

Our abilities are our special gifts that God has given to each of us. He made some of us smarter about some things than others. Some of us are good at memorising, some of us are better at certain sports, and some of us are better at knowing how to help others. Some can solve problems better and some are more generous. Our ability is something special we have that's different from anyone else. Our boys and girls identified many talents that each has and we created a huge list of special abilities.

Parable of the Talents Word Search

S V A L U A B L E E O P A W A
 F E O W N L D J L T M A H J F
 D Z I O K E A U S A O R U N Q
 Z O L T I M F I S R R A S N A
 V Z U R I H A E C B E B T T A
 U M U B T L R S T E F L N W Z
 E B S I L V I A T L P E E C L
 L H A N A E K B R E I S L A F
 J F L N R E D T A C R K A N A
 Y H T R O W T S U R T A T E B

abilities
 buried
 celebrate
 doubled
 faithful
 master
 more
 parable
 servant
 special
 take
 talents
 trustworthy
 valuable



Remember though that God considers you very valuable and trusts you to do something for him using your gifts and abilities. If you have a chance to do something and don't, because you want to watch TV, play video games or because you just don't want to do anything, God will take that valuable gift and give it to someone who is doing something with their gifts. Maybe you're not sure what your special abilities are yet. Ask your parents or teachers what they think your gifts are.

We have our Family Service on Sunday 13th May 2012, where you will see some of K-Max and J-Max showing off their talents to entertain you in church with a song about the Loaves and Fishes, which is the topic we are now doing.

If you have not yet been to Sunday school, we welcome any new boys and girls.

Call Dawn for more information.

		Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July	1st	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. P. McKenzie
	8th	Mrs. Wardrop	Mrs. E. Wallace
	15th	Mrs. R. McClymont	Mrs. Goodwin
	22nd	Mrs. N. McCubbin	Mrs. L. Taylor
	29th	Mrs. N. Jamieson	Mrs. M Brown
August	5th	Mr. S Carroll	Mrs. D. M. McWhirter
	12th	Mrs. Howitt	Mrs. Howitt
	19th	Mrs. E. Campbell	Misses Bryden
	26th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
September	2nd	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. C. Whipp
	9th	Mrs. Stockdale	Mrs. J. Moffat
	16th	Mrs. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
	23rd	Mrs. H. Cross	Misses Gemmill
	30th	VACANT	Mrs. L. Archibald

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

Dates for Your Diary

8th – 21st June: We welcome John and Bernice from Mathia Church, Kenya to Max West

9th June: Social Group Beetle Drive/Quiz night

10th June: Communion at 11am and again at 3.00pm in Church Hall.

17th June: K-Max and J-Max Prize giving, followed by Family Day Out at Castledykes Park

30th June and 1st July: Relay for Life