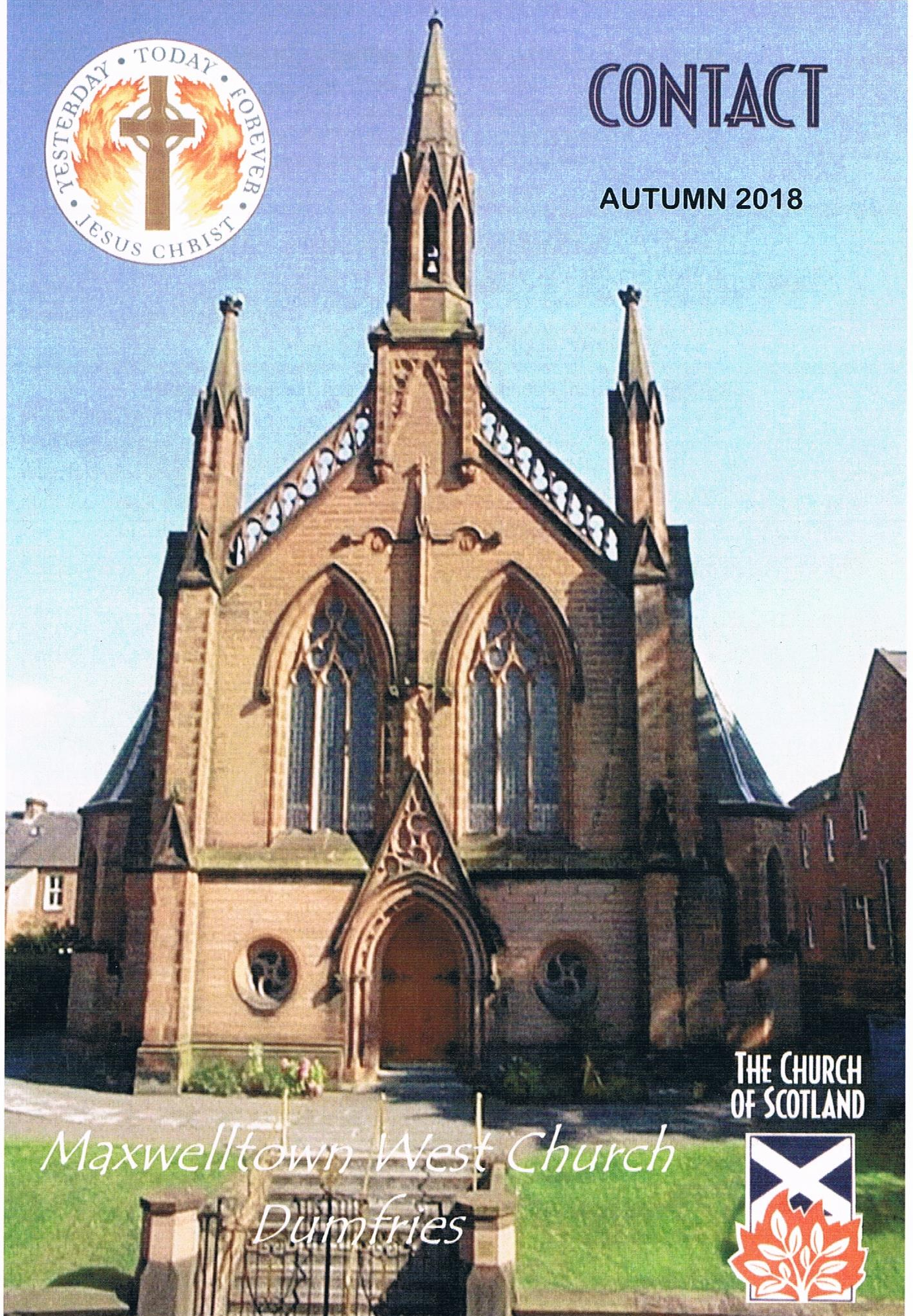


# CONTACT

AUTUMN 2018



*Maxwelltown West Church  
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND





**MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH, DUMFRIES**

[www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk](http://www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk)  
<https://twitter.com/MaxWestChurch>

Scottish Charity No.: SC015925

Tel: 01387 255900

**SUNDAY SERVICES: 11.00am.**

**COMMUNION SERVICES:** 2nd September at 11.00am and 3.00pm in Hall (June and September communions only.)

**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. Crossan, Dumfries

ORGANIST: Mr. Crosbie, Dumfries

CHURCH OFFICER: Mr. Wilson, Dumfries

EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs. Saddington, Dumfries

CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Mrs. Wood, Dumfries

TREASURER: Miss Allan, New Abbey

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. Miller, Dumfries

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**CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

27<sup>th</sup> May: Henry Douglas Wilson, son of Kevin and Joanne

**Marriages**

23<sup>rd</sup> June: Scott Goodwin to Shannon Cameron

21<sup>st</sup> July: Martyn Lindsay to Katie Cossar

**Deaths**

2<sup>nd</sup> February: Mrs. Margaret Rogerson, Dumfries

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Miss Gwen Biggar, Dumfries

13<sup>th</sup> May: Mrs. Helen (Ella) McDonald, Dumfries

17<sup>th</sup> June: Mrs. Betty Newlands, Dumfries

1<sup>st</sup> July: Mrs. Ruth Risk, Dumfries

20<sup>th</sup> July: Mr. Jack Beggs, Dumfries

24<sup>th</sup> July: Mrs. Jane Boyer, Dumfries

**Certificate of Transfer Issued**

Mrs. Margaret Stockdale (to New Abbey Church)

**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.*

Greetings to you all.

Reading my last article, I see the Beast from the East was still hovering around and cold weather abounded in Mid-April. Indeed we barely saw spring this year as summer came mid-May, and now mid-July many plants are indeed flowering/fruited earlier this year than normal. But what glorious weather we have enjoyed these past 2 months. The Beast has indeed been almost forgotten about. Some nights we may even have wished for the coldness of March as we struggled to sleep in the heat.

I write this article on the anniversary of my commencing as your Locum in 2017 - a year I have thoroughly enjoyed, for I have been privileged to lead worship Sunday by Sunday and see the transformation of our Lord come upon Maxwelltown West Church. When I started I could sense an unease and sense of uncertainty and doubts amongst Sunday worshippers, and indeed also amongst some members I visited. But now one year later I really sense a Church which is eagerly awaiting God to bless it with a new minister to lead you forward into the next chapter of your church.

You may recall that in the last edition of Contact, I spoke about myself and Mr. Crossan starting a Bible Study Group. I am delighted to say we are still going strong and meet every Thursday at 7.30pm in the small Meeting Room. We are currently studying the Book of Acts. Indeed we are also working our way through The Book of Acts during regular Sunday worship, for The Book of Acts is a Biblical gem for us to reflect upon how Jesus's Church began in Jerusalem, and spread throughout surrounding countries and into Asia and Eastern Europe. But it also gives us great opportunities to see how we can journey forward as Maxwelltown West Church.

At this year's General Assembly, the Council of Assembly put forward a 10-year plan for renewal of our Church of Scotland. This was thrown out by General Assembly and the Council were charged with bringing a much more **radical** plan back to Assembly in 2019.

Whatever the plan will be, the Church of Scotland will have to be a different church from what many of you were brought up in and love. But remember last year's success, is this year's empty nest. In other words, Jesus's Church can never sit still. It must look for new ways of bringing the gospel of Good News to God's people. Sure, the way ahead for the Church of Scotland will be painful and difficult and will require a great deal of heart-wrenching decisions being made, but I believe it will also offer great opportunities for different churches to work closer together as well as in fellowship in local communities and on a national level.

Highlighting some special services over past 3 months:

On 29<sup>th</sup> April we held another celebration service for the Year of Young People when 3 of Maxwelltown West Guides came and told us of the exciting summer camps they are attending in Cambodia, India and an International Camp near Manchester. They each had to fundraise a considerable sum of money to help pay for these trips. They have all expressed their gratitude for our contribution towards their trips. To think these young ladies will go out into the wide world this summer and share our Church with new friends and bring back many memories and stories which they have agreed to share with us later this year.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May we celebrated Rogation Sunday. This is an ancient service which asks God to bless the seed and land to produce good crops and strong healthy animals. I assisted our Sunday Children in planting seeds into a pot.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June we held our annual Sunday School prizegiving which was also a service to celebrate the Year of Young People, and indeed also Guid Nychburris. Congratulations to our 2 regular "STARS" Georgia and Blair. After being presented with their prizes, I then presented them with the pot of parsley they had sown on Rogation Sunday. To say they were stunned is putting it mildly. I do hope they have enjoyed tasting some!

Unbeknown to myself and the congregation we did indeed have the Real Guid Nychburr in Church. Congratulations to Mary McL, a richly deserved recipient of this year's Dumfries Guid Nychburr Shield.

The NHS has cared for each one of us - from GP to dental, from eye specialist to hearing specialist, from walking aids to wheel chairs, from hospital surgery to aftercare in our own homes, from medicines to foot care and so on - all provided by our beloved NHS. So on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July we celebrated and gave thanks to God for 70 yrs. of the NHS. The Service began with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm being beautifully sung by Mrs. Walter. Two members also provided me with excellent prayer and meditation material to use, and our own Praise Group sang expertly and beautifully "Into thy Hands O God". The 2 chosen readings were read by NHS staff both current and retired.

My thanks once again to all those who have made me so very welcome into your homes and shared your life stories as well as faith journeys.

Let me close with some encouraging words from Ephesians ch 3 v 14-21

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"

May God's Blessings of Love, Joy and Peace, be with you and your loved ones.

Your Brother in Christ

David Matheson

### **Session Clerk's Notes**

As if to give balance for our previous season, the Lord has compensated us with a long, warm and sunny summer. As this report goes out sadly I have had to report on the loss of Jack Beggs. Jack was an elder of Max. West for 45 years as well as having carried out the role of treasurer for some of these years. He was a quiet, faithful and reliable friend of Jesus and will be missed by all.

We reported in last quarter's "Contact" that A Allan is now our Treasurer and is beginning to settle into that task.

Our projector has been showing its age and Mike M has had to lend us his as a 'short term fix' until we can introduce the new system which Mike proposed at the last Deacons' Court meeting. This should be happening soon.

To that end David J and Mike have fixed a date of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October for a film evening when we can see a film, have a cup of tea/coffee with treats and fellowship whilst raising some funding towards the cost of the new set-up.

E Budd, the secretary of the Dumfries Male Voice Choir has been in touch after their summer holiday to confirm the date for their Concert in aid of church funds at our church on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

The Bible Study Group, led by David Matheson, has continued to meet and are currently looking at Acts one chapter at a time. These are short standalone meetings, with the small group meeting or missing out a week as other activities allow. The meetings are held in a worshipful but informal way with humour and fellowship. Anyone interested in joining the group will be made most welcome.

Communicant classes have been suspended so far within the vacancy period but should anyone have an interest in becoming a member or know of anyone with an interest or who would like to find out more about joining the congregation in our Christian worship and outreach, please feel free to contact me or any office bearer.

David and Sally have continued to carry us forward in our Christian life. We have now had some 12 months of 'stable' congregational life with many talented members and adherents contributing to the functioning of our life and work in some way, whether through the work (and play) of the Guild, the work of flower distribution to our housebound, bereaved, or birthday celebrants, serving on courts of the church or committees, helping with Sunday school or the uniformed organisations, visitors group and many other functions. All are giving generously of their time, talents and money which makes us the whole body that we are. The cubs, for example, are currently short of assistance for John, who ably continues to lead them.

Costs, however, continue to rise; it is some time now since we have considered the need for a 'stewardship campaign'. We should consider the 3 elements of giving a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money on a 3-yearly rotation. Our gas and electricity bills alone have gone up by more than 10 percent in the recent period (perhaps due to the 'beast from the east' phenomenon).

We do not propose to mount a campaign at this time and are very mindful of the austerity we hear of and the virtually guaranteed further downturn in the general wealth of the nation as a result of the outcome of the 'brexit' separation from the EU.

I would, however, ask members and adherents to prayerfully consider their promise of 'time, talents and money' in the light of the above and help make the ongoing work of our church more secure.

The food bank boxes have been emptied and taken to the food bank and were gratefully received. It was gratifying to see the box in church rapidly being re-filled. Many thanks to all contributors.

The deferred Manse maintenance and upgrading now requires to be carried out, whether to accommodate a new minister (interim or full-time) or to let out in the short term and will go ahead prior to the Autumn /Winter period.

We now look forward to the commencement of the organisations for the Autumn.

God's blessings to all of you.

*D C, Session Clerk*

## **World Church Team**

The World Church Team received the following from John Njeru:

### **Report from Mathia Church in Kiangai Parish, Kirimara East Presbytery**

"I feel so delighted to have an opportunity to give you the report of Mathia church. I may first want to quote from the sermon that was preached on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. This was from various texts and if I may quote Luke 16:10-13. The sermon was conducted by all the five elders.

This year we have been able to achieve many things in our church. During the months of January and February we managed to visit our older members in their respective homes.

During the month of March we had an opportunity of having 2 new elders being ordained in this task noble.

Their names are: 1. Esther Nyawira, 2. Joseph Kimotho Karani. Bernice has also attained the age of retirement.

We also had an opportunity of having two fasting prayer days.

We also had 4 members who had their weddings blessed.

Also our young people who have been beneficiated from your funds have blessed the church with some items.

Some of items are:

- Modern generator to cater when there is no power electricity
- Two modern guitars plus many others.

Membership is still going on well. Also note we have only few elder people who can manage to come to church.

This is just part of the things that we have been able to achieve. Our church and church school children are doing very well.

Lastly it is important to note that this time our place is very cold to an extent of not being able to move. We would also like to appreciate your support for our young people. We feel that our links with your church has been very productive. We pray that this will continue.

Currently our parish minister is catering for two parishes since we have shortage of Reverends in our church.”  
*From John*

### **PILGRIMAGE – a continuing story**

The weather could not have been kinder for our first Pilgrimage Walk on May 12<sup>th</sup>. It seems a long time ago now, but the sunshine we experienced then has continued throughout this hot summer. 18 “pilgrims” and a frisky spaniel followed the Ruthwell Heritage Trail, starting and finishing at “The Farmers’ Inn”, Clarencefield, and taking in the Bluebell Wood, the Brow Well, one of the first golf courses in Scotland, the Savings Bank Museum, and the magnificent Ruthwell Cross. My thanks to all who made this walk such a success. We enjoyed wonderful scenery, warm fellowship, and even warmer temperatures. Also grateful thanks go to Mike Marshall who captured the essence of the walk on film, shown the following week in church. More on films later.

Our next Pilgrimage Walk is scheduled for **Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>**, with Sweetheart Abbey, New Abbey our destination - a Cistercian Monastery founded in 1275 by Lady Devorgilla in memory of her late husband John Balliol. Sweetheart Abbey, or Dulce Cor, is a daughter house to Dundrennan Abbey near Kirkcudbright, which will be the destination for our third Pilgrimage Walk.

The New Abbey walk is part of the local council’s Core Paths scheme and is waymarked all along its route, rather like the Camino de Santiago - of which more later. The walk of around 5 miles, crosses the New Abbey Pow by a ford or footbridge, past Maryfield Farm, over Drummillan Pow and the upper reaches of the Nith tide, and on into Knocktor Wood leading to Airds Merse and Airds Point. A narrow road leads along Kirkconnel Merse to Kirkconnel Tower. Then it’s back to New Abbey following the minor road past Abbot’s Tower and back to the ford, with afternoon tea at Abbey Cottage awaiting. Please join us for this walk. I can’t guarantee the weather we had on our first walk, but the welcome and fellowship will be just as warm.

Now to films. As part of a fund- raising effort to finance the purchase of new technology for use in church – a monitor and a laptop to replace our ageing items – we are planning a series of “Film Nights”, the first on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00p.m.** The film showing that evening will be “The Way”, a 2010 Spanish drama honouring the Camino de Santiago which promotes the idea of traditional pilgrimage. The film was written, directed and produced by Emilio Estevez who called the film “pro-life, pro-people and not anti-anything.” The film received positive reviews on its release. “Rotten Tomatoes” website thought the film “a worthy effort, balancing heartfelt emotion with clear-eyed drama that resists cheap sentiment.” The scenery is wonderful, with the pilgrims wandering through wilderness and small villages, exploring ancient cathedrals and local traditions. One not to be missed. Put the date, **Friday October 5th** in your diary.

*D J*

## REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

### The Guild

I trust you all enjoyed the glorious summer weather - perhaps in the shade at times.

In June, the Dumfriesshire Guilds met in New Abbey Church for a wonderful celebration, with singing which nearly raised the roof! We looked back at the final results of our last six projects, totalling **£725,000**, which was indeed something to celebrate. At supper time we met up with friends from Sanquhar in the north, Buittle and Kelton among others, which was a great opportunity to catch up on news.

Now our own Guild are looking forward to the next theme "Seeking the Way" and starting with "One Journey Many Roads".

These titles certainly give food for thought and as Christians we are always seeking the way, the right way depending on the choices we make.

The Boys Brigade is our choice of project this year - most appropriate since this is "The Year of Young People". Fundraising for this will take place in February with a soup and sandwich lunch.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September** will be Harvest Thanksgiving as usual and this year will include our Guild Rededication Service.

The first meeting is on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm**. We invite everyone, men and women, to come along and find out about us. You will be made most welcome.

*A D, Guild Convener*

### Brownies

After Easter, six of the older Brownies and a Leader attended a Transition to Guides residential weekend. In addition to team building exercises, the girls tried a climbing wall and a zip wire.

The Brownies were able to enjoy some Spring meetings outside the hall. We walked over five bridges in Dumfries, looking out for landmarks to answer quiz questions as we walked.

We also enjoyed a visit to Mabie Forest when we followed the "purple" walk. (See photo on back cover.) Over two meetings, the girls learned about World Environment and World Oceans. They all earned their Ocean Challenge badge.

For our last meeting of the term, we were joined by some guests and held a BBQ in the Manse garden. Unfortunately the weather was wet, but the burgers and sausages were still tasty! After returning to the hall, the Brownies were excited to hear about Kirsty's forthcoming trip to India. Three girls completed their Brownie Adventure and they have moved to Maxwelltown West Guides.

We resume on **28<sup>th</sup> August** when we will have details of the new Brownie programme.

*J McE, Brownie Leader*

## **After Eights**

The group has enjoyed a full programme of talks, some music, much fun and lots of fellowship. Highlights involved a non-traditional Burns Evening where we focused on Burns from a female perspective including readings, singing and music from Edith Beaton (accordion) and David Johnson (guitar). The haggis samosas went down well too.

Aileen Orr told the story of Wojtek, a wild bear who accompanied Polish troops all the way across Europe to Scotland as their beloved mascot during the darkest days. You can see his statue in remembrance in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. We were also pleased to present Aileen with over 100 toy bears we had collected for her charity to distribute to needy children in Eastern Europe.

The next session begins on **September 27th at 8pm** with Marie Hastings from Ruthwell on Henry Duncan and his radical work to help rural workers and the development of the world's first saving bank. Please come along. You'll find a warm welcome.

*H J*

## **Scout Group**

The group has finished for the summer. We had a barbeque at the camp held at St Annes Camp site. It was a hot sunny day.

We also held the AGM there and managed to get some volunteers for the Parent Committee. We need this to have a functional Scout Group.

We also still do not have a Beaver Colony, so any interested volunteers for that section would be most welcome.

Our thanks go to all of the leaders for their hard work.

Stewart from the Scout section was presented with his 5-year Scout certificate.

Hamish received his GSL Wood Badge and 20 years' service certificate.

John said he would see the present lot of Cubs through to the Scout Section and then step down in two years' time, so we will be mindful of a replacement for that section as well.

*H MacD*

## **Children's 'Summer' Corner**

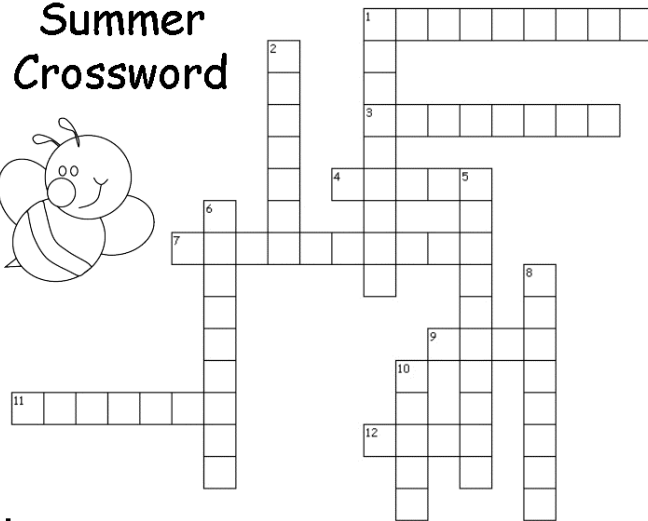
Hello boys and girls.

I hope you are having an enjoyable summer holiday, especially with the amazing weather we have been having. Long may it continue... This edition will be short as I have not seen you since prizegiving but am looking forward to seeing you all again the first Sunday of September. Please feel free to bring your friends and family with you. I have put together a few puzzles for you to try below if we have any rainy days. Enjoy!! ☺

Thanks. Dawn ☺



# Summer Crossword



## Across

1. From caterpillar to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. dad's grill
4. A gardener's worst enemy.
7. pink juicy fruit
9. In the summer, the weather is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. I have a rod and reel. Let's go \_\_\_\_\_.
12. A long walk.

## Down

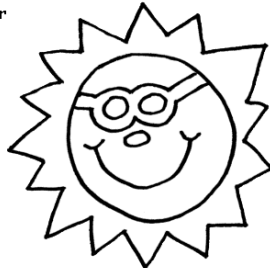
1. Insect with yellow and black stripes.
2. Healthy summertime transportation.
5. Protective eyewear.
6. A patty and a bun. Yum!
8. Favorite drink of young salespeople.
10. Playground toy you swoosh down.

Word List: barbeque, bicycle, bumblebee, butterfly, fishing, hamburgers, hike, lemonade, slide, sunglasses, warm, watermelon, weeds

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Summertime Anagram

Hidden Word (circled letters):



a f n

\_\_\_\_\_

a b b e l l s

\_\_\_\_\_

b e e f i r s

\_\_\_\_\_

d g h o o t

\_\_\_\_\_

h o r s s t

\_\_\_\_\_

a c g i m n p

\_\_\_\_\_

e f l o r w

\_\_\_\_\_

a d e g n r

\_\_\_\_\_

g i n s w

\_\_\_\_\_

n s u

\_\_\_\_\_

# Four Seasons

## Spring

The fields are rich with daffodils,  
A coat of clover cloaks the hills,  
And I must dance, and I must sing  
To see the beauty of the spring.



## Summer

The earth is warm, the sun's ablaze,  
It is a time of carefree days;  
And bees abuzz that chance to pass  
May see me snoozing in the grass.



## Fall

The leaves are yellow, red, and brown,  
A shower sprinkles softly down;  
The air is fragrant, crisp, and cool,  
And once again I'm stuck in school.



## Winter

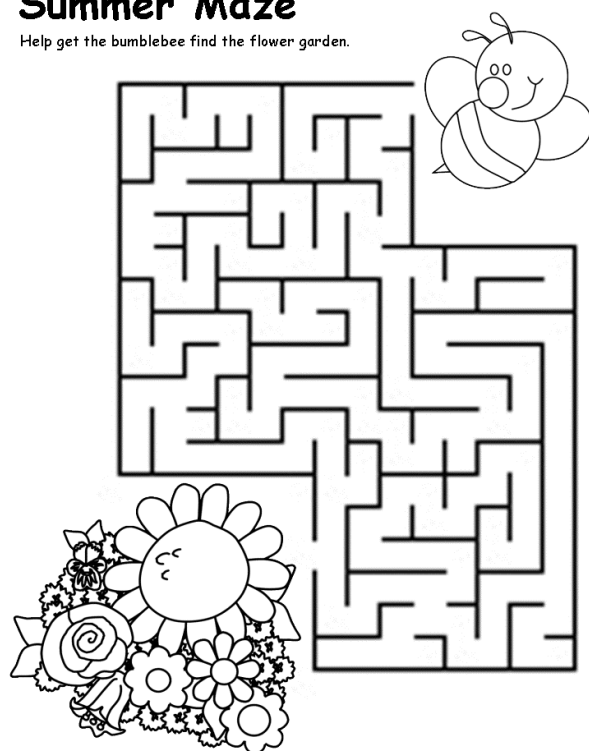
The birds are gone, the world is white,  
The winds are wild, they chill and bite;  
The ground is thick with slush and sleet,  
And I can barely feel my feet.



The last is done, the next is here,  
The same as it is every year;  
Spring -- then sunshine -- autumn -- snow,  
That is how each year must go.

# Summer Maze

Help get the bumblebee find the flower garden.



	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
<b>October</b> 7th	VACANT	VACANT
14th	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. Woods
21st	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. E. McNay
28th	Miss S. McDowall	VACANT
<b>November</b> 4th	Mrs. H. Johnson	Mrs. I. Goodwin
11th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Coulson
18th	Mrs. E. Shearer	Mrs. S. Robin
25th	Mrs. E. Crossan	VACANT
<b>December</b> 2nd	Miss J. Marchbank	Mrs. C. Muir
9th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. Cameron
16th	Mrs. S. Brown	Mrs. E. Riddick
23rd	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. L. Hyles
30th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	VACANT
<b>January</b> 6th	Mrs. E. Riddick	Mrs. L. McWhan

There are several vacancies in the flower rota. ***Please*** would you consider helping with this important part of our ministry? Many of our members who receive church flowers, perhaps because of illness or bereavement, really appreciate the fact that although not present on a Sunday, they are being remembered by the Church Family.

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

## The Brownies at Mabie Forest



Whilst I have been visiting many housebound members I have been struck by how much you still love to talk about our church.

I know the front cover of Contact shows a picture of the front outside of our church, so I thought why not share a picture of the inside as a way of helping to remember our beloved church.

So here is a wee picture taken of inside our church. I hope it brings back memories for those who are now sadly unable to join us on Sunday Worship.

Your Brother in Christ,

David Matheson

