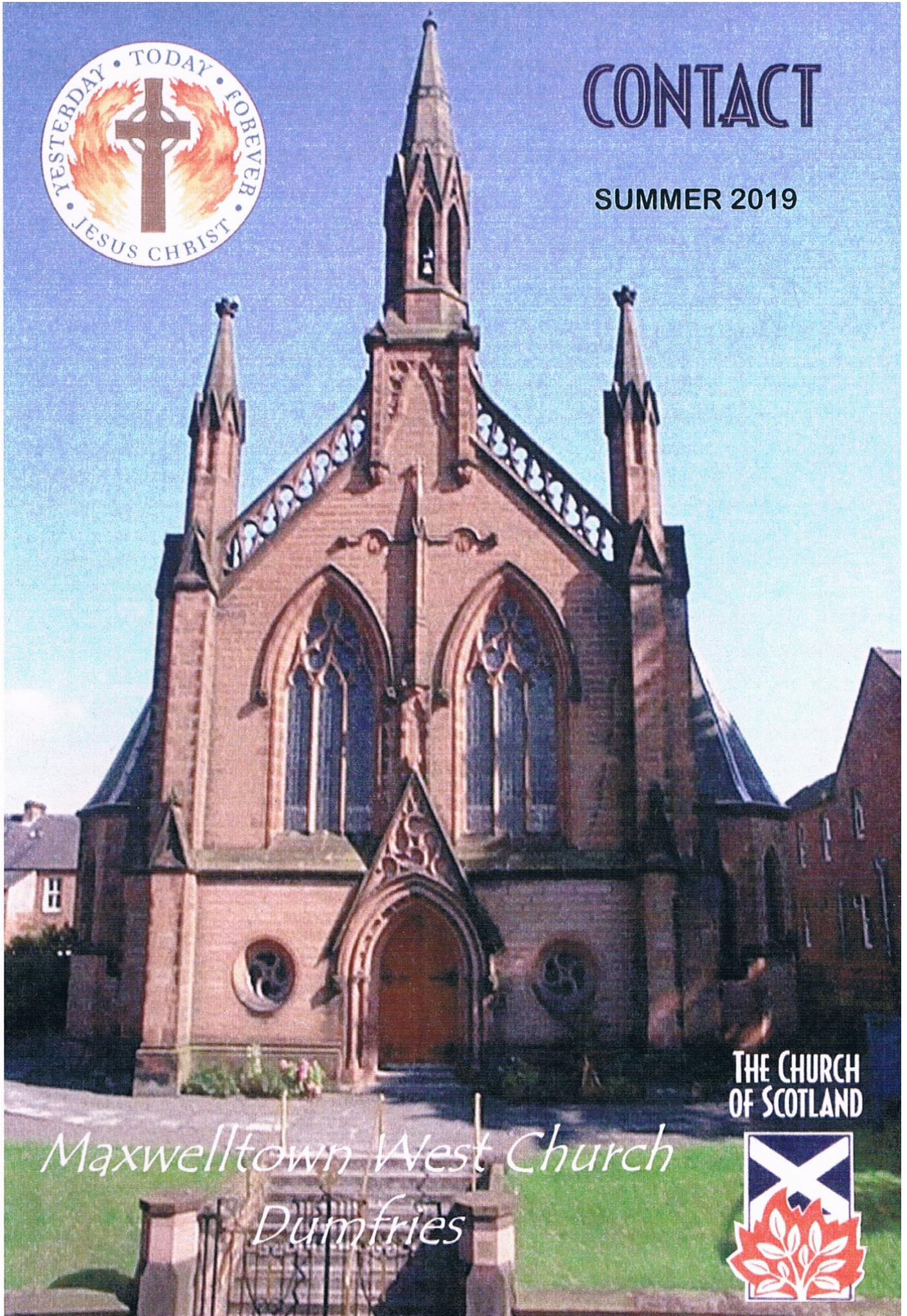


CONTACT

SUMMER 2019



*Maxwelltown West Church
Dumfries*

THE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND



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: 9th June 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: Miss Jardine, Dumfries

TREASURER: Miss Allan, New Abbey

FABRIC CONVENER: Mr. Miller, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

3rd February: Mrs. Kathleen Cochran

4th February: Miss Irene Bryden

12th February: Mrs. Catherine Bell

18th February: Mrs. Isobel Drynan

19th April: Mrs. Aileen McQueen

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 hope that you have all had a wonderful Easter and have been able to enjoy the celebrations and the better weather. Spring is indeed here, and we are looking forward in many ways to what is happening in Max West.

Back in March we were given permission by Presbytery to call a minister. This means that there is a process to be followed and work to be done and already our Session Clerk has begun to make sure that the Electoral Roll is complete. You will have an opportunity to check whether your name is on the roll or not. Please contact the Session Clerk or me if you have any queries about this. The next step will be to appoint the nomination committee and prepare a parish profile. All this will take time, but we hope to continue working on the task slowly but surely.

As ever, we are also having to set our budget for the coming year - not an easy task when finances are becoming more and more stretched. We value very much all the time, effort, skills and finance that you give to Max West in whatever way you can through each year, and we hope that will continue.

To try and help things along a bit we have organised a Gift Day to be held on **Saturday 8th June**. This is our Communion weekend and during the Saturday I will be in the church from 10am – 3pm to welcome anyone who would like to call in and hopefully make a donation to Max West. During the day there will be music from Stephen and Alistair, Anne Drever and the music group and myself, also tea/coffee and biscuits will be available. Please do come and listen and chat and take some time if you can to pray for the work that we do as the people of God in this area of Dumfries. We look forward to seeing you sometime on 8th June.

I hope that you all enjoy the summer and find time to have a break.
May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

Love and prayers,
Sally Russell

Greetings to you all,

As I write this on a very sunny Easter Monday, I find myself looking back over the past 3 months since I last penned my article for Spring Contact. I was delighted when Dumfries and Kirkcudbright Presbytery agreed to grant you permission to call your own minister.

I have been encouraged by Kirk Session and Deacons' Court having found a new spring in their step, and indeed my prayers will be with the Nomination Committee and for God to guide you to seeking a new minister. Sadly, nationally the Church of Scotland is facing a severe shortage of ministers and indeed there are many other parishes vacant. That is why it is **SO VITAL THAT EVERY MEMBER MAKES TIME TO PRAY TO GOD**, to grant Maxwelltown West a new minister.

Early February, we had a lovely service followed by a soup & sandwich lunch to fundraise for The Guild chosen project -The Boys Brigade. Of course we sang the BB hymn "Will your anchor hold" and reflected on the 3 principles of the BB/Guild project; Growth in Faith, Growth in Community, Growth in Young people.

Services over the winter months have been quite well attended but of course sadly many members are now unable to come due to age and or infirmity. However there are some members who perhaps have got out of the habit of worship.

These are the words of a lovely hymn:

"Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
Come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again."

Let me assure you of a warm friendly Maxwelltown West greeting, and Sunday by Sunday love flows amongst us all in church and after fellowship of tea, coffee or juice.

During the period of Lent, a group of us thoroughly enjoyed Bible Study every Monday evening for 6 weeks. We used the Lenten Study prepared by 'Embrace the Middle East' who are a Christian Organisation helping God's people in the Middle East countries. The title was 'Living Fruitfully', and that led us to what I hope was a service of Easter Joy reflecting upon the Fruits of the Spirit on Easter Sunday in Church.

Once again I thank those of you whom I have been privileged to visit in hospital, nursing home or in your own homes, for welcoming me and blessing me with your life journey stories. Please do make contact with me should you wish a pastoral visit at any time, or indeed if you know of someone who does.

Let me finish with PSALM 23

**The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.**

May summer be a time of joy and love and laughter as well as time to give thanks to God for his countless blessings He gives us daily.

Your Brother in Christ,

David Matheson

Session Clerk's Notes

Reflecting on Holy Week, the Walk of Witness on Good Friday forenoon went well with a small but enthusiastic number of our members alongside around 50 from various other churches. The weather was glorious and the progression to the fountain in the High Street demonstrated to the general public of Dumfries, part of the Easter Message. The Maunday Thursday service at St. Michael's Church was also attended by a number of our flock and was well received, including communion. The Friday evening service at Troqueer Church was an encouraging and more modern, upbeat offering.

The celebration of Holy Week was marred by the events in Paris; in the period following the fire at Notre Dame, the outpouring of shared feeling of loss was extensive. The determination of the French authorities to rebuild is heartening.

Following on from our previous edition, where finances were touched upon, the Deacons' Court has decided to hold a 'Gift Day' and will approach the membership to contribute to this in order to plug a shortfall in our finances. Details will be circulated by our District Elders when visiting and distributing this edition of 'Contact'. The Deacons' Court has also taken the step of adding our Church's name to a list of agencies who might be willing to help needy cases of individuals or families who find themselves in straightened circumstances through no fault of their own, but who fall outside of the defined remit of Dumfries and Galloway Social Services and other support services.

We are at last progressing slowly through the necessary process required in our bid to call a new minister. The Manse has had an updated smoke alarm/heat detector/CO alarm system installed and windows have been painted. Once the carpets on the landing have been relaid and a 'deep' clean carried out, the Presbytery Fabric Committee will carry out an inspection and (hopefully) will declare it fit for occupancy once more.

A further Congregational Consultation meeting is to be held in our Main Hall from **10.00am until 12.00 noon on Saturday, 29th June**. The main purpose of this meeting is to widen the input of the core congregation to the Parish Profile, which will form part of material used to advertise for a new minister. This is likely to be the most important of the series of meetings so far. It is therefore crucial that as many of you as possible attend this one. Also, I would invite everyone to pray for a good outcome.

Blessings,
Drew Crossan,
Session Clerk

Easter Greetings from Mathia Elders

"We had a very wonderful Palm Sunday. Rev. Harrison Thuku our parish minister preached the sermon. The text came from Mark 11: 1-11 and Colossians 3:23-24. It was a very moving sermon.

We also had a prize giving day for all our parish students who had finished class eight and had passed well to join secondary school. Also those who had finished form four and waiting to join their University Academic level. We celebrated their achievement. We are very proud to be part of you since this faith sharing partnership started. It is a prayer and desire that this will continue. The church has set aside the coming Sunday to be a prayer day for two issues.

1. To have special prayer for Maxwell West Town church for God to give them their continuing support for a suitable God fearing Minister.
2. It is also important to let you know that the country has been again suffering with a serious drought.

In fact we have had no rain since January this year, crops and even animals have a special day for prayer please join us in this day.

Our Text comes from the book 2nd Chronicles 7: 14-14.

Again we want to wish you all the best during the Easter Holiday.

Pass our greetings to all.

Again we want to inform you that the Elders of Mathia have elected John Njeru Karuoya to continue co-coordinating this faith sharing between us and you.

With a lot of Joy.”

from Mathia Elders

The World Church Team Special Award in Memory of Ian Slack

The World Church Team decided to make this award to an outstanding student in Mathia Church, Kenya. Thanks to the financial support from our congregation we decided to allocate some money in memory of Ian Slack who was a dedicated member of our team and church. Ian was very well known in Christian circles and well thought of in our parish and farther afield as well.

Ian and Rosemary went out to Bondo 12 years ago not knowing what they would find. In the following years they also visited Mathia church, who became our partners through World Mission faith share. Over the 12-year period since their first visit, we have supported Bondo with a total of £72,000, providing fresh water wells, sanitation and education. They have progressed successfully over the years and are now self-sufficient.

Our Mathia student bursary which is donated every year, has now been awarded to over 30 students. Some have graduated and others are progressing with extra studies. We asked Mathia elders to nominate one special student who deserves our prize. The criteria they chose was for someone progressing beyond a diploma, a disciplined youth who supports the church and is an example to other youths in the community. The photo on the back cover is of the proud winner of the Ian Slack Memorial Scholarship - Victor Murage. I trust we will hear more of this young man as he receives his presentation very soon.

A D

News from our Missionary Partners

Gary, Jacqueline Brough and family moved to Malawi from Lenzie, East Dunbartonshire at the end of 2018 as mission partners of the Church of Scotland. Their aim is to contribute to the creation of a vibrant and God-fearing society.

Gary has visited Malawi many times over 6 years but missed sharing his experiences with his family. Both he and Jacqueline felt the call to do more to help the people of this country. Their young child, Morven, has taken her first steps in Malawi and Eilidh has settled in well to her new school life there.

Gary and Jacqueline have staff to help them in the house and garden and security which they found difficult to accept, but they realise they are helping local people find jobs.

The family know there are many things we take for granted in the UK which are not available in Malawi but have soon learned to adapt, i.e. no television, no power most Sundays and it takes 2 days to download films etc.

Women suffer from gender-based violence in the home and even girls as young as Eilidh are victims. Medical resources struggle to cope and education must be used to help to combat this.

Malawi is in the run up to a general election just now. Corruption is a big problem - not just casual bribes that are part of everyday life, but organised corruption that pervades government. It is the poorest and most vulnerable who suffer.

Gary and his team are engaged in bringing these cases to court, also working with other civil society and human rights organisations.

He knows his task is enormous but with his great faith and family support he has the strength to carry on.

M Y, Missionary Correspondent

Save the date – “Max West’s Got Talent” – Friday 4th October 2019

Join us in the church on the evening of **Friday 4th October** for a showcase of the fantastic talent of the youth of our parish. Full details are in progress and will be advertised once available. In the meantime, we can confirm that it will be presented by our Sunday Club stars, Georgia and Blair, who are already busy with ideas.

As per the previous “Max West’s Got Talent” in February 2017, this is not a competition but a celebration of our youth and promises to be an evening not to be missed! If you would like further information, or know of any groups or individual school aged kids who might like to be involved, please get in touch with me or any of the CHYPs group (see item below). Hope you can make it!

CHYPs – Church Youth Policy Group

This group was formed by Rev Gordon Savage in 2005 with the aim in his original invitation reading -

“The Kirk Session on 28th June 2005 agreed the formation of a Youth Policy Group. This has arisen for two reasons:

- Firstly, our Sunday School is at a crossroads...we need to think seriously about the future direction of the Sunday School; whether it needs to be re-launched in a new format; who will staff it, and so on.
- Secondly, as a church, we ought to have a Youth Policy – an overview of what we offer to our young people, from creche to teens, including how the uniformed organisations fit in.”

During Gordon’s illness Rev Donald Campbell led the group, and following discussion under his guidance it was agreed the group would continue with a member of the congregation as chair, with future decisions depending on the wish of the minister at the time. I took on the chair in 2011 and have continued in this role since.

Rev Liz Mack and Rev David Sutherland were, and currently David Matheson continues to be, active members of the group and this has served as an excellent forum for planning of youth involvement in the Sunday services, in addition to continuing to seek answers for Gordon’s original goals.

We meet in the committee room roughly quarterly with additional meetings if specific events require planning (such as “Max West’s Got Talent” advertised above). There are usually around 6 of us with the minutes circulated to a wider number and reported to the Kirk Session.

The group will continue throughout the vacancy and the future of the group thereafter will depend on the wishes of any new minister and the Kirk Session at that time. Any member of Max West with an interest or involvement in any of the youth groups is welcome to come along to the meetings which are intimated by e-mail circulation and in the Sunday Service intimation sheet - the next meeting being **Monday 3rd June, 7.45 – 8.45pm** in the committee room, Max West.

A W, CHYPs convener

Max West Movies

The spring season of Max West Movies ended on Friday April 5th with a showing of “Mary Magdalene”, a most appropriate and moving film leading up to Holy Week.

Max West Movies began as an idea from M Marshall, our enthusiastic projectionist and fellow film buff, with a view to raising funds to offset the cost of our new audio-visual system used in church to such great effect. The good news is that at the time of writing we have reached our target and Max West Movies has been such a success that a new season of films is being planned for the autumn.

The first screening will be on **Friday September 13th at 7p.m.** MM, JL and myself would welcome suggestions from yourselves about films to consider for the autumn season. Screenings so far have been:- Musical [7 Brides for 7 Brothers]: Comedy [Waking Ned Devine]: Drama [The 39 Steps]: Classic [The Italian Job]: Faith [The Way. Mary Magdalene] and Family [Arthur Christmas].

This edition’s competition tests your film knowledge. Do you recognise these tag lines from a Scottish film released in 1983?

“A beautiful coastline – a rich oilman wants to develop it – a poor beachcomber wants to live on it – an entire village wants to profit by it – a real live mermaid wants to save it – and only one of them will get their way!”
What film?

We look forward to seeing you on September 13th.

D J

Pilgrimage 5

Pilgrimage 3 - Dundrennan Abbey and Pilgrimage 4 - St Queran’s Holy Well, attracted 15 walkers and assorted dogs who enjoyed great views over the Solway from Dundrennan and the bonus of an incredibly accurate Met. Office forecast: the rain poured down in biblical buckets as the heavens opened just as we reached the warmth and shelter of “The Crown and Anchor” and a welcome bowl of soup.

Pilgrimage 4 was blessed with fine weather after a week of rain and all present voted Mabie House Hotel scones the definitely ‘mabie’ best scones that they had ever tasted – with the exception of Max West Coffee Morning scones of course!

Pilgrimage 5 is at the planning stage and will take the Covenanting Times as its theme. This area played an important part in the history of the Covenanters and the hills around us bear testament to “the Killing Times”. People who signed the National Covenant in 1638 became known as “Covenanters”. Signing the Covenant confirmed their opposition to interference by Stuart Kings in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. And so began 50 years of suffering, transportation, torture and killings. Those ministers who supported the covenant were ousted from their churches and forced to leave their parishes, but many of them continued to preach at “conventicles” in the open air, barns and houses. Preachers and their fellow Covenanters were hunted down, imprisoned and often transported or executed. Persecution intensified under Charles II. Hundreds of Covenanter memorials are to be found in our area. Some are found in kirkyards, but many more are in the hills and woods where martyrs were hunted down by Royalist dragoons.

“Halt passenger, tell if thou ever saw

Men shot to death without process of law....”

“The Covenanters: the National Covenant and Scotland” by D. Stevenson is an excellent introduction to the subject.

Our next Pilgrimage walk intends to visit the site of a “conventicle” and its Communion Stones. Further details of this walk will be posted in the Simmons Hall or telephone D J for further information.

Walking The Camino de Santiago

This past Easter Sunday, I was not able to be at the service at Max West, helping with brunch and sharing and enjoying one of my favourite times of the year. Instead, I was in Spain, walking a small part of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela – the way of St James of a field of stars. Just for four days – a taster for hopeful further adventures and an ambition to walk it all. Little by little.

I was with my sister Linda who, like me, had never done this before and who, like me, spoke very little Spanish. Our saving grace was that we were also with a friend Barbara, who was fluent and had walked the Camino before but had not covered this particular section - from Puente La Reina to Logroño. Four days, 53 miles.

I had been inspired and motivated by several things. My niece completed it all, in five weeks, a few years ago and I was hugely impressed. Several other friends had also tackled it, all at once or in little sections over time. Then I saw the film *The Way*, here in church, a few months ago and I decided to have a go. My newly retired sister was thinking the same.

It was only four days of walking but a wonderful experience. The weather was kind. While you were enjoying uncommonly hot weather here, Spain was warm and sunny and occasionally cloudy – perfect walking weather. The pilgrimage took us through almond groves, vineyards, meadows and fields of corn, olive groves, forests and woods, tracks and paths and tarmac roads, up steep hills, even steeper hills, over bridges and rivers and streams. All of it through history, monuments, fountains, churches, dusty villages with stories to tell of hundreds of years of pilgrimages.

People we met were kind. There is care and respect and a gentle warmth between everyone on the Camino - pilgrims and locals alike. We all had a common purpose and on the path, in bars, at water fountains and in the hostels where we shared breakfast, we exchanged stories of why we were here and our journeys so far.

The delight of being in and surrounded by nature and history, purposefully going somewhere but letting your mind and thoughts wander for long swathes of time, was very special. I loved the chat with pilgrims and with Linda and Barbara at night but mostly walked on my own. It was you and the path. That was it. We talked a lot about what pilgrimage meant to the three of us, but it was too early in the adventure to come up with a simple clear idea. A work in progress. A privilege.

On Easter morning, I was thinking about you all at Max West and phoned the Social Group to wish them all a Happy Easter as they prepared your brunch, from high on a beautiful hill overlooking a valley surrounded by hills and olive trees, drinking a diet coke, 3 hours of walking done, the sun shining. It was lovely to think about you all, the church family, at home and at Church.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter.

JS

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

The Guild

With winter activities finished and the first year of our theme “One Journey, Many Roads” completed, we may be considering a journey with companions and “seeking the way” as our current theme suggests, with summer holidays and sunshine not far away.

This can be exciting as well as daunting perhaps, meeting new places and new people.

On our travel theme, Ian White, our National Guild Secretary, writes about stories of the Israelites leaving Egypt, Joseph travelling with his brothers and Jesus with his disciples not knowing who or what they may meet.

Perhaps our journey through life is like that, even travelling to new places on holiday may challenge us as well as excite us.

In our human frailty we may forget that God is always there shining a light ahead for us, under control and who will see us safely to our destination.

On **6th June** we have an invitation from Nithsdale Guild's Together for a summer celebration of songs with a special speaker in Troqueer church at 7pm. Do come along and bring your friends too. All are welcome.

Wishing you all a sunny summer ahead.

Kind regards,

A D, Convener

Good Companions

Good Companions have continued to meet on a fortnightly basis. We have had a few sessions of Bible Study led by David Matheson and these have been much appreciated. Dorothy Alexander came along to one of our meetings and shared recipes with us on ideas for quick foods. We all had a taster session as Dorothy had brought samples of each item and we took home a 'doggy bag' of what was left. This was something different for the group and was very much enjoyed.

We have a few speakers arranged for the weeks after Easter and we plan to finish for the session at the end of June.

Please come along and support us. You will be made very welcome.

E R

Parish Visitors Group

Our visits are welcomed by the housebound and we continue to carry out this part of our church ministry. Sadly, we lost two of our members due to death.

We have set the date for our next afternoon tea meet-up and plans are afoot to put this in place. Please keep us in mind if you know someone who you think would benefit from a visitor. You must obtain their permission before we can put a visit in place.

E R

Messy Church

"Messy Church" continues to play an important part in the life of our church. Messy Church usually meets on the last Saturday of the month from 4p.m to 6:30pm in the main hall, with activities organised around a central theme. We also share a meal together. We often have up to 20 "Messy Churchers", of all faiths and none. This is a practical example of our church's outreach.

February's theme was "Lent" and traditions associated with the forty days before Easter. Our Locum David Matheson gave a masterclass in pancake making – and tossing! March told the Easter story and the children made a time-line banner, from Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His Resurrection. (See photo on back cover.) The banner was displayed in Church on Easter Sunday. April's theme was "Spring" and new growth. A Treasure Hunt in church, including a golden egg and a coconut [!], proved to be very popular and involving for the participants.

A Stott is owed a big "Thank You" for all the organisational work that she does to ensure that "Messy Church" is a meaningful and memorable experience for the children. Thank you also to the helpers on a Saturday and to those providing our communal meal. Thanks to all.

D J

After Eights

Spring has arrived and the end of our programme which concludes with a get together at The Nith Hotel. We have shared some varied experiences - local history with the story of Rev Henry Duncan who as Minister at Ruthwell developed the first savings bank in the world. Keith Kirk returned with his impressive photography and tales of a countryside ranger.

A fun hands-on session with Julie Hollis considered the usefulness of art as therapy and Kirsty Irving and Victoria Brett from The Guides, impressed us with illustrated stories from their respective travels in India and Cambodia last summer. We are grateful to all our speakers and members and friends who have supported the group.

This year we have also undertaken to help HMP Dumfries by providing toiletries for younger male prisoners on their release. We have already collected and delivered packs of basic toiletries and will continue to do this over the summer period. If anyone would like to support us in this initiative, contributions may be left in the Simmons Hall beside the foodbank collection box.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

H J

Brownies

The Brownies have been busy following our new Girlguiding programme. The first Skills Builder badges have been presented. 11 girls achieved stage 2 of the First Aid Skills Builder badge and 14 achieved stage 3.

We were pleased to be awarded a runner up certificate for the President's Trophy at the Annual Review of Dumfriesshire Girlguiding held in March. This is awarded for "The variety of activities undertaken during the last year within the unit, community, outings, fundraising and special County events".

Some of the activities the girls have enjoyed this term are a visit from a police dog handler with his three dogs, celebrating Thinking Day including making time travel machines to help us think about Guiding in the past and the future and submitting ideas for Girlguiding strategy 2020.

At the end of the term, the Brownies made Easter bonnets. These were worn when we visited Lochduhar at the beginning of April to sing campfire songs.

Highlights of the summer term for the Brownies to look forward to are a movie night, sponsored walk in Mabie Forest and a Teddy Bears' picnic.

Spaces are currently available for new Brownies to start in August so please contact me if you require any further details.

J McE, Brownie Leader

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
July		
7th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. J. Sloan
14th	VACANT	Mrs. P. Mackenzie
21st	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. M. Holmes
28th	Mrs. E. Campbell	VACANT
August		
4th	Mrs. O. Woods	Mrs. Adamson
11th	Mrs. A. Howitt	VACANT
18th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Wallace
25th	Mrs. B. Wilson	Mrs. Christie
September		
1st	VACANT	VACANT
8th	Mrs. C. Whipp	VACANT
15th	WEDDING	WEDDING
22nd	Mrs. E. Riddick	Miss P. Jardine
29th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	Mrs. L. Hyles

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

Children's Corner

Hi boys and girls.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break and didn't eat too much chocolate. We certainly had some lovely weather over the weekend. This month in preparation for our new Bible Club (which will replace the Sunday School after the holidays in September) Blair and Georgia have started preparing a personalised booklet about the bible and its contents to help them after the summer holidays.

Our aim will be to break down this amazing book and find out more about what it tells us in a child-friendly way, making the transition to adult church life smoother and not such a big step. This year, both children will be awarded a bible of their choice to use each week when they come to church, with our current supply of Good News bibles being available to any children who only intermittently attend.

As Georgia would normally be finishing Sunday School this year, this will enable her to continue coming, with lessons geared up more to 10-16years, especially as the future of the Sunday School has been uncertain for some time now. It is thought that should we have more children of 5-10 yrs in the future, that perhaps something could be started again then. Creche will still be available for children 0-4yrs should the need arise. This will be decided on a week to week basis depending on need. Two of the elders have kindly agreed to offer their services should they be required.

It is exciting to look at the bible in a more thorough way. I know a few of you might wonder who wrote the bible. Well in fact many people contributed to the writing of this book that we now use and love. There are many versions and translations, all aiming to increase our understanding of its teachings. It is truly amazing that God used so many people to tell his big story. The bible transcends language, culture and time and is a truly diverse collection of literature containing a true message of redemption and renewal, which is not only inspired by His holy spirit, but is written in real terms, from a human perspective.

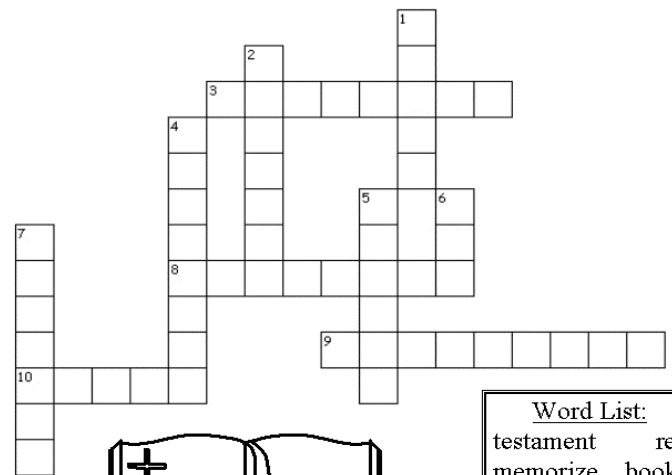
Some of the Old Testament lessons were only spoken but were then communicated and preserved for thousands of years by others. Many people regard Moses as the one who ensured the narratives, laws and communication of the first 5 books of the bible were preserved, making him the primary human author, with others such as David, King Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Amos all being credited with writing or inspiring much of the bible's wisdom and literature.

The New Testament contains stories, teachings and letters that were generally circulated around Christian churches. The apostles Paul and Peter were some of the earliest authors of these letters, the aim of which were to be read aloud to communities, who would then memorise them and pass them on to more and more people. Luke, Matthew, John and Mark all were viewed as important in penning the life of Jesus and the early church. The Gospel of John was written by one of Jesus' closest disciples giving us an eye witness account. There are amazingly about 30 main contributors in the Old Testament and 10 in the New Testament. Wow! Interesting stuff!

It is worth remembering that the bible is not just any old book either. It is the word of God, giving us information on how God worked in the past and how he does so now, repairing all that is broken. He did not tell the prophets what to write. Through their own lives and experiences God enabled them to share his word.

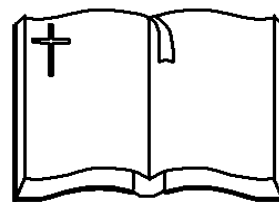
Each book shows the distinct personality of the writer and each contains many messages for us. We would do well to try and regularly read some of the scripture as it has so much to offer. New, translated bibles make it easier than ever to fully understand some of the writings. Why don't you ask your parents or grandparents to let you see their childhood bibles? You will be amazed at how the language has changed over the years. See you at Sunday Club. Dawn Why not try these simple puzzles:

Bible Crossword



Word List:

testament	red
memorize	books
inspired	guide
promises	letters
parable	verses



Across

3. The best way to keep the Word of God in you heart is to ____ it.
8. Every word in the Bible (no matter who wrote it) is ____ by God.
9. The Bible is separated into the old and new ____.
10. There are 66 of these in the Bible.

Down

1. The Bible is our biggest ____ in helping us know how to live.
2. Some of the books of the Bible are ____ written to help and encourage others.
4. The Bible is full of these just for you.
5. Each chapter has a number of these in it.
6. In some Bibles Jesus' words are printed in this color.
7. Jesus' favorite way to teach and tell stories was by telling these.

About the Bible Anagrams

Unscramble these Bible story words;

hrttu _____

bbeil _____

eimoprss _____

aceghint _____

aeemnssttt _____

eerssv _____

bkoos _____

ahorstu _____

acehprst _____

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd June: CHYPs meeting 7.45-8.45pm in Committee Room

Saturday 8th June: Gift Day 10am–3pm

Sunday 9th June: Communion at 11am and again at 3pm in Hall

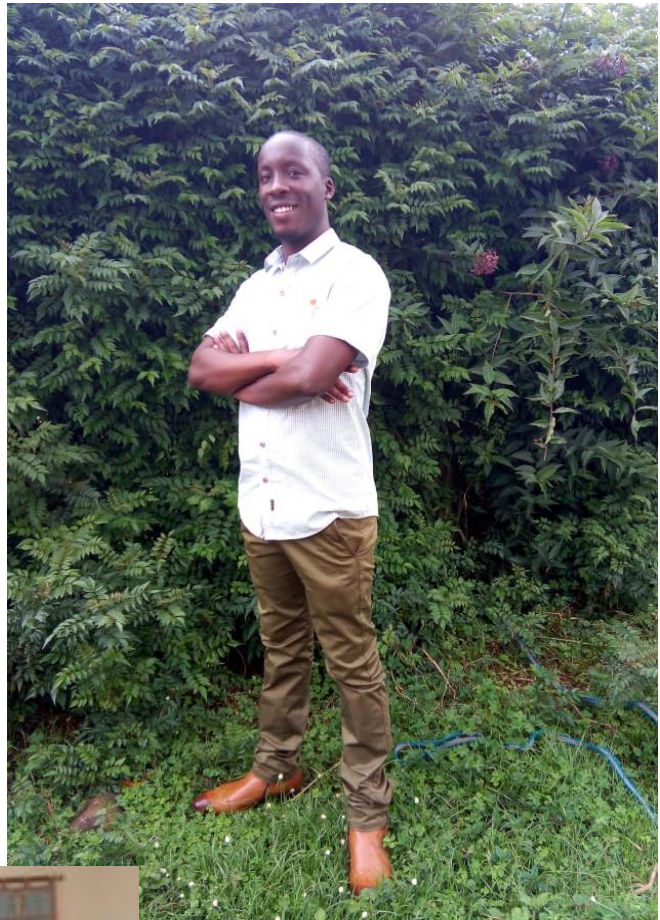
Saturday 29th June: Congregational Meeting 10.00-12 noon

Friday 13th September: Film Night at 7pm

Friday 4th October: Max West's got Talent

Please remember that all this information, and more, is available on our Church website
www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk

**Victor Murage – Winner of the Ian Slack
Memorial_Scholarship**



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