

MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 7th Dec. 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.

Minister: Rev. Dave Sutherland

Maxwelltown West Manse, 11 Laurieknowe, Dumfries DG2 7AH (tel: 247538) dasrev80@gmail.com

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mr. B Shepherd

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie TREASURER: Mr. D McNay

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Marriages

6th September: Miss Lesley Riddick to Mr. Keith McWhan

Deaths

4th October: Mrs. M Gibson, Dumfries 13th October: Mr. G May, Dumfries 13th October: Mrs. E Wallace, Dumfries

New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

7th September: Mrs. C A Bratcher, Dumfries 24th September: Mr. D & Mrs. J Craven, 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.

A message from our new minister

Dear friends,

It's been a strange few years with a lot of change happening, even just thinking about the journey I've been on since retiring from the Police in January 2010; although maybe I need to include Maureen in this and say "we". In the last few years, I've commuted to St. Andrews University to study, travelled to Perth to complete a part-time training placement, we've spent a summer on Islay as work experience, spent Christmas 2013 in the manse on Jura to conduct their services, stayed in Aberfoyle whilst I was locum there and then moved to Glasgow for 15 months as probationer at Balshagray Victoria Park Parish Church otherwise known as BVP. We've left behind the house in Dundee where we stayed since November 1986 and now I think we're quite happy not to move furniture around for a long time (apart from the stuff we've not sorted out yet!).

My induction meant much more than just another service: for me, it marks a season where we can say "we're here" and put behind us these last few years of travel and moving and spend a season with you all at Max West. I've no idea how long the season is, but I feel sure that, God willing, we won't be going anywhere anytime soon. But I also know that in all this time of movement, God has been working within me and around me to lead us to you and that He's been working in and around you to lead you to us.

Change and transformation is happening whether we like it or not but I hope we can "gently evolve" together. This will take time while we learn to understand who and whose we are. It'll be a journey where we can all learn together and share together the joy and delight of being able to worship God in His grace and through His Spirit.

I give thanks to God for the ministries which have gone on before me. They are part of your story, chapters in the life of Max West and all those who are church here. We don't start from scratch but we move from where we are now and journey forward knowing that Christ is walking alongside us and has gone ahead to show us the way. We can face that journey with certainty and confidence because of all that God the Father has done for us through His Son and in the gift of His Holy Spirit. As we move towards Advent and Christmas, let's rejoice because we have a Saviour who leads us.

Every blessing to you and yours

Dave

After a vacancy of almost two and a half years, Thursday 16th October saw us welcome our new minister, Rev. Dave Sutherland, when he was inducted. The service, conducted by Rev. Stephen Ashley-Emery, the new minister at Castle Douglas, concluded with the formal induction conducted by the Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Neil Campbell. Following this, the large congregation repaired to the Church Hall for a magnificent spread which would truly have fed the five thousand. Our thanks are due to all who provided food for the supper and to the Social Group for their hard work in preparing, serving and of course clearing up. Well done to them.

The final part of the evening was a well attended Social in church when the Interim Moderator thanked a number of people for their work during the vacancy before handing over to Dave Sutherland. Three of Dave's friends also spoke about how they knew him. Presentations to Dave and Liz Mack were followed by entertainment by the Praise Group and Ann Walter, a short talk by Dave and a vote of thanks from Mary McLeod. We extend a very warm welcome to Dave and his wife Maureen and now look forward to his ministry at Maxwelltown West.

(Contributed)

Letter of thanks from Liz

Dear All at Max West,

Thank you so very much for the most beautiful engraved bowl you presented me with to commemorate my 3 years with you as Locum Minister. I needed no tangible reminder of those cherished years of ministry to you and with you, but it will be a greatly valued gift to be enjoyed always.

As you know, the end of my Locumship divided my heart, as of course I am delighted that our search for a new minister has led Rev. Dave to us, but these past 3 years, despite the sad reason for the necessity of my taking over in Max West, have provided me with the real icing on my 20 years in Ministry cake! and I part from it with great personal sadness. I pray it does not end completely but should it be the case, I can have nothing but thanks to offer God and very much to all of you for the huge joy and privilege it has been. I thank you for your unfailing support and encouragement. A special thank you to the faithful "Sunday services" team who unfailingly produced all that was needed for worship each week - Tom, as Session Clerk, for hanging in there with me all this time, for all who prayed for me in my work, Stephen for the pleasure of our partnership and for all the areas in church life I shared with you. Of necessity I will absent myself to give you and Dave time to get to know one another without my presence in the way, but when the time is right I hope to return as a member again to find my place among you.

May God Bless you and the continuing ministry in this loved place.... Liz

Our appreciation of Liz

On Thursday 16th October we took our leave of Liz Mack, who left the post of Locum which she had filled most conscientiously for three years. Over that period she worked hard to keep the congregation together and in good heart for the time when she handed over the reins to Dave Sutherland. During this time she has managed to keep attendances up. In fact there has been no real drop in numbers. In her time in the post Liz gained the respect of the congregation as an extremely diligent, hard working and popular minister who has brought laughter into the church. She always made herself available and when we think of this we must remember that she was only appointed to provide pulpit supply on a Sunday and one other day per week. She was most diligent in her visiting and in supporting the Parish Visitors Group which she initiated. Funerals, of which she conducted 57 in her time, and her support for various church groups, made significant demands on her time. We also appreciated her encouragement of congregational involvement in worship.

I'm sure we all enjoyed her time with us as much as she enjoyed working with us. We wish her all the very best in the future whatever it holds for her and hope she will enjoy her gift of an inscribed vase as a memento of her service and our appreciation of her.

(Contributed)

Kirk Session

Since the last report in the June issue, the Kirk Session has met for two ordinary meetings. In June, the following allocation of elders' visits to organisations was agreed:

Guild/After Eights Miss A. Stott and D. Johnson

K Max and J Max Mrs. E. Riddick and Miss J. Marchbank

Good Companions R. Shepherd

Scout Group J. Denholm and R. Braidwood

Guide Group Mrs. L. McWhan and Mrs. F. Saddington

Badminton Clubs Mrs. A. Dunbar In September, the following services were agreed for the Christmas period:

Sunday 14th December: Gift Service

Sunday 21st December: Family Service, followed by brunch

Wednesday 24th December: Candlelight Service

Wednesday 24th December: Watch Night Service at 11.30pm Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day Service at 10.00am

Tom Bryden, Session Clerk

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on 25th September.

The accounts remain in a healthy state due to the tax recovered through replacement organ donations and the insurance refund of almost £20,000 for the new boilers.

The Fabric Fund Box Count in September amounted to £762.55

The repairs and removal of growth from the spire is now complete and the spire is once again in good order. The Manse will need a considerable upgrade with the appointment of the new Minister. A programme of refurbishment will be agreed with him.

The vacancies for the positions of Fabric Convener and Flower Rota Organiser have now been filled with J Hastings becoming Fabric Convener and T Buisson the Flower Rota Organiser. Votes of thanks were extended to David and Patricia for their service to the church. We are still in need of Offering Duty Supervisors and a Financial Committee Convener. A small committee of De Fraser, E Riddick and D Rosie is seeking to find replacements.

If you wish the "After Service Teas" to continue on a weekly basis, Linda urgently requires volunteers, so please put your name on the list in the hall and support her.

A reminder that the 20th November Deacons' Court meeting will commence at 7.15pm.

B S, Clerk to Deacon's Court.

World Church News

Education; this is our Kenyan friends' greatest concern. Our Christmas Gift Catalogue this year is an appeal for your help to support this. You should have received this flyer with your Contact.

Winnie in Bondo sent her annual report stating how well they have progressed since the beginning of our support in 2007 and now the children are healthy, better fed and enjoying school and Sunday school. She is planning more classrooms and hopes for more books and other educational help.

John in Mathia thanks us for the latest bursary for nine students who will benefit this year. Those who graduated lately have proved good role models which made the church members very proud.

His latest news states Mathia is also gaining a new minister, Rev. Harrison Thuku Kogu, also interested in youth ministry. Rev Erastus retires in December and, we are told, will be sadly missed. A fuller report will appear in the March Contact.

Book Stall - The World Church Team is planning to have a Book Stall to raise funds for the Kenyan projects. Donations of books, preferably paperbacks, would be much appreciated and can be handed to any WCT member or picked up by Ian Slack (01387 264612)

A D

Parish Visitors Group

The Parish Visitors Group was set up around 2½ years ago and consists of the minister and, at present, around nine volunteer visitors. The aim is to visit the elderly, housebound, or anyone you as elders or church members think could benefit from a visit. We currently visit around 40 people once every three months.

As a group, we decided to arrange for some of the people we visit to go to the Garden Centre for afternoon tea. This we did on 6th October, which turned out, fortunately, to be a lovely, sunny day. 17 people (men and women) attended along with Rev. Liz Mack and 9 visitors. Everyone enjoyed meeting up with friends they had not seen for a while. (See photos on back cover.) There are always more people who require to be visited. If you know of anyone, please let us have their details and we will be very happy to visit them. It would also be good to have a few more visitors. Visiting is usually done once every three months with a group meeting every three months to update our numbers. If you feel you would like to help, please contact E Riddick.

I would like to take this opportunity to give very grateful thanks, on behalf of all the visitors, to Rev. Liz Mack for her wonderful help, support and spiritual guidance in the formation and running of the Parish Visitors Group. We are all going to miss her presence and cheerfulness in the group but wish her well in the future.

A S, Group Member

Social Group

The Social Group continues to evolve with the main aim of developing friendship and fellowship amongst all those who are associated in any way with Maxwelltown West Church and to provide a warm welcome to visitors. It is not a fundraising group, but depends on donations to run each event. The surplus money has been used to buy soup urns, crockery and cutlery for the catering requirements.

On Saturday 20th September, we held a Games and Fun Night. Although numbers were low, those attending had great fun and laughter. We had a quiz and games, including space hopper racing, Malteser transporting with straws, flapping fish and a balloon race.

We are now planning the Christmas event. It will follow the same pattern as last year - a Christmas brunch after the **Christmas Family Service on Sunday 21**st **December.** This will include turkey, mince pies and other Christmas goodies.

It has been suggested that next year we may not have an Easter Brunch but have a brunch on a different day, perhaps a "Birthday Party" at Pentecost. Details will be advised when this event and its date have been finalised.

At some point we hope to hold a Ceilidh which may allow us to make a donation to a specific cause. We have already had the offer of a band for such an occasion.

As we have some surplus money at present, we decided to donate money to the church 'Fund for Flower Ministry. Ross, our Treasurer, will arrange to give A Dunbar £100.

We will welcome all individuals who wish to join or assist the Social Group in any way.

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

There are some photographs of the Fun night on the back cover of this magazine.

H MacD

After Service Teas

Since I took over from A Beggs 12 months ago, we have managed to increase the frequency of teas from monthly to fortnightly and, more recently, weekly. This came about as a result of requests from church members. They have been working out very well, with many thanks to all the kind people who have volunteered their help.

We have managed to raise around £500 to go to a local charity and have purchased some new wipeable tablecloths and tea towels, milk jugs etc

At the last Deacons' Court I explained that I initially took on the role for a 12 month period, but that I would be willing to continue for a further year on the understanding that we reduce the frequency of teas back to monthly, at family services over the winter period. However, after now discussing this with our new minister, Dave Sutherland, he would like them to be weekly, which will give him the opportunity to meet with members and for us to get to know him too. He also said that it would be good if the various groups could help out with doing the teas too.

There is a new rota up until the end of November 2014 and I will be passing over the responsibilities to someone else after Sunday 26th October to oversee things from then on. Thank you

L H, Tea Convener

Hamish's Last Commonwealth Games Report

Alison and I had a gloriously sunny night for the complementary tickets to the second rehearsal of the opening ceremony, at Celtic Park. Amusingly volunteers were standing in for celebrities. One lady had a label reading 'HMQ' as she waved regally and stood in the place of the Queen. Another lady stood in for Rod Stewart and made all the movements that Rod would have made. However we did see and hear Amy McDonald, John Barrowman and Susan Boyle. The entry for the countries was represented by other volunteers along with the Scottie dogs and the flag bearers.

During day three: I met Deepak Tejwan another Ophthalmologist from Paisley hospital who was not only a laugh but even saw to our coffee and tea requirements. By now it was quieter so I got out seeing the village including the mascot Clyde, an athlete who must have been nearly eight foot tall and a relay race for the country mascots. Some barging went on!

I managed to get tickets to see the athletics at Hampden Park Stadium. I saw Usain Bolt win the 4x100m men's final and really enjoyed how he played with us spectators. We had a good sing of Loch Lomond and 500 miles which sounded amazing with thousands joining in.

It was so wet that evening that the ladies final pole vault was affected by wet poles, making it very dangerous. There were two very soggy volunteers trying in vain to keep the track clear of water! It was very noticeable how often the proceedings were interrupted by the medal ceremonies. At least getting up and down so often

kept us warm!



By the Sunday of the closing ceremony the Optometry department was getting quieter but the polyclinic had to be packed up by the end of the week to allow the contractors to move in and build more of the village. This kept us occupied for the last two days as we did final paperwork and movement of equipment. The most interesting figures were the breakdown of the types of prescriptions issued.

On the Sunday morning I went into the city and saw the first circuit of the men's cycle road race in the pouring rain again!

At the end of the games, some countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada gave away their excess gear. New Zealand gave their bicycles to the Africans. The Australians gave away their sports clothes. I got shorts, a shirt and a one piece sport suit which will not be seen in public!!

Each volunteer was given a gift bag including a towel, Thistle seeds, silhouette of the trip to Glasgow, a Clyde memory stick and some badges.

It was great to be working in the village and to be selected in the first place.

So it was yet again a great experience. The next Commonwealth Games will be in the Gold Coast in Australia. So who knows there may be a call to work there as well!!!

Hamish

Erin Hyles's Tanzania Challenge

SORE FEET!! (Annandale Way walk - 55 miles) 12th September

David J joined Erin and her dad to walk the first 20 miles of the Annandale way. Starting in the car park at Moffat heading up the River Annan with its water so clear, it was a gentle climb to the Devil's Beef Tub (where the Border Reivers used to hide their cattle). The Beef Tub not quite a Munro and David advised it is a Marlin.

Galloway is quiet and tranquil with the accompaniment of the wildlife en route from furry caterpillars, red squirrels and deer on first day alone. An ice cream in Moffat was the order the day before hitting the old crooked road and eventually St Ann's where Colin was waiting to transport the weary legs after 10 hours walking.

The second day was down to Erin and dad as we set off up the wooded section with lots of deer sitings as it was so quiet, the closest being 50 metres. Between woodland and farmland we ended up in Lochmaben for a lunch stop by the loch. We have to mention Nono's seat as Erin filled in her record of our walk. It even has a Facebook page. Castle Loch is a lovely family walk with loads of sculptures to admire. Onward then to Joe Graham's monument, and glorious views over Annandale - mind Erin wasn't saying that as we climbed at the end of a long day in the heat. Reaching Dalton, with blisters plenty, we were both glad to get boots off, and for lift by Donna and Gary. After a hearty fish supper, radox bath and blister bursting it was off to bed.

The third and final day was only 15 miles to go, and with our tired legs and sore feet we meandered along scaring two roe deer in the dark kirk woods, before hitting the beautiful River Annan, teaming with wildlife. Sitting in the fishermen's huts listening to the river, watching the yellow wagtails, king fishers and herons, this is what it is all about and I would advise that the paths are family friendly all the way down the River Annan to Newbie Barns. At one of our pit stops two elderly gentlemen asked about our venture and gave advice on blisters, 3 pair of socks is the answer!!



As we nearly reached our goal, Erin hugged me and said Dad she appreciated me walking and the hard work in our organizing - something that will always stick in my mind. Memories!

Of course we have a lot of people to thank for all the kind sponsorship and words of support, David on the first day Premier Taxis, Alastair White, Luce Bay plant hire, Chalmers construction, Jock Armstrong, Land

Engineering (Linzi, Peter and Rab who walked 13miles on Saturday in support), Dumfries Timber Company and John Jardine, plus all our family and friends. Erin has raised £3450 with still sponsor money coming in, that's £2550 from walk alone. The support and kindness from our church family has been greatly appreciated, our prayers have worked, thank our Lord.

COFFEE MORNING on 30th August. Once again we were overwhelmed by support from the church. Many thanks to all helpers - Betty, Rosemary, Eileen, Jane and Mary for ensuring everyone was fed and watered, Anne on the door, Anita and Margaret on the stalls Kirsty on Tombola, the bakers for their lovely food and all those who provided bric-a-brac. It was a very successful day with over £900 raised.

The support and kindness from our church family has been greatly appreciated. Our prayers have worked.

Thank our Lord.

P H

Don't pass him by

A few months ago I was in the town and heard a man strumming a guitar in the High Street. It was cold and something said to me 'Don't pass him by.' I bought a cup of coffee, took it over to him, wished him a good day and moved on. He was an ordinary chap, perhaps with money problems. What made me do this? I don't know. I was surprised and I bet he was too! I felt better for having done this and I'm sure it warmed him up. This coming season when we are all busy, we may fail to observe, or ignore those who are lonely or in distress. Can we open our arms and give them a hug?

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

Go Serve - The theme for the Guild's Annual Rally in Dundee this September, which was interesting and inspiring for those of us who attended.

The keynote speaker was the Moderator of the General Assembly the Rt. Rev. John Chalmers. He told some of his life story from working in chemical engineering to divinity; to his sister with downs syndrome and a son who was injured while serving with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan. He pointed out the greatest works of service were often people we rarely hear about - ordinary people like you!

The National Theme this year is "A World to Serve". We in Max. West have chosen a project on our own doorstep by the Scottish Churches Housing Action, "The Julius Project". After a period of homelessness this recognises the problems faced and support needed by such people.

Our Coffee morning on 7th February will raise funds to help this so we hope you will come and support us while enjoying good coffee and fellowship.

A D, Guild Convener

Good Companions

We are now into our Autumn schedule, which will end with our Carol Service at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 3rd December. We would be delighted to welcome any members of the congregation who would like to join us and have a good sing. Unfortunately our numbers are dwindling, so to any of the more mature members at MaxWest (male or female), why not come along and join us on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

SH

Brownies

We welcomed seven new Brownies after the summer holidays and the girls have been enjoying their Brownie Adventure, with activities including making and eating smores (melting a marshmallow and then eating it between two chocolate digestives) and making cards and coconut truffles to give to a friend who is not a Brownie.

We collected tins of dog food which were donated to the local dog rescue centre on the evening we learned about the work of the kennels at Glencaple.

All the Brownies decorated a large rocket which was taken to "Star Quest", an event held at Barony College. This was for all Brownies in Dumfriesshire and was the final event to celebrate 100 years of Brownies. On the last meeting of the term, we were joined by parents for the Promise Celebration of our new Brownies. We currently have 28 girls attending each week and are happy to add names of future Brownies to our waiting list.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
Mrs. J Sloan	VACANT
Mrs. M McLeod	Mrs. M McLeod
VACANT	Mrs. B Ivins
VACANT	VACANT
Mrs. R Slack	Mrs. E Wilson
VACANT	VACANT
Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. F Saddington
Mrs. M Kingan	Mrs. P McKenzie
Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. S Aird
Mrs. A Marriot	VACANT
Mrs. O Woods	Mrs. E Riddick
Mrs. E McNay	Mrs. M Holmes
Mrs. H Campbell	Mrs. M Bryden
	Mrs. J Sloan Mrs. M McLeod VACANT VACANT Mrs. R Slack VACANT Mrs. M Wallace Mrs. M Kingan Mrs. M Wallace Mrs. A Marriot Mrs. O Woods Mrs. E McNay

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

After Eights

The first meeting of the session took place on September 25th when Leigh-Ann Brady spoke on her work with the Animal Hospital for small wild-life at the premises situated at the Barony. After 8's meet on the last Thursday of each month and anyone interested should come along for 8pm and will be made most welcome.

J W

Children's Corner

Welcome back boys and girls to our children's corner. I hope you all had a fabulous summer. Exciting things happening for us all this year and we welcome our new minister Rev. Dave Sutherland and his lovely wife to our church.

Christmas too is fast approaching and due to our low numbers this year we will be trying some new ideas for our Nativity and Christmas party in December. Bring your friends along to your Sunday club. The more the merrier. Mary D has kindly been working hard all year on your costumes for the Nativity play and we look forward to trying them out © Thanks Mary.

Our minister reminded us all to pray to God regularly to give thanks, to ask for forgiveness, to pray for others and to enable us to learn about God. Remember God is a friend you can rely on at any time of the day or night. Just speak to him and he will listen to you. Why not learn the 'Lord's Prayer' if you don't already know it. You may also want to try out some prayers of your own. Make them more personal to you and your family. You don't have to pray out loud and you don't have to wait until bed time. God will hear you and you will learn to know him.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
Forever
Amen

Lord's Prayer Word Search

F В Ν Н 7 В U Н Ε Υ Ε С S Ε S Ε × S Μ 1 Н Ε Т Ε Т ı 0 Ν Ε Ε W Е R X F 0 G Υ G Q Q Υ

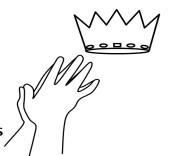
Why not try out this puzzle and perhaps look up the 'Lord's prayer' in your bibles – Matthew chapter 6, verses 9 – 13. If anyone needs information about our Sunday Club they can call Davie or me on Dumfries 251419.

See you all soon

Dawn ©

ANYTIME
ANYWHERE
ASK
BELIEVE
COMMUNICATE
DAILY
EXAMPLE
EYES
FORGIVENESS
HANDS

HEARS
HEAVEN
LISTENS
POWER
PRAISE
PRAY
SIMPLE
TALK
TEMPTATIONS



Photos from the induction Service and Social with The Rev. Dave Sutherland and his wife, Maureen





















Liz's Presentation

























Praise Group Musicians



Mexican Wave

Fun and games at the Games Night





Parish Visitors Group outing to Garden Wise and their presentation to Liz



