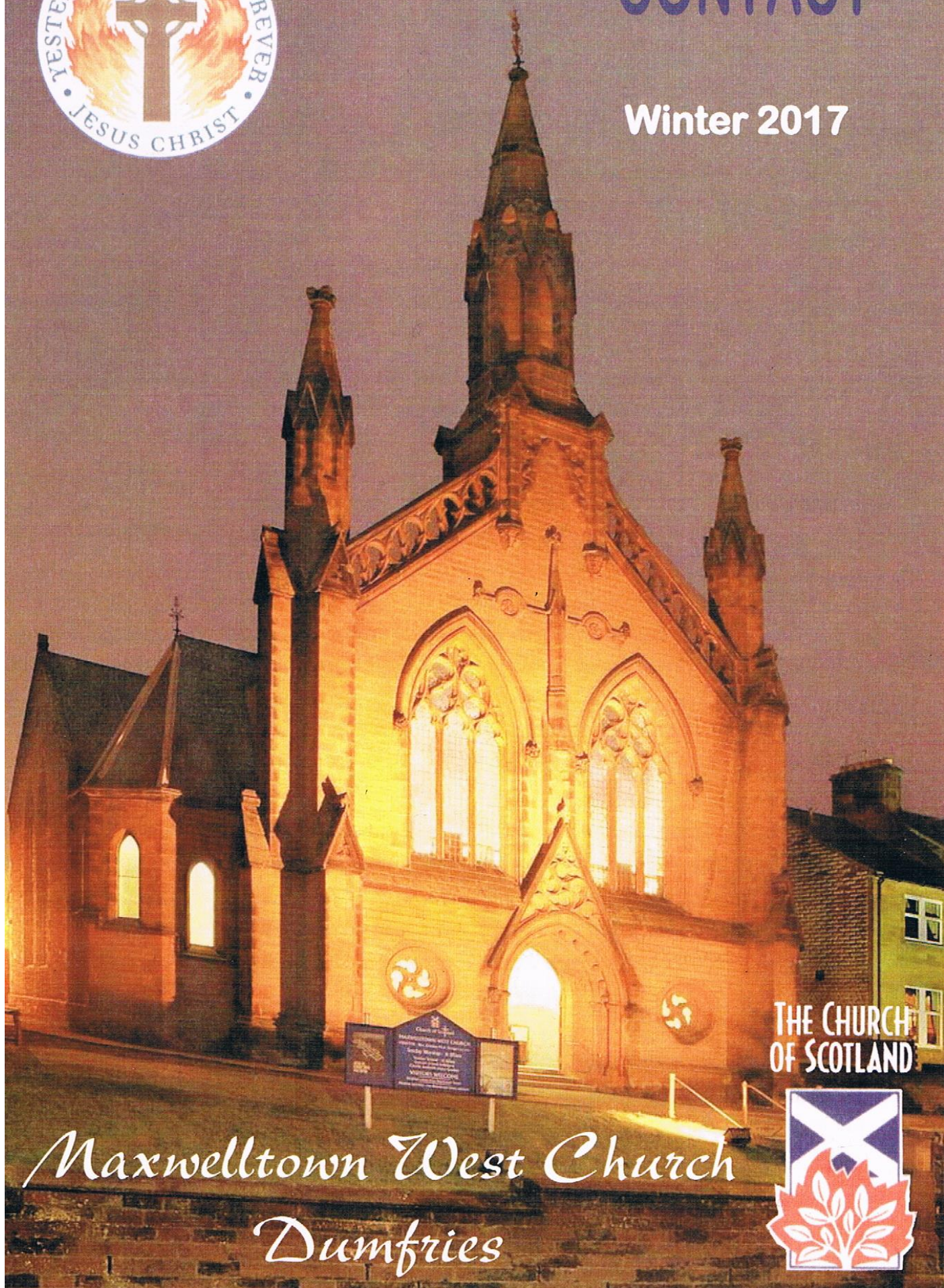


CONTACT

Winter 2017



THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND

Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries



MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES

www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Tel: 01387 255900

SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.

COMMUNION SERVICES: 3rd December at 11.00am and 3.00pm (in Hall)

SUNDAY CLUB: 11.00am during term time.

CRECHE is available during the morning service every Sunday.

During the vacancy our Interim Moderator is **Rev. Sally Russell (01556 503645)**

and our Locum is **Mr. David Matheson (01387 252042)**

Congregational Office Bearers

SESSION CLERK: Mr. A Crossan, 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

ACTING FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. D Miller, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

29th October: Oliver Terence Edwards, son of Joseph and Kelly Jane Edwards

Marriage

27th October: Gemma Patterson to Brian Lamont

Deaths

17th June: Mrs. Anne Penman, Dumfries

18th August: Mr. Duncan MacFarlane, Dumfries

19th August: Mrs. Jean Moffat, Dumfries

21st August: Mrs. Dorothy McWhirter, Dumfries

27th August: Mr. Ronald Carruthers, Dumfries

8th September: Mrs. Agnes (Una) Heffernan, Dumfries

23rd September: Miss Dorothy Hill, Dumfries

Certificates of Transfer Issued

Rev. D and Mrs. M Sutherland, Dumfries

Mrs. M B. Watson, Dumfries

Mr. D and Mrs. M Fraser, Dumfries

In the last edition the Rev. Liz Mack was referred to as Miss Liz Mack.

We apologise for this oversight.

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.*

Hello to everyone,

I would like to start this time by saying a big thank you to everyone who continues to put in so much work week by week, both with helping to make sure that the services run smoothly, and with the work that happens 'behind the scenes' as the life of the congregation goes on. I very much appreciate the time and the effort that is put in, as, I am sure, do those who benefit from it week by week.

Since I last wrote to you, you may have heard that our application for an Interim Minister has been accepted. The next step towards this means that a team of two or three folk from the Interim Ministries Task Group (IMTG) will come and make a presentation to the congregation. This will all be organised by the IMTG and as soon as we have prospective dates we will circulate that information in order that as many people as possible come to take part. This final decision about an Interim Minister is a decision taken by the congregation, and the aim of this presentation evening is to give a full picture of Interim Ministry and allow questions to be asked. After the presentation and question time, the team will leave and allow the congregation to vote in a secret ballot.

If the congregation votes to continue along the path of Interim Ministry, we will have to wait for one to become available and be allocated to us. Unfortunately, there is no telling how long that may take.

In the meantime, we will continue to work together, continuing God's work in our church and community and seeking to do His will.

Love and prayer,

Sally

Greetings frae yir Locum,

Where have the past 3 months gone since I commenced as your Locum? Is it me, or does life seem to be coming faster and faster as days just seem to float past in a whirlwind of activity and more and more depressing news of, dare I say it, BREXIT, and the worrying state of so much in the world. Here I am in October, and already we, as Church, are planning Christmas services and the celebration of our Lord's birth.

So, as we meet Sunday by Sunday as a congregation in our beautiful Church, it is good to feel loved and cared for by fellow members, and indeed sing our hymns of praise to God our Loving Heavenly Father who gives us so many Blessings in our daily lives - blessings we take for granted such as our families, food, clean drinking water, shelter, and above all peace, joy and love of Jesus in our lives. Autumn was particularly hard for many Caribbean Islands where hurricanes and torrential rains caused so much destruction and sadly, death. It will indeed take years to return to normal life for many of the Islands. Just a few days ago Dumfries and Galloway had to cope with strong gale force winds and rain here in Dumfries. We should be thankful to God for our safety, and for our Council and Emergency Staff who quickly ensured disruption to our local roads and services was kept to a minimum.

You know, life can be so like the weather. One day all is sunshine and rosy and happy, then suddenly life changes like a storm; a deluge of bad news rains down upon us, loss of job, illness, bereavement, family problems etc; the winds of despair overwhelm us. It is in such times we must

look to our faith. Our Christian faith helps us to pray, listen and focus upon Jesus our Good Shepherd, who will lift us upon His shoulders and gently carry us through the dark stormy days. Surely it is a blessing that when such times as these occur we can rely on our "Church Family" to love and care for us, through the love of Jesus in action.

If you haven't been in church for some time, PLEASE try to find time for an hour on a Sunday morning soon, and come BACK TO CHURCH and feel the warmth of Jesus's love as we worship. On Sunday 12th November we will REMEMBER those who gave up their lives for our freedom. Surely their sacrifice is something we as CHURCH must always remember and "Give thanks with a Grateful Heart" for.

Rev. Sally Russell will invite you to return to the Lord's Holy Communion Table on Sunday 3rd December, which is also the first Sunday in the Season of Advent, leading up to our Celebration of our Lord Jesus' Birth on 25th December at 10am in Church.

If you are unable to come along, then I am happy to come and visit you in your own home of wherever you are being cared for. My bible is always in my pocket and we can share church together in God's presence. St Matthew recorded Jesus as saying "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

Finally can I ask you all to share with friends and neighbours the real reason for Christmas; Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, coming upon this earth as the Baby in the Manger at Bethlehem. Invite them to come along to our Christmas Eve services at 11am or 7pm or indeed on Christmas day at 10am.

May God Bless you all with the Love, Joy, and Peace of Our Christmas Baby.

Your Servant in Christ, David Matheson

Kirk Session

This issue comes between the end of BST and the commencement of the run-in to Advent. The Church organisations are getting into full swing with the celebrations of Halloween (and All Saints), St. Andrew's Day, and the busy time leading up to Christmas.

Two baptisms are shortly to take place; an encouraging trend which we hope will continue. By the time you read this, the Rev. Sally will also have conducted a wedding in our church.

S C, our Organist, is on honeymoon at the time of writing; A McE will be providing organ supply, ably assisted by S H (S advises on tunes and many other issues).

L H, our Treasurer, has suffered from a period of ill health and we hope and pray that she will make a full recovery in the short term. Thanks are due to her for keeping the finances 'flowing' in spite of being incapacitated.

Our fundraising initiatives have been taking place to help with keeping our finances in balance. We have recently hosted a most enjoyable ceilidh. We do not entirely know how much has been raised from this as yet, but an estimate would be around £300.

The outreach and feedback from this has been gratifying, with many members and friends showing enthusiasm.

Many thanks are due to all of the participants: the Brownies led by J McE gave us a demonstration of an energetic dance called 'The Flying Scotsman'; John Caskie sang a selection of traditional Scots songs beautifully; C I treated us to several renditions on the bagpipes, in spite of having sustained an eye injury from a run-in with a dangerous garden cane; M McL recited two poems in her trademark 'Laland' Scots and W O performed two amusing poems in the Doric equivalent; the musical contribution continued with J S on the harmonica, but the main thanks must go to Edith and her Ceilidh Band, who did us proud again. A B excelled with his handling of the whole evening as MC, not least for absolving the Session Clerk by making a hearty and thorough vote of thanks to all the participants, catering contingent, etc.

We have so many gifted people within our numbers who can stage this type of social gathering and give freely of their time and talents that we can look forward with confidence to continuing God's work in our parish.

This has also been underlined in our morning worship which was impressively led on three occasions from within the membership: The Youth groups and friends, guided by D J, the Social group mentored by J S and, not least, by the Savage family.

We are moving forward under the wise counselling of the Rev. Sally as well as the competent and engaging preaching of David Matheson and we are drawing towards the placement of an Interim Minister.

Our strength comes from our faith.

D C, Session Clerk

Mrs. Elizabeth Geddes

It is with sadness that we record the death of Elizabeth Geddes, wife of Rev. Sandy Geddes, who was our Assistant Minister for several years before moving to Mauchline in 2011.

Elizabeth took an active part in the life of our church, becoming an elder and an enthusiastic member of the Ladies' Badminton Club.

Her funeral service was held on 23rd October in St. Columba's Church in Stewarton, where Sandy had been Minister before coming to Dumfries to live.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sandy and his family at this time.

M McL

World Church Team

As I write this, the situation in Kenya, prior to the re-run election due to take place on October 26th, is becoming more disturbing and violent in some parts of the country. Kisumu has been identified by police as an election "hot spot", along with Siaya and parts of Nairobi and Mombasa. Uhuru Kenyatta has called for a day of prayer on Sunday, whilst he and the Opposition Party leader Raila Odinga have failed to agree on reforms ahead of the repeat election, leading Odinga to refuse to take part. We too here at Maxwelltown West will be remembering our friends and partners in Bondo and Mathia on that day in particular, and praying for a peaceful and acceptable outcome to the election. Many Kenyans just want to put these elections behind them and are tired of a political class seen as corrupt and chasing their own interests.

Our main fundraising event for our Kenyan projects took place at the end of August – it seems a long time ago now – with a sponsored walk, "Aboon the Nith", from Glencaple to Dumfries.

"Dumfries 5 miles" it says on the Core Path signpost at Glencaple quay, one of the best spots in Scotland for fishing for flounder and plaice, apparently. Thirteen walkers and two dogs set off

enthusiastically, destination Max West Centenary Hall, following “..the winding stream I love so dear..” The weather forecast that morning had been promising, after a week of heavy rain and very high tides. As we made our way along the riverside path there was ample evidence of how bad the recent flooding had been: a tide-line of dried grass, large branches and anything that could float had been washed right across the fields on either side of the river. The path is easily followed, just listen for the squelching footsteps in front of you. Near Kelton, new bridges make for easier walking as they cross some of the burns that flow down to join the Nith. One of these bridges had been taped off after an earlier flood had undermined its foundations, leaving it rather “shoogly”. We crossed gingerly, one by one, noting the incoming tide creeping up the pow. Now it’s fine steady walking along the riverbank with wide-open views across the Green Merse and Kirkconnel Flow, with the outline of Criffel dominating the skyline.

The path reaches Kingholm Quay, after we’d had a few stops to pick an abundance of brambles. In the 1800’s boats were leaving the port of Dumfries, which comprised Kingholm Quay, Kelton, Glencaple and Carsethorn, for destinations as far as North America. No sign of such traffic now as we made our way along the tarmac path, over Kirkpatrick Macmillan Bridge, past Troqueer Cemetery, and the derelict though still impressive Rosefield Mills, built in ornate Venetian style. Here the riverbank has become overgrown with the invasive Himalayan Balsam, and Beth, our Glaswegian granddaughter, discovered seed dispersal by explosion! By now weary legs made their way past the Robert Burns Centre, the poet himself the inspiration for this walk, with his 1789 poem “The Banks of Nith”. “.....that winding stream I love so dear...” Well-earned refreshments awaited at the Centenary Hall, where we all agreed that the “Dumfries 5 miles” sign underestimated the distance by several miles.

Many thanks to all those who walked in Burns’ footsteps, and to Sheila and Heather who provided refreshments. Grateful thanks to our many sponsors: you raised a final total of £1140, a superb effort! This money will be divided equally between the self-help projects in Bondo, and the Bursary Fund for education in Mathia. Thank you to you all as our prayers go out to our friends and partners in Kenya. God bless you all.

D J On behalf of the World Church Team

Volunteers for Distribution of Church Flowers 2018

Can you give time at least twice a year to deliver flowers after the service? Members who are celebrating birthdays or experiencing a sad time in their lives are very appreciative when they receive these flowers. I trust that those volunteers of 2017 are still happy to continue – please let me know if there are any dates you would prefer.

Many Thanks,

K McM

Maxwelltown West Church History- Ministers of Our Church

The Tenth Minister of our Church (1929-1943) - the Rev. J. McW. Melrose

James McWhinnie Melrose, the eldest of four sons of William Melrose a railway signalman and Jane McWhinnie, was born on 1st July 1891, at Mathison Street Glasgow - the family home.

The 1901 Census shows James age 9 living at Fernienenk, Old Kilpatrick Dumbartonshire, with his father now a stationmaster, his mother, and three brothers Robert 7, William 4 and Alex 2.

The 1911 Census shows the family still living at Fernienenk. James is a student teacher studying at Glasgow University.

At the outbreak of the war James joined the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was in action from the battle of Mons in 1914 through till the end of the hostilities in 1918 and rose to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. During his war service, James was exposed to gas which caused him health problems. After the war James returned to Glasgow and resumed his studies at Glasgow University, where he graduated in 1920, was ordained to the Free Church, and called to his first charge, the John Knox Church in Stewarton where he stayed for 9 years during which time the church repaid a large debt. While in Stewarton, James took a deep interest in the social work of the Burgh. In 1925 James McWhinnie Melrose age 33, married Lily McNab Kinnear a teacher age 27, in St Mark's Church, Argyll Street, Glasgow. In 1926 the couple's only child Frances Isobel was born in Stewarton on 11th April.

After a call signed by 551 members and adherents of Maxwelltown West Church, the Rev. James McWhinnie Melrose was inducted to the charge on 20th December 1929.

He quickly became very much at home in his new charge, presiding over the changes brought about by the unification of the Church, including the closure of the Old Bridge Street Mission.

In October 1931 the Women's Guild held their first meeting in the Church.

Companies of the Girl Guides and Boys' Brigade were also formed at this time.

The Fabric continued to be upgraded with hearing aids being installed and the organ repaired. Electricity was also installed in the Manse.

With the outbreak of war there was pressure to economise on the use of fuel. To achieve this, joint services and meetings were arranged with other churches.

In 1939 Mr. Melrose had to enter a nursing home for a period as his health deteriorated. He recovered sufficiently to resume his duties, but in 1943 after an operation, he died age 52 on 8th November. The Death Certificate lists the effects of Phosgene poisoning during the 14/18 war as a contributory cause of death. There was a tribute in the Standard on Wednesday the 10th with the funeral notice intimating a service in the church at 2pm and a private cremation in Glasgow on Thursday 11th.

In 1990 Lily McNab Melrose died age 93 in Chryston, near Glasgow.

B W

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Scout Group

This year has seen the suspension of the Beaver Colony, due to the lack of leaders. There have been requests made to parents and advertising at the Fresher's day at the University. Although there was interest, no one has come forward. If anyone knows of people who would become leaders, please let me know. Tel Mobile 07762761444.

The Cub Pack is still healthy with John McN and Amy McC with other youth leaders.

The Scout Troup is also full due to the inclusion of the remainder of the Noblehill Scouts, after their troup folded. Thanks to their leaders as well - Stewart S, Douglas MacP and Alan R, with youth leader helpers.

The Scouts have had an Autumn Camp.

H MacD

The Guild

The Guild Annual Gathering in Dundee in September focused on the theme "Go in Love." It was a wonderful event with the Moderator and main speakers most interesting and humorous. Great singing was enjoyed and even dancing in the aisles, led by the "Swing Band."

Our own Guild started with a very meaningful Dedication Service led by David Matheson and Guild members.

The first meeting proved to be joyful and fun, with many members and friends joining us. Musical entertainment was delightful with two young musicians, Anna and Ella, playing violin, clarinet, cornet and piano. Our singer, Janice Moore, from the Scots Kirk in Carlisle, entertained us with well-known songs where we all joined in.

Now we are looking ahead to our November Coffee Morning and "Big Sing" in St. Mary's-Greyfriars Church and Christmas following sooner than we think.

Afternoon meetings will take place at 2pm in December, January and February, when we hope to welcome everyone, members and friends who no longer come out in the evening. In December, our pianist Alastair McEwan and friends will provide Christmas entertainment. January will have Rodger Windsor talking about "More Sherlock than Herriot."

February will be a members' surprise meeting and on 11th Feb., after church, there will be a Soup and Sandwich Lunch in aid of our project in Bolivia, so please come to that and enjoy good food and company.

Do watch the church diary for information on future events. You do not have to be a member to come along to any meeting.

A D, Guild Convener

Brownies

The autumn term commenced with seven new Brownies and they have settled well into their Brownie Adventure. The girls have been busy with a variety of activities, including taking part in County Sports at the David Keswick Centre and a visit to the Fire Station as part of the Fire Safety badge. The Brownies were allowed to try out the fire hoses before we were then able to see the Fire Station in action as the crews were called out to a kitchen fire. All the Brownies have now

completed the requirements to earn their Fire Safety badge and these were presented at the Promise Celebration held at the last meeting before the October holidays.

Eight girls, including five of the new Brownies, have been working hard to be able to perform two dances at the Maxwelltown West family ceilidh held in October. They were pleased to be asked to dance and danced the Cumberland Reel and Flying Scotsman really well.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Good Companions

We are now into our Autumn Session. Can I remind everybody of our Carol Service on Wednesday, 6th December at 2.00 pm – please come along and join us.

S H

After Eights

The group is open to anyone - members or friends interested in making new friends, hearing a wide range of speakers in a relaxed, informal way. We meet monthly on the last Thursday at 8pm. The Spring Programme begins in January with a Special Burns Celebration, followed by local councillor Yen Hongmei Jin talking about Dumfries Multicultural Group, and concludes with Aileen Orr with the history of “Wojtek” the Polish Bear. Please come along.

H J

Children's Corner

Welcome boys and girls for our final article of the year before Christmas. I do hope that you have had a lovely break and had fun on All Saints Day. I know you have really been enjoying your children's talks in church over the last couple of months and have been revisiting some of the main bible stories surrounding the harvest and also most recently, Jonah and the Whale in Sunday Club. Up until the Christmas break we will be planning our Christmas trip and also looking at the Christmas story in more detail. As there are currently not enough of us to do a whole nativity in church on the 10th of December, we are going to try this year and use the whole congregation, which should be different and fun for us all. Big congratulations also to Blair Dickie who won the picture competition for Christian Aid, including your list of essential items if you had to depart from your home urgently. Well done too to Georgia and Daisy for your excellent entries as well. Keeping to the Christmas theme, here is a short story and some puzzles for you to complete. I look forward to seeing you all in Sunday Club and please feel free to bring any of your friends or relatives along age 3 and over, as they will be made most welcome. As usual you can contact me should you have any queries

Thanks, D ☺

A story of why we use Christmas Tree Tinsel

Remember at this time of year we talk in Sunday Club about the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the shepherds and the wise men with gifts for baby Jesus. The bible tells us that an angel appeared, not only to the wise men to tell them not to return to Herod with the news of his birth, but also to Joseph to warn him that Herod would be looking for the child, with a plan to kill him. The angel told Joseph that the soldiers were coming and that he should take Mary and baby Jesus and run away to Egypt. So off they went.

But the soldiers thought they would follow and try to catch them and kill baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph travelled as fast as they could, but when night time came they had to find a place to sleep. Joseph spotted a tiny cave on the side of a hill and so they crept into it to spend the night. Legend has it, that while they were sleeping, a spider spun its web across the mouth of the cave. In the morning, it was very misty and damp, and the moisture settled on the spider's web making it glisten. Have you ever seen this, perhaps on your bedroom window? It's very cool!

Eventually Herod's soldiers came along still looking for baby Jesus. They looked up and saw the cave but when they approached, one of the soldiers said "There is no point in looking in there; there is a spider's web right across the opening. If someone had gone in it would have been broken"

So the soldiers left and went on their way to find Baby Jesus elsewhere. The spider and its web had saved baby Jesus. We don't know if this story is true or not but many people believe that it is and say that this is the reason we put tinsel on our Christmas trees to represent the spiders web that saved baby Jesus from being killed by the soldiers.

Do you ever play hide-and-seek by putting your hands over your eyes and counting, followed by a loud "Ready or not, here I come!" Think about Jesus saying this to us at Christmas...."Ready or not, here I come!" He wants us to prepare and ready ourselves for celebrating his birth. We can do this through reading bible stories, singing carols, praying, celebrating with our families and even decorating our trees with tinsel, now you know a cool story as to why we might do this.

Colour the tree below and add in your own tinsel.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Christmas Anagram



bennorw _____

ghiiins arst _____

deehprss _____

aceefiknnrs _____

aiinttyv _____

aeglns _____

abelst _____

aegmnr _____

aailmns _____

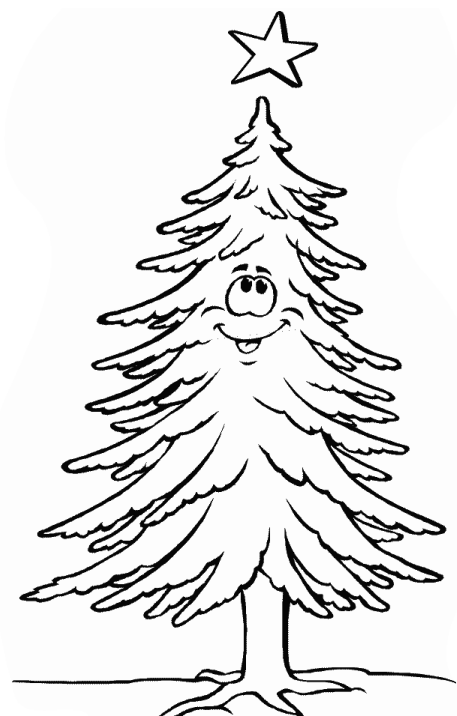
ejssu _____

Nativity Word Search

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



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph
king
manger
Mary
nativity
salvation
sheep
shepherds
star
wisemen



	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
January		
7th	Mrs. E. Riddick	VACANT
14th	Mrs. O. Woods	VACANT
21st	Mrs. M. McLeod	Mrs. M. McLeod
28th	Mrs. R. Slack	Mrs. E. Wilson
February		
4th	Mrs. M Wallace	VACANT
11th	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. F. Saddington
18th	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. P. McKenzie
25th	Mrs. M Wallace	Mrs. S. Aird
March		
4th	Mrs. L. McWhan	VACANT
11th	Mrs. G. McEwan	VACANT
18th	Mrs. E. McNay	VACANT
25th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Bryden

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

Carol Singing at Lochduhar, Monday 11th December, 2017

In recent years Maxwelltown West Church has held a carol singing event at Lochduhar Care Home, organised by I S. Ian is currently indisposed and will not be organising it this year. However, it would be good if we could continue this worthwhile outreach. To that end, I would welcome anyone who would be able to join in and support this informal carol singing to contact D or H J.

D C

December Services

3rd December: Communion - 11am and 3pm (Rev. Sally Russell)

10th December: 11am Nativity service followed by Brunch (Mr. David Matheson)

17th December: 11am service (Mr. David Matheson)

24th December: 11am service
7pm Christmas Eve service (Mr. David Matheson)

25th December: 10am Christmas Day service (Mr. David Matheson)

31st December: 11am service with end of year Communion (Rev. Sally Russell)

Happy Christmas