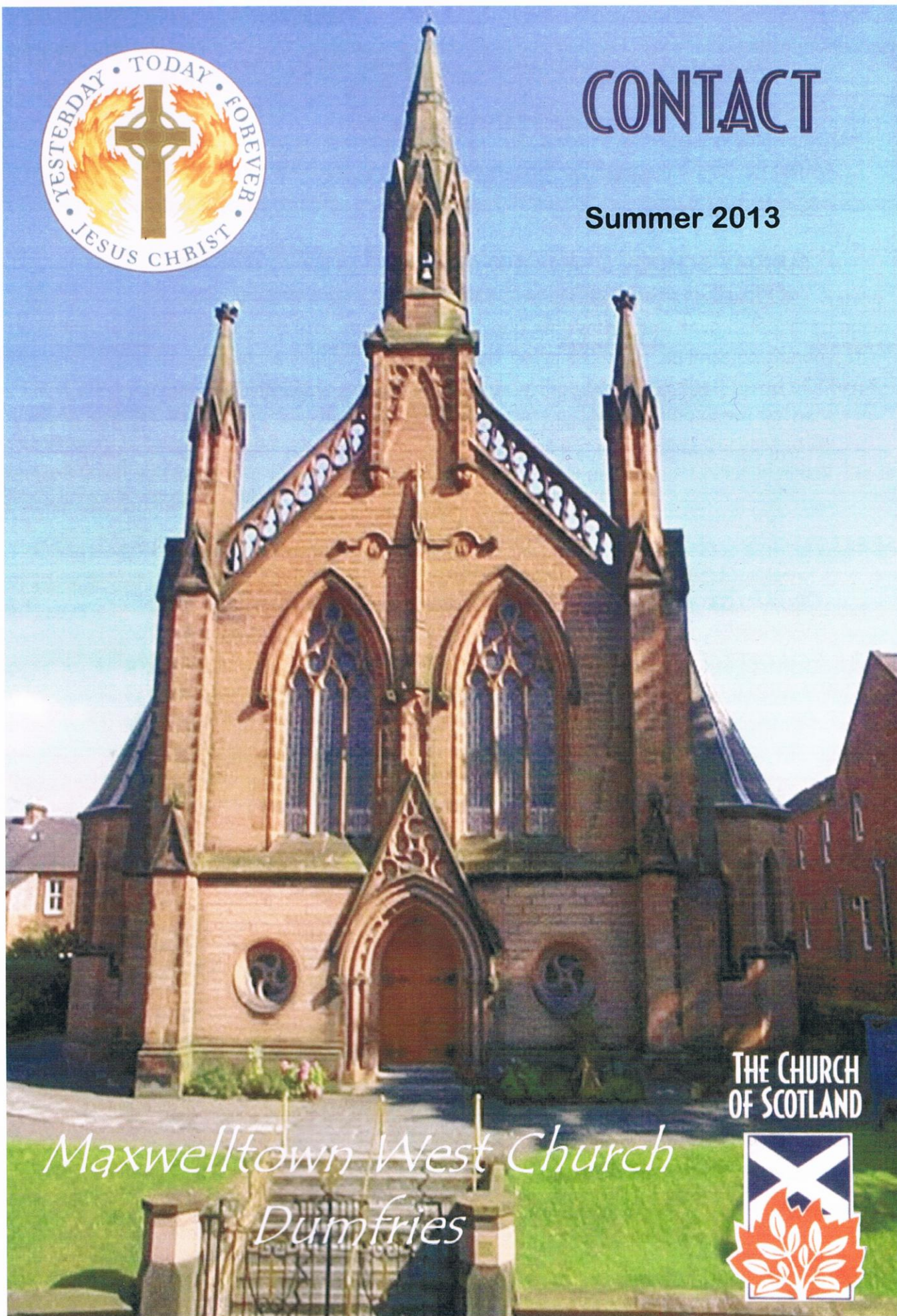


# CONTACT

Summer 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:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 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: R Shepherd

TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

'ACTING' FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller

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## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Deaths

18<sup>th</sup> February: Margaret Turner, Roseland House, Dumfries

### New Members by Certificate

Mr. R and Mrs. M Kingan, 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 Maxwelltown West

I can hardly believe that we are preparing for the Spring edition of the magazine. Spring this year seems to have gone into abeyance! But, as I write this, we have celebrated again the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and being just before Easter, on Passion Sunday, it gave it such a poignant meaning as we shared in the broken body and shed blood of Christ given in love for us all. Perhaps it gave a special joy on Easter Morning as we gathered in the Church in bright sunshine beneath an empty Cross in the sanctuary decorated by cheerful spring flowers to offer one another the wondrous message - Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!!!

The resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith, the assurance of sins forgiven and of His eternal presence with us every step of our journey in this life and the next. But this gift is not for us to keep to ourselves. As the risen Christ appeared to his confused but joyful disciples he gave them the instruction for the future of their lives, "As the Father sent me, so I send you." Their mission and ours is to share the Good News of the Gospel to a needy world and surely Sharing is the key word. We know that faith really is not *taught* but rather *caught* from other believers. Our secular world, like the panic dash to have the measles vaccine, is doing its best to immunise society against Christianity, but the genuine love of Christ in each of us is strong enough to pass on!! Are we truly contagious Christians!?!? That should be our prayer and our aim.

Sharing is becoming the watchword in Maxwelltown West. How much joy was created in sharing lunch after the Easter service? I for one, as a 'singly', so much appreciated not going home after the uplift of worship together to lunch at the telly-table and so did the 80 plus others who came. Our Social Group is doing a superb job in providing us with opportunities to share fellowship and help us to get to know one another better.

On the 1st of June our enthusiastic and dedicated organist Stephen will again, with help from Alistair, be putting on another fund raising concert for the new organ. We are so fortunate in having such a talented young man who is so committed to Maxwelltown West. He and the new organ wonderfully enhance our worship but we have not yet replaced the funds spent in its purchase. Stephen is putting a huge amount of effort into a programme for that evening, so I do trust that every member will do their bit to support him. Invite friends, spread the ticket sale widely and let us try to fill the Church.

Then in July and August we will again be having the summer After Church Coffees in the Hall - another opportunity for fellowship and the ongoing building of friendships.

I am proud and privileged to be Locum Minister of Maxwelltown West Church. Let us continue in the Lord's work together and Spread the Love!!

With Love in His Service

Liz.

### **A Treasurer's Plea**

Dear Friends in Max West,

I feel obliged to put pen to paper, (something I have to admit I am rarely in the habit of doing these days.) However, as Treasurer of our church, I felt it was extremely important I brought to everybody's attention that last year we spent almost £30,000 upgrading our old Organ to a brand new Digital Organ. I'm sure those of you who have heard it will agree that it is a very fine instrument which is a pleasure to listen to. Having said that, our previous pipe organ served Maxwelltown West Church extremely well for many years but it had become in need of extensive and very expensive repair.

Basic economics determine that when we spend money, we need to replace it. I am sure most of you will already know that we have an active Organ Fundraising Committee, led by David Rosie, who are currently trying to raise the much needed capital, so fundraising events will continue and hopefully be supported by you. However there is no doubt that if we had not had the benefit of a substantial donation from one of our members (who would prefer to remain anonymous) we would not be as near our target as we are.

With this in mind, if every current member of our congregation were now to donate just £15, which equates to less than 30p a week for a year, the remaining balance of approximately £9,000 would be exceeded. When you think about it, this is surely not a lot to ask to enable our church to be one of the very few here in Dumfries to have a super new organ, which will hopefully sustain our music for many years to come. If you feel you can, all I ask is that you place a donation, for whatever amount you consider appropriate, into the pre-addressed envelope enclosed with your Contact and return it to me via your elder or by handing it into the church the next time you are there, or by simply placing a stamp on it and popping it in the post. We would love to see the barometer (currently situated on a table behind the organ) which each week displays the amount we have raised, go crashing through the £30,000 target figure soon!

Kindest regards to all

D McNay, Treasurer

### **Kirk Session**

The Kirk Session met for an ordinary meeting on 16th April when a number of items were discussed. It also met with the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee on 14th March.

You will remember that we have received two visits from members of the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee. After our meeting in December a committee was appointed by Session. That group's first report was presented to Session and it was agreed that we should continue to look at a link with New Abbey in the first instance. This approach was rebuffed by New Abbey and Lochend Church.

A written submission was sent to the convener of the Presbytery Ministries and Resources Committee. Subsequently three members of Presbytery visited us in March and this proved an extremely lively meeting. Session again strongly indicated its wish for an unrestricted call as contained within Presbytery's current plan, but the visiting group indicated its wish to continue the full six month consultation period agreed by Presbytery. We will now have to wait until the June meeting of Presbytery for a decision.

The April meeting mainly dealt with routine items of business. It received a very full report from the CHYPS Group which has provided much food for thought regarding young people in Maxwelltown West Church. However, it agreed to defer further work on it until the vacancy is resolved. The meeting received reports on visits to the various Church organisations which showed them all to be in good heart. These visits are an extremely important link with Session, providing it with an insight into the various groups linked to the Church.

*T B, Session Clerk*

### **Deacons' Court**

The Deacons' Court met on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 as a Meeting of the Trustees to approve the Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 2012 ready for presentation to the Congregation, and to approve the proposed Fabric Budget for 2013.

The Court met again on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 for a full meeting. D McNay, the treasurer, gave his report for the first quarter of this year. During this period, income had exceeded expenditure, however due to the continuing low

interest rates the Fabric Fund account may need reviewing in the future. In the absence of the Finance Convenor, the treasurer informed the meeting that the Fabric Fund Box Count amounted to £736.09.

The meeting discussed the problems associated with parking on Rosemount Street. Due to the change of use of the former "Dalston" Hotel, we no longer have access for Disabled Parking there. I would ask that the more able-bodied of us, in future, try to park away from the rear entrance to the church, leaving the disabled and less able-bodied the spaces nearer the rear door. We have also received a complaint from a resident of Rosemount Street that people at times are parking across his driveway. Please consider the residents when parking.

D Wood gave the meeting an update on "Safe-Guarding". Those working with children and vulnerable people, including adults, should contact him and complete the new forms. It is essential that this is carried out for the protection of the vulnerable and ourselves.

As M Brown has now retired from tending the flower beds at the front of the Church, a vote of thanks was extended to her for her many years of service to the Church. During the coming months volunteers are sought to look after the flower beds and the Fabric Committee will look at the longer term future of this area. A Beggs is to retire as the co-ordinator of the "After Service Tea and Coffee Rota" and we are seeking a volunteer to step in. Please Help!!!

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support, especially Eileen, and the Rev's. Liz and Donald since I took up the post of Clerk to the Deacons' Court. It has been, and still is, a steep learning curve getting to grips with the role but being part of the "Maxwest family" is very supportive.

*B S, Clerk to Deacons' Court*

## **WaterAid**

The church members have recently supported two WaterAid quizzes held in Dumfries. Many thanks to the teams who took part. Unfortunately our many skills did not produce a winning team, but all had great fun in helping raise £680 for this worthwhile charity, and at least Muriel, Sarah and Linda won in raffles.

## **What is WaterAid**

WaterAid's vision is a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. Surely these days this has to be a basic human right. Scottish Water's vision (for whom I work) is to inspire everybody connected with the organisation to feel emotionally and physically connected to WaterAid by delivering an outstanding grass roots, bottom up campaign that ignites a greater sense of ownership, passion and participation.

I am hopeful the quizzes in Dumfries will have inspired the community to dig deep.

WaterAid enables the world's poorest to gain access to safe water and sanitation. It works in 27 countries across Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and Central America, and to date has helped over 15 million people, which I think is a great effort.

WaterAid was founded by the UK Water Industry in 1981 and is now leading global water and sanitation charity, with a target of raising £100 million by 2015. Scottish Water plays a big part in this with an army of reps raising £1.5 million in the last 10 years.

## **Strategic Aims**

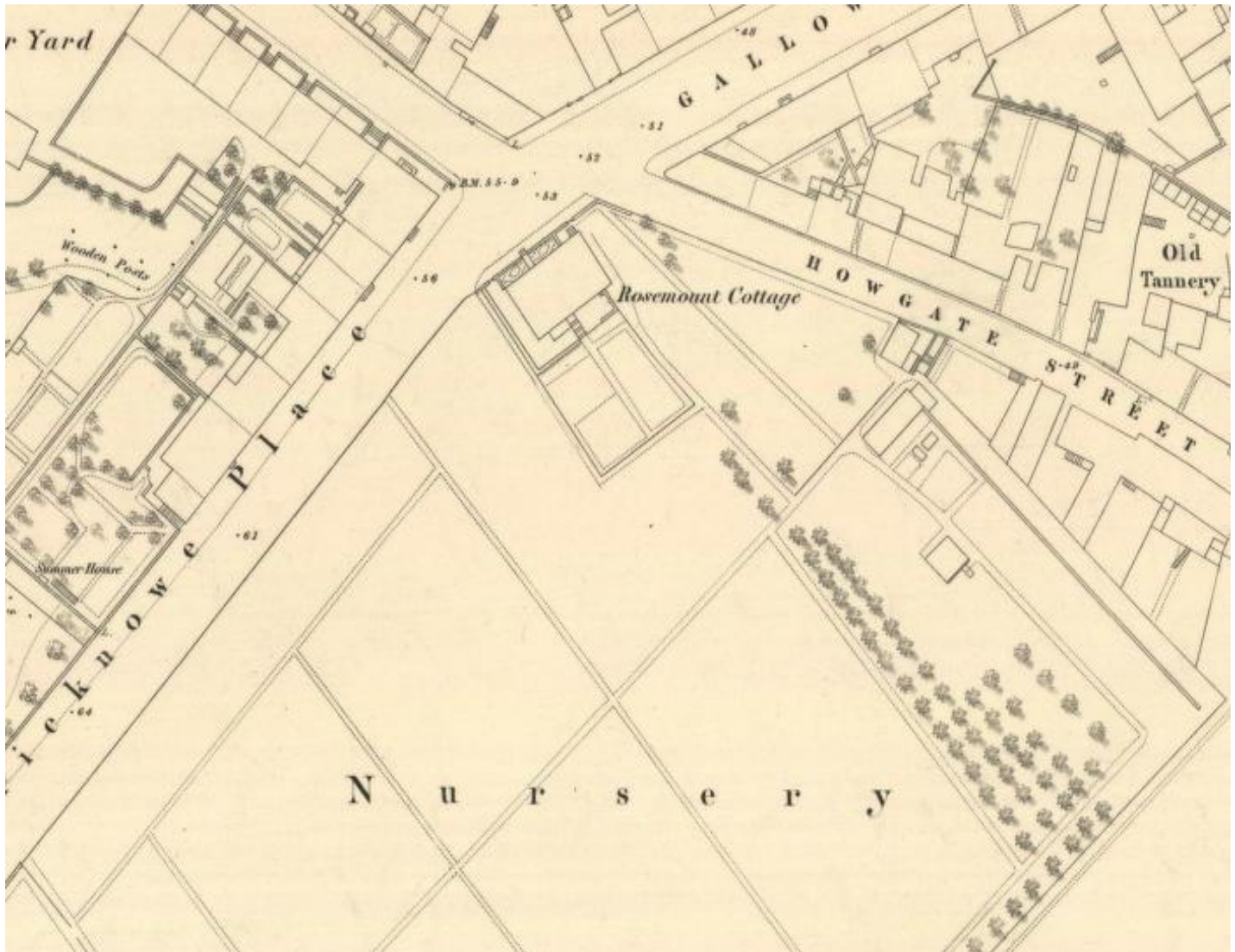
- To promote and secure poor people's rights and access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation.
- To support governments and service providers in developing their capacity to deliver safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation.
- To advocate for the essential role of safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation in human development.
- To further develop as an effective global organisation, recognised as a leader in our field and for living our values.

### **Scottish Water WaterAid reps**

I am new to joining this group but hope to help plan and co-ordinate other events within Dumfries. With the support of enthusiastic church members I am sure this will be achievable. We can engage with the community, having fun while raising money for such a worthwhile charity. There has been some great work done up to now, but there is still a lot of hard work ahead. So again, many thanks to church members who took part in the quizzes, and to our quizmaster Liam.

*P H, WaterAid rep*

### **The Building of Maxwelltown West Church**



**1850**

The Laurieknowe area in 1850 was very different from now.

A new Free Church was to be commissioned and a design prepared by Mr. Barbour, architect, was selected and a site was obtained.





## **1893**

By the 1893 map, the area had changed considerably. The following report on the building of the church is taken from the book **'Jubilee 1866 – 1916 Maxwelltown United Free Church'** printed for the Deacons' Court.

"The whole work, exclusive of painting, was contracted for by Messrs Crackston & Sons, builders, Maxwelltown. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. A. Murray Dunlop, M.P. on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 1865; and the church thoroughly completed has just been publicly opened for the worship of God.

To Mr. Costin, painter, was entrusted the pictorial ornamentation of the interior, a task he has performed with admirable skill and taste. The building appears to be a model piece of masonry, reflecting the utmost credit on Messrs Crackston & Son.

We ought not to neglect to mention that the fine toned bell of the church was the gift of Mr. J. M. Henderson, manufacturer, and that the Baillie Tweddle gave, as his subscription, £20 for purchasing the heating apparatus. The contract price for the work of the mason, joiner, slater, plasterer, etc., was £1,888; the charge for painting, heating, grates, rails, and architect's fee will



be about £220; the price of the site was £165 – in all £2,273. This will leave a considerable margin of debt – probably £400 or more; but whilst thankfully acknowledging the liberality manifested by the people at the opening services, by the handsome collection of £56/14s, we trust that the collection to be taken at the services in the church tomorrow will also be on a large and liberal scale.

The church was opened by the Rev. Dr. Begg on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, at twelve o'clock. Though the day was wet and boisterous, nearly every seat was occupied, the country members of the congregation, no less than those of the town, turning out well."

*M N*

### **Maxwelltown West Church Social Group**

The MaxWest Social Group, which was created following a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012, now consists of a total of 30 members and comprises a broad cross-section of the Church membership and also includes younger and older members, Elders and Deacons.

The Social Group has evolved during the past year and does not operate with a formal committee but has the following structure:-

- \* A total of 5 members, who have volunteered to rotate as Chairpersons.
- \* The Chairpersons have an agreed set of guidelines to maintain continuity at the meetings.
- \* A total of 8 members who have volunteered to take the minutes at meetings in rotation.
- \* There is a defined Finance Group of 3 members who manage the Finances. This is necessary to control the Bank account.

Although the Social Group is not a Fundraising Group, moneys have been donated to the Group at various events. Over the past year the Social Group has organised 4 events:-

- Easter Brunch
- Haggis Drive
- Scottish Night
- Christmas Brunch

The Social Group has also assisted at the Organ Recital Fundraising event, which was organised by the Organ Fundraising Group.

During 2013 the following events are planned:-

- The Easter Brunch was held on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with over 100 members of the congregation and visitors enjoying a variety of soups, sandwiches, tea, coffee and soft drinks. A Craft event and Easter Egg Hunt were organised for the children.
- The Social Group will also again assist in the Organ Concert on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, which is being organised by the Organ Fundraising Group.
- A "Something" Drive (Beetle/Panda/Crocodile) is planned for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- A second Christmas Brunch is planned for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

All these events are co-ordinated by a small group of volunteers, with all members of the Social Group playing their parts as agreed, before and on the date of the event.

The Social Group will continue to evolve, with the main aim of the members to develop friendship and fellowship amongst all those individuals, who are associated, in any way, with Maxwelltown West Church and to provide a warm welcome to visitors.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the Social Group or can offer any assistance or ideas can contact me in the first instance.

*I MacPh*



## REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

### **After Eights**

At the end of March we had a meal at the Casa Mia to celebrate the After Eights' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 39 past and present members attended and had a most enjoyable evening. The group started at the instigation of Mairi Savage and met for the first time on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1993 under the name of Maxwelltown West Ladies' Group with an attendance of 30 members. There were just a couple of meetings then it was disbanded for the summer. It resumed again on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September as Maxwelltown West After Eights, a name which was suggested by Marilyn Park. Mairi and Marilyn were both at the anniversary dinner. The main focus of the After Eights remains the same today as it was 20 years ago and that is fun and friendship. It is certainly not a serious group which is shown by the level of laughter and chatter whenever we meet. As the 'After Eights' as such did not actually start until September 1993, the anniversary celebrations will continue after the summer break when the new session begins on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

*J M*

### **A Little Bit of history**

The forerunner to the After Eights was the Young Woman's Group which was started around 1977. The following photo was taken 30 years ago when the group put on a fashion show of 'costumes through the ages'. Outfits were provided by the wardrobe departments of the Guild of Players and Dumfries Academy and some belonged to the members themselves.

It was a most successful night with music, poetry and commentary and the models paraded along the cat-walk in the main hall to what we all know as the opening music to the South Bank Show. We have managed to put names to most of the faces, but as you can see we still need names for two of the models. Can anybody help?

#### **Back row L to R**

Doreen Wightman, Fiona Saddington, ?, Kathy Morley, Sheila Aird, Pat Corbett, Helen Muir, Margaret Newlands, Kathleen Seaton, Sandra Robin, Avril Rosie and Heather Johnstone

**Middle row L to R:** Gene Howe, Joyce Benson, Lorna Maitland, Pat Haley, ?, Pauline Cherrington, Triona Dickson and Catherine Muir

**Front row L to R:** Aline Gardner, Mary McLeod, Morven Haley, Dorothy Flockhart, Isabel Barclay, Lyn Hunt and Jess Paterson



## **Brownies**

In February, the Brownies earned the Seasons Badge after completing a variety of activities, including making bird feeders and measuring the amount of rain which had fallen beside the Church.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by making paper lanterns. Thinking Day was celebrated by attending the Church parade and then learning about world issues through working on our World Guiding Badge along with our "Together We Can" challenge.

The girls enjoyed taking part in the Country Dance and Music Festivals and then invited parents to come along one night to see them perform again. Some parents volunteered to speak to the Brownies about their occupations as part of our "Looking After Yourself" evening.

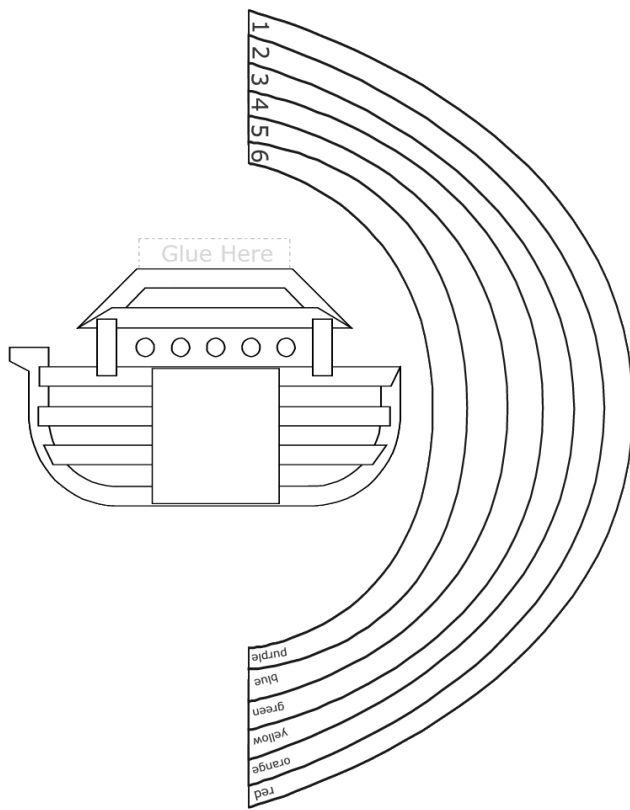
We are now looking forward to our sponsored walk in aid of children's charities in May and also to Steph, our assistant leader's wedding being held in Castle Douglas in June. The Brownies are very excited as they have been invited to form a guard of honour.

Should you like any details about Brownies, please get in touch.

*J McE, Brownie Leader*

## **Children's Corner**

Hi guys! This is us on the last run up to the summer holidays, where we are all hoping to be blessed with a bit of sunshine. Since Easter we have been re-visiting the Old Testament stories, in particular the creation of earth, Adam and Eve and also God's promise to us through the story of Noah. You all produced an ark and rainbow of hand prints, which has brightened up our Sunday School wall. We will be continuing with this theme during our family service on 25th May 2013 when, for the first time, K-Max, J-Max and Y-Max will be conducting this service ourselves!! How exciting!! You can all look forward to some music, drama and family prayers, all organised by yourselves. This year our prize-giving service will be on Father's Day, 16th June 2013 when we will break up for the summer.



Why not colour the little picture of an ark and rainbow to remind you of God's promise to us. You can then cut it out and glue the rainbow to the top. This will make a bright addition to your fridge or bedroom wall.

*'I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth'* **Genesis Ch9 Verse 13**

Now let's see what you have all remembered these last few weeks. Try out the quiz below. You can check your answers when you come in to Sunday School.

I look forward to seeing you all at Sunday School. Remember to bring any friends who may like to join us. They will be made very welcome. You can reach me on (01387) 255721

*D McL ☺*

1. What was the first thing God created?
2. How many days and nights did it rain?
3. What was the name given to the boat that Noah built?
4. What did the dove bring back to the ark?
5. What is the symbol of God's promise to Noah?

## **Y Max**

Y Max is a youth group for S1 – 6 pupils, run for them and by them! We meet on a Sunday evening from 7–8:15pm from September to the end of March. We have various activities, including cooking, African drumming, drama, keep fit and games nights.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We are a small group but very friendly!

We urgently need help running the group. Can you spare some time? Please talk to me if you want more details.

*A MacD*

	<b>Church Flowers</b>	<b>Memorial Vase</b>
<b>July</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. P. McKenzie
14 <sup>th</sup>	VACANT	Mrs. E. Wallace
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. R. McClymont	Mrs. I. Goodwin
28 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. N. McCubbin	Mrs. L. Taylor
<b>August</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. S. Carroll	Mrs. M. Brown
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. A. Howitt	Mrs. D. McWhirter
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. E. Campbell	Miss Bryden
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. M. Christie
<b>September</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. C. Whipp
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M. Stockdale	Mrs. J. Moffat
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. J. Boyer	Mrs. J. Bryden
22 <sup>nd</sup>	VACANT	Misses Gemmill
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. H. Cross	Mrs. L. Archibald

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

## **Dates for Your Diary**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Fundraising Concert in aid of Organ Fund.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June:** Communion (11.00am and 3.00pm).

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August:** 'Beetle/Panda/Crocodile' Drive to be organised by Social Group.

The photos and maps in this edition can be viewed more clearly on the Church website:

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