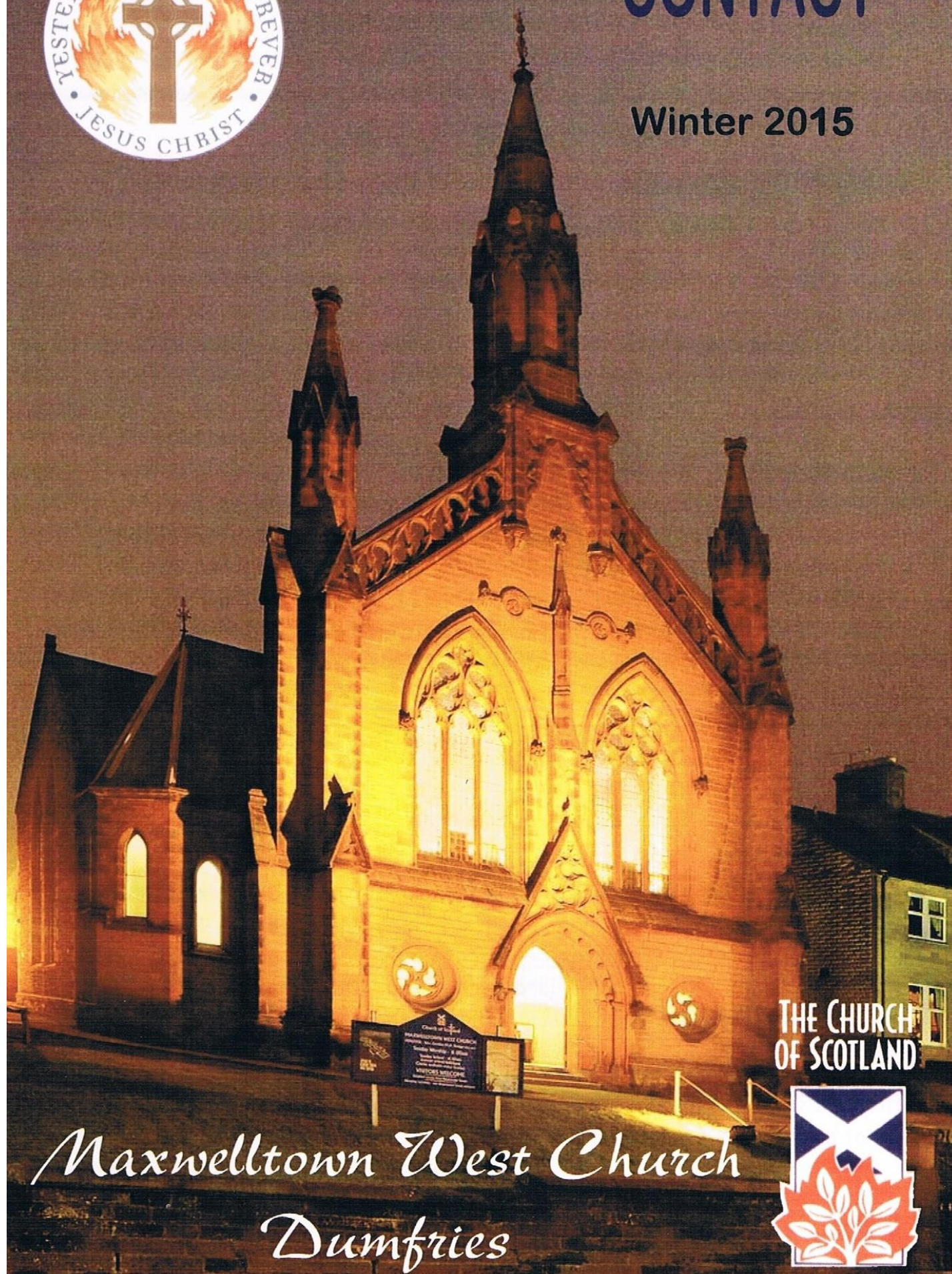


CONTACT

Winter 2015



THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries

MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

Tel: 01387 255900

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 6th December 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)

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. T Bryden, Dumfries

ORGANIST: Mr. S Crosbie, Dumfries

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. R Wilson, Dumfries

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. F Saddington, Dumfries

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. J Wood, Dumfries

TREASURER: Mrs. L Hyles, Dumfries

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. J Hastings, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

1st September: Mrs. May Taylor, Dumfries.

Transfer Certificate out:

Mrs. J Moodie, Dumfries.

Mrs. J Bigham, Dumfries.

New Member by Profession of Faith

Miss K McLean, 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.*

Dear Friends,

Our November Hymn for the Month carries a story of great tragedy and suffering and also of deep, unfailing love for God and reveals the faithfulness of God Himself as well as the faithfulness and trust of the composer, Horatio Spafford.

Spafford was a lawyer in Chicago who suffered near financial ruin when the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871 destroyed his property interests. In 1873, he was to know even greater tragedy when the Ville du Havre sank in the Atlantic, having collided with another vessel. Spafford's wife and four daughters were on board and although his wife survived, his four daughters died.

Spafford was a member of a Presbyterian Church and some other members suggested that Spafford's tragedy and losses had been "divine retribution"; something which must have had a profound impact upon him. However, Spafford waited patiently for God to speak.

Later he and his wife were blessed by God with a further two daughters and a son. Unfortunately, his only son died as a result of Scarlet Fever. Such loss and tragedy is more than enough to have people doubting God and Spafford was brought back to that time of great pain at the death of his four daughters. Spafford though, heard God speak and through "divine inspiration" wrote about how he felt within himself.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

We can see great tragedy around us and we can find ourselves in circumstances where it is so easy to doubt or reject God, but Spafford with his words enables us to see that whatever our lot, God is still deep within our souls. It is so easy to feel that all is well in the times when peace, like a river, gently laps around us, but when sorrows like sea billows roll over us, threatening to drown us, we can sometimes lose sight of our faithful God and his presence in our lives. It is through God's Holy Spirit who is gifted to us that we can sing, or say "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Christmas brings the peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ and also the peace and joy of many happy times, but we can also get caught up in times of hurt and pain in memories of loved ones who have died, or other times of great pain. Jesus Christ promised that he would be with us always – even to the end of the age – and gave us the promise of His Holy Spirit who dwells within us. It is my hope and prayer that we can know that in times of peace and joy or when sorrows like sea billows roll, we can always rejoice and sing "It is well, it is well with my soul".

With every blessing

Dave

Deacons' Court

A meeting of the Deacons' Court was held on 17th September.

L Hyles, Treasurer, gave a report on the financial position and said things were running smoothly after the change-over following the retirement of D McNay and the new office made in the vestry was now being used.

J Hastings gave the Fabric report and said the work planned on the manse had been completed.

The Moderator reminded the Court that a previous meeting had agreed that the finances of the Social Group were to be included in the annual Church accounts and proposed that the Social Group should have a standing item on the Deacons' Court's agenda. This would allow the Social Group to report and be supported as a committee of this Church. This was approved.

P Hyles brought details to the meeting regarding Eco Congregations. After discussion, D Johnson proposed Maxwelltown West Church should register to be part of this scheme and a committee should be formed to get people involved and report back. This was agreed.

The 150th Anniversary of the church will be celebrated through 2016 and this will be in the forefront of everyone's mind. To this end, any more suggestions for celebratory events should be brought forward for consideration before final plans are put in place.

J W, Clerk to Deacons' Court

World Church Team Report from Bondo

It is now nine years since Maxwelltown West started supporting the community in Bondo, initially supplying reed mats for the four nursery schools and then medication for an outbreak of cholera.

Things have moved on since then and during recent years our Church has enabled the community to gain access to clean water, toilets and water from Lake Victoria for irrigation, all resulting in improvements to health.

Village people have started small businesses, profits being directed back to the community. A Primary School, now running up to grade 5, has been established and this is licensed with the government. Each class has three periods set aside each week for Christian Education and Winnie has recently asked if we could supply some Christian books with Bible stories for children.

Through the efforts of a group of our parishioners we are able to provide monthly support to the feeding programme for the children. The charity – Usenge Development Initiative – set up by the community in Bondo, oversees all the projects and Winnie continually expresses appreciation for the support that Maxwelltown West is providing. A recent email from her states "All is well here thanks to your continued support since 2006. Thank you for routing for us!"

The WCT could not have undertaken this project in Kenya without the prayers and support from our Church members and this is very much appreciated.

World Church Team

MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH HISTORY

The fourth Minister of our Church (1890-1895) was **The Rev. Charles Hessel Todd**, who was born in Kinross on 18th June 1853, the 2nd son of John Todd and Elizabeth Hessel. In 1857 the family moved to Alva, in Stirlingshire, where John set up a wool manufacturing business, which by 1861 employed 33 people.

In 1881 Charles is living in St Ninians, Stirlingshire, with his brothers John and Thomas, John is a wool agent, working for the family business, and Thomas is an arts student aged 27, studying in Edinburgh.

By 1886 Charles had completed his studies for the ministry and been ordained in Ratho Free Church. On 6th November 1890 he was inducted to Maxwelltown, where he was to stay for only four years. During his time in Dumfries, Charles's personal life went through a very traumatic series of events. On 17th April, aged 36, he married Martha Owen Simpson (30) in Newington, Edinburgh. Martha was the daughter of Patrick and Emma Simpson from Victoria Australia (where Patrick was a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia) and had come to Scotland with her sister, who was married to James Prophit, Minister of St Mungo Parish, Dumfriesshire, and at the time of her marriage she was living with relations in Edinburgh. On 1st February 1891 Martha Simpson Todd was born in Maxwelltown manse. On 2nd March 1891 Martha Owen Todd, aged 31, died in Maxwelltown manse.

The 1891 Census taken in May shows Charles with his daughter, Martha's brother Patrick Carnegie Simpson (a Divinity student) Victoria Hughes (a visitor from England) and two servants, living in the manse. Patrick Simpson had signed his sister's death certificate and his niece's birth certificate.

In 1885 Martha's sister's son Archibald Leigh Prophit died, aged 4, from scarlet fever, and her husband James Prophit, aged 56, died in 1889. Martha moved to Newcastle on Tyne to stay with relations. Towards the end of 1894 Charles Todd accepted a call from East Aberdeen Church and was inducted to his new charge on 12th February 1895. At the end of 1895, aged 42, Charles Todd married Sarah Prophit, aged 29, his sister in law.

The 1901 Census shows Charles, and Sarah living with two servants in the Free Church Manse, 5 Carden Street, Aberdeen. Martha Simpson Todd, aged 10, is staying with friends in the Free Church Manse in Strichen, Aberdeenshire.

The 1911 Census shows Charles, Sarah, and Martha, aged 20, living with two servants in the Free Church Manse, 5 Carden Street Aberdeen. The family lived at 5 Carden Street until at least 1920 after which they moved to Edinburgh.

In 1925 Charles Hessel Todd died, aged 71, at St Raphael's Home, Edinburgh. Sarah lived at 24 St Albans Road in property owned by Martha until she died, aged 77, in 1933.

Martha qualified as a teacher working as English Mistress in Preston, Bath and Edinburgh until she moved to Bristol after her stepmother's death,

Martha died in 1974.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

At this time the Scout Group committee is looking for new leaders for the Beaver section and probably one for the Cub section. We have one person quite interested in helping with the Beavers, with support. If anyone knows of any friends or relations who could be interested, please contact me. I must thank the present leaders for their work with that section - B Carr, N Stitt and J McKinnell.

A Rush is a new helper with the Scout section.

The largest section at present is the Cub one with J McNaught and C Flint plus young helpers. The Scout section is run by S Sinclair and D MacPhee.

I Skilling is our Secretary and G Abrines is the Treasurer. I am indebted to everyone for all their help.

The Beavers and Cubs are going up to the Science Museum in Glasgow for a sleep-over. This is a district event. The Scouts went to St Anne's for a camp during the school holidays.

G Little is District Secretary and D MacPhee is also on the executive committee. He is the Explorers Commissioner.

H MacD

Good Companions

We have had our usual varied Autumn Session, although shrinking in size. We would certainly welcome any new members – male or female. Plans for Spring session are not yet sorted out, but we do not usually recommence until late February – so watch this space!!!

S H

Brownies

We welcomed seven new girls after the summer holidays and everyone is enjoying their Brownie Adventure. The Brownies all earned the Road Safety badge and we have held a Deaf Awareness evening to learn some sign language. Other evenings have included recycling, crafts and games.

After the October holidays, another five girls are to become Brownies and we will be preparing for our Bonfire Night fancy dress party, Remembrance Sunday and Sleepover. Should you like any details about Brownies, please get in touch.

J McE, Brownie Leader

After Eights

The new session got off to a 'flying' start (excuse the pun) when we heard a fascinating account of the life of Bees and Honey Making by Lorraine Priestly. She also demonstrated 'painting' with beeswax and we saw some incredible results as she made her pictures using a travel iron, coloured blocks of beeswax and a special paper. Members were able to ask questions and we found it to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening. A varied programme consisting of "Pleasures and Perils of opening a Garden", the history of Sanquhar knitting and a Christmas Dinner have been arranged to the end of the year.

J W

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
January		
3rd	Mrs. J. Sloan	Mrs. L. McWhan
10th	VACANT	VACANT
17th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. B. Ivins
24th	Mrs. M. McLeod	Mrs. M. McLeod
31st	Mrs. R. Slack	Mrs. E. Wilson
February		
7th	Mrs. E. Kilpatrick	VACANT
14th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. F. Saddington
21st	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. P. McKenzie
28th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. S. Aird
March		
6th	Mrs. A. Marriot	VACANT
13th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. E. Riddick
20th	Mrs. E. McNay	Mrs. H. Cross
27th	Mrs. H. Campbell	Mrs. M. Bryden

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

Shirley Haines read this poem at a recent Good Companions meeting and thought you might all enjoy it:

The Perfect Church

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church;
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You'd mar the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you even dare
To tread upon such holy ground;
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists
Made of imperfect men,
Then let's cease looking for that church
And love the church we're in.

Of course, it's not the perfect church,
That's simple to discern
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee our post
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds His church.

So let's keep working in our church
Until the resurrection
And then we each will join that church
Without an imperfection.

Children's Corner

Well hello again boys and girls. I hope you had a lovely October holiday and are building up for our run up to Christmas, where as usual we shall have your nativity play and Christmas party on Sunday 20th Dec with a nice Christmas lunch with your family, in church, in between. ☺ I'm sure you are also all looking forward to our visit from Santa again this year. Our theme for this Contact is 'Pumpkins'. You will all have noticed them in different sizes, shiny and orange in various fields and shops recently. Thinking of Pumpkins can remind us of being a Christian:

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins.

Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

A pumpkin is like us: it has an outside and an inside. The outside is what people see. The inside is like our soul or our heart. A pumpkin left to itself will soon rot and die so needs someone to care for it and keep it healthy both inside and out. As you carve your pumpkin, think about how God helps us to become better people. Cutting off the top, reminds us that we must open ourselves to God and let him into our heart. Listen in Sunday Club to find out better ways to do this. Scooping out the yucky insides reminds us of how God takes away all the seeds of doubt, hate, impurity and greed, leaving us room for God's spirit to enter us. Don't leave your pumpkin hollow though - put in a little candle. When Jesus lives inside you, you can glow!! You will want to be kind and honest and you will want to please God and others.

Jesus said: **'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'**

Carve a smile in your pumpkin and show God's light smiling from your face for others to see ☺

Why not try a few of these pumpkin activities with your Mums or Dads and Join myself and Davie at Sunday Club for some more fun activities as we start rehearsing for Christmas. Bring along your friends. Everyone is welcome.

Why not try out this really simple wee recipe after carving your pumpkin:

Sugar and Spice Pumpkin Seeds

Pumpkin seeds are a great source of protein and are super crunchy. They are also great if you are allergic to nuts.

Melt a little butter in a pan or bowl and add sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice. Toss in your pumpkin seeds until coated and place them on a baking tray and put them in a very hot oven and bake them for about 30 minutes or until they are golden brown. Allow them to cool. You could take them to school as a snack or just enjoy them when you are a little peckish.



Colour me and draw on a nice face.

How many words can you find in the following?

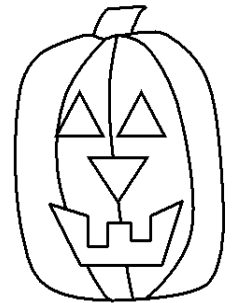
'Light of Life'

_____	_____	_____	
_____	-----	-----	
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

See you all soon. Dawn ☺

A Christian Pumpkin

I am a Jack O' Lantern
 My light will shine so bright
 For I am a Christian pumpkin
 My symbols tell what's right.
 My nose is like the cross
 on which our Savior died
 To set us free from sin
 We need no longer hide.
 My mouth is like a fish
 The whole wide world to show
 That Christians live in this house
 And love their Savior so!
 The story starts at Christmas
 My eyes are like the star
 That shone on Baby Jesus
 And wise men saw from far
 My color it is orange
 Just like the big bright sun
 That rose on Easter Day
 Along with Gods' own Son.
 And so on Halloween
 Let's set our pumpkins out
 And tell the trick or treaters
 What Gods' love is all about!



Services during Christmas Period 2015

6th December: Communion Services at 11.00am and 3.00pm
13th December: Christmas Gift Service at 11.00am
20th December: Family Service with Nativity Play at 11.00am
24th December: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7.00pm
 Watchnight Service with Communion at 11.15pm
25th December: Christmas Day Service at 10.30am
27th December: End of Year Communion Service at 11am

All the above services will be publicised in the Max West website www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk and, as in previous years, services/events at other Dumfries Christian Network churches also will be publicised for the interest of Max West members.



Harvest
Thanksgiving

Many thanks to all those who helped decorate the Church for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and to those who delivered flowers afterwards. It was a great effort and there has been lots of great comment and appreciation for all the hard work.

