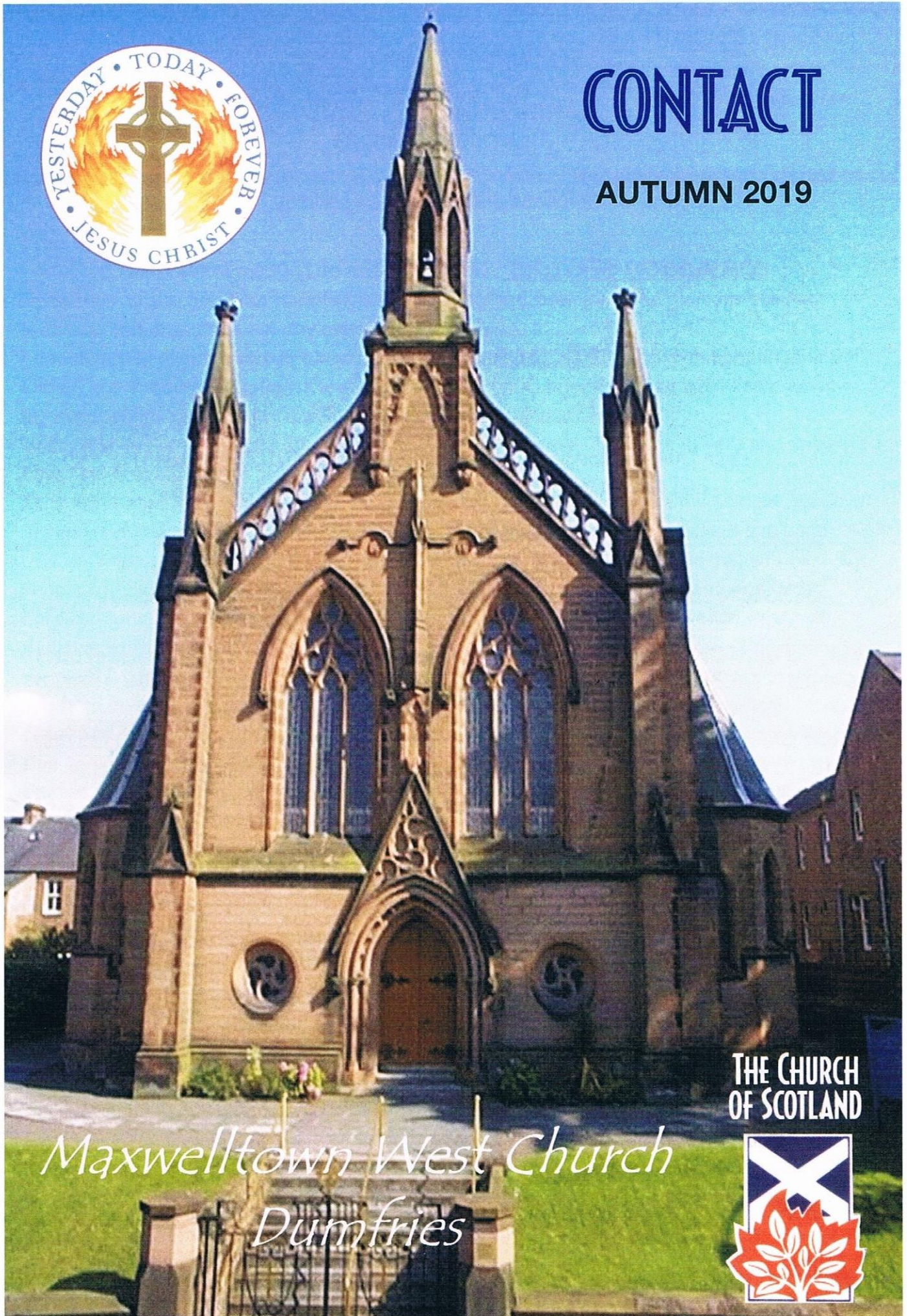


CONTACT

AUTUMN 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: 1st September at 11.00am in the Church and 3.00pm in the Main Hall

SUNDAY CLUB: 11.00am during term time.

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: D Crossan, Dumfries (264569) CLERK TO DEACONS' COURT: Miss Jardine, Dumfries
ORGANIST: Mr Crosbie, , Dumfries TREASURER: A Allan, New Abbey
CHURCH OFFICER: Mr Wilson, Dumfries FABRIC CONVENER: Mr Miller, Dumfries
EDITOR OF 'CONTACT': Mrs Saddington, Dumfries

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

21st June: Mrs. Eileen Wilson

26th June: Colin Currie

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.*

Frae Your Locum.

Greetings to you all. I do hope that you have enjoyed some of the glorious summer sunshine and enjoyed a holiday away for a few days.

Easter Day brought tragedy to our world in the awful Christian church bombings in Sri Lanka. Over 250 people lost their lives, and over 500 injured, many with life changing injuries, whilst celebrating and living their faith in Jesus Christ. We are so lucky to be able to come to Maxwelltown West Church in safety and know we have the freedom to do so.

It is estimated that well over 200 million Christians worldwide worship God on Sundays in fear and are often being intimidated and harassed all because they love our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the 21st century and yet go back 2,000 years and you will find The People of the Way (as the early Christians were called) also facing death and being harassed and intimidated. So sadly, humankind has not learnt to love each other as Jesus taught those he met. He told the people "Love your neighbour as you love yourself." How my prayer is for the world to heed Jesus' words of wisdom.

We held a very joyous Easter Service in Maxwelltown West and it was followed by a feast and great "craic". Due to pressure of time and educational curriculum, Laurieknowe School held their Easter Service after the Easter Holidays on 24th April. The reading chosen was "The Road to Emmaus" - St Luke ch 24 v 13-35 and was expertly read by P7 pupils. Well done to you all. Again, it was good to see many families of the children in church coming to support them and Laurieknowe School. We look forward to welcoming Laurieknowe School again at Christmas time.

We held a special service as our "2 Stars" of Sunday club ended their year. Indeed, for Georgia it is also a time for her to say farewell to Laurieknowe School and soon she will start at Dumfries Academy. Our sincere and grateful thanks go to Dawn McLeod for her inspiration of working with Georgia and Blair to find out what they would like to do for year 2019/20. They were both presented with a bible of their choice along with study materials and backpack bag to carry their "stuff" to church. They, along with Dawn, are going explore and learn their way through the books of the bible and learn more about God. I wish them well and look forward to exploring our bible with them before they head off to join Dawn on Sunday mornings. May God bless them on their exciting journey.

Of course it would be great to see some more children coming along to church and we offer a warm friendly welcome.

Over the summer weeks, we as church on Sunday mornings have journeyed through the Book of Hebrews. Hebrews is a book of encouragement and offers so much wisdom for us to learn and show us how to live our Christian lives.

For example Hebrews ch 10 vs 24, 25

"24. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. 25. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer".

Once again I thank everyone who has made me very welcome into your homes or bedside in Hospital or Nursing Home, as I have visited. I always feel blessed when I visit our members, and indeed I am often inspired and encouraged by your strong, resolute faith in spite of hardships of health etc.

As I said at the beginning of this article, we are so fortunate to enjoy freedom to come and worship our Lord God. Please come and join us. Give time for God and God will bless you with love, joy and peace. On **1st September** Rev Sally Russell will lead the Service of Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

May I suggest to those who have not attended for a while, please come along and feel the brotherly/sisterly love of fellow members on this special service.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service along with our Guild Dedication will be held on **Sunday 29th September**. Again, a perfect time to return to Maxwelltown West Church and worship and praise our Lord for his blessings of food and clean water we all enjoy.

God Bless you all,

Your Brother in Christ,

David Matheson

World Church Team – Report on the Scholarship Fund Year (2019)

“Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that the good Lord Jesus Christ is still your Saviour.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the continued support your church has provided for us in aid of the university students in PCEA Mathia Church.

This year’s scholarship fund was distributed to all the concerned students by the parish minister together with the local church leadership on Wednesday 15th May, 2019. (Photos on back cover).

We currently have nine students on the scholarship program.

On the day of the disbursement ceremony, most students were not yet on vacation. They were however represented by their parents. All of them expressed appreciation both to God and to the Maxwell church. The students have promised to work hard and excel in their various disciplines as is our hope and prayer. Each of the students received an equitable amount.

We would also like to let you know that students who have earlier benefited from the fund in the previous year and before that have completed university and are now waiting for their graduation.

We pray that our alliance and friendship shall continue to flourish. We also pray for the advancement of Christ Kingdom among our churches for the glory of God. May you have a good time in your fellowship with Christ.

On behalf of the Mathia P.C.E.A., I am Michael Murage, currently one of the beneficiaries of our alliance. I study at the University of Eastern Africa Baraton.”

Maxwelltown West Church History- Ministers of Our Church
Henry Glen Alexander Simmons 1944-1983
The Eleventh Minister of our Church - Part Two – Dumfries

On the 27th April 1944, six weeks before the landings in Normandy were announced and the Second World War entered its final stages, Henry Glen Alexander Simmons was inducted to the Charge of Maxwelltown West Church, Dumfries. The announcement was the start of a busy time for the new minister.

Harry Simmons was accompanied from Parkhead in Glasgow to Dumfries by his mother Agnes and their Housekeeper Miss Barbara Kennedy. The family were faced with settling into a new manse in a rural town after life in the city and coping with the stresses of a community and congregation attempting to return to a normal life, after the disruption caused by the War.

Barbara Kennedy (Kenny) was born Barbara Bishop McNeillage the second child of James McNeillage a baker and Annie Miller, in Milton Glasgow in 1896. Annie died in 1901 and James in 1902 when Barbara was 6 years old. Barbara was quickly adopted by William and Agnes Kennedy, a childless couple in their early fifties. Barbara's name was changed to Kennedy and the adoption was probably arranged by the Church. Barbara had an older sister Annie and a younger brother John, who were adopted by two spinsters called Brace. Annie possibly emigrated to Australia, and after joining the army for a short period when he was 18, John went to England where he married and worked as a cook. He had at least one of a family and died aged 80. It is not known if there was any contact between Barbara and her family after they were adopted.

Looked after by his mother and Kenny their housekeeper, who also looked after the manse garden, Harry was able to devote his life to being a true parish minister to his congregation, all of whom become his friends, and to the wider community of Dumfries where as a well-known face he took an active part in the life of the town. Maxwelltown West Manse became a place of welcome for visitors to Dumfries.

In 1952, eight years after arriving in Dumfries, Harry's mother Agnes passed away aged 78. After a private funeral she was buried in Glasgow.

Barbara Kennedy continued as housekeeper looking after the manse and the large garden.

Harry was an active parish minister, conducting two services every Sunday. On 25th April 1969 a social was held to mark Harry's Semi Jubilee as minister of Maxwelltown West Church.

In 1978 after a long illness, Barbara Kennedy, aged 82, housekeeper and friend of the Simmons family passed away in Dumfries Infirmary.

Harry continued to live in the Manse on his own, supported by members of the congregation and friends. He regularly conducted the two services every Sunday and ministered to the congregation. After a short illness Harry died, aged 73, in 1983. His funeral service was held in a full Maxwelltown West Church on 28th April. He was buried in Cathcart Cemetery in Glasgow. Church published a commemoration booklet with contributions by members and friends. Tribute was also published to Harry in the Dumfries Standard as a commemoration of his work in the Dumfries community.

B W

Pilgrimage 6 - Saturday July 6th

"The Martyr of the Solway"

The Martyr of the Solway memorial at Kippford is (was) a small wooden figure with red fishing-net hair, chained to a post in the Urr estuary. It is (was) a memorial to the Wigtown Martyrs - two Covenanters, Margaret McLauchlan aged 63 and Margaret Wilson aged 18 (the young redhead represented in the painting "The Martyr of the Solway" by Everitt Millais.)

The women were tied to stakes in the river Bladnoch in Wigtown Bay and drowned by the incoming tide on May 11th 1685 for refusing to swear the Episcopalian Oath recognising James VII as head of the church. For Covenanters, God and Christ were head of the church.

When our group of eight "pilgrims" reached the site of the memorial by the narrow road between Kippford and the approach to Rough Island, we were disappointed to find it was no longer there. We had to content ourselves with the following advice, carved onto a slate slab nearby:-

"Some will love thee: some will hate thee: some will flatter thee. Cease from man and look above thee. Trust in God and do the right."

Our walk had begun by the Solway Yacht Club in Kippford on a beautifully sunny and warm afternoon, perfect for our walk to Castle Point. The Jubilee Path took us to Rockcliffe, where we successfully dissuaded John Love from stopping at the ice cream van to buy one. Spoilspoorts! Along the shore to Nelson's Grave, the Solway looked more like the Caribbean with white sand, vivid blue sea and sky, puffy white clouds and exotic shoreline plants.

Castle Point gave us fine views out over the Solway to St Bee's Head and along the rocky coast and cliffs to Southerness lighthouse. To the west lay Heston Island and the Galloway coastline. We returned to Kippford past the coastguard cottages in the shadow of the Mote of Mark, crunching along the cockleshell beach. Tea and cakes at the Anchor Hotel did not disappoint and we all agreed that our walk had shown our own "Scottish Riviera" at its very best.

Our next Pilgrimage Walk will be in September, with a Heritage Walk through parts of Dumfries. Look out for the poster in the Simmons Hall nearer the time.

D J

Max West Movies - Autumn Season

The autumn season of Max West Movies starts on **Friday September 13th at 7:00 p.m.** with a screening of that musical/western classic of 1953 "Calamity Jane", starring Doris Day as Calamity and Howard Keel as Wild Bill Hickok. Sing along to the Oscar-winning "Secret Love" and relive Doris Day's performance described at the time as "busy as a fizzy sarsaparilla".

Friday October 11th at 7:00 p.m. "The Hundred Foot Journey" 2014. Displaced from their native India, the Kadam family led by Papa [Om Puri] settle in the quaint French village of St Antonin Noble Val. They open an Indian restaurant, the "Maison Mumbai", which happens to be less than a hundred feet from Madame Mallory's [Helen Mirren] Michelin-starred classical French restaurant "Le Saule Pleureur". The story weaves magic between two very different cultures and imbues St Antonin with flavours of life that even Mme. Mallory cannot ignore.

Friday November 15th at 7:00 p.m. “Fishermen’s Friends” 2019. No, not the lozenges for sore throats and coughs, but an uplifting film that tells the true story of how an a cappella sea shanty singing group of men hit the big time after starting singing in pubs during the mid 1990’s in Port Isaac. Starring Daniel Mays, David Hayman, James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton.

Friday December 13th at 7:00 p.m. “Nativity 1” 2009, starring Martin Freeman and Ashley “Annan” Jensen. “A Hollywood company are coming to see our Nativity and we’re all going to be famous!”

Again our thanks go to M M without whom none of this would be possible. There is no fixed price for entry to these films, but we encourage donations to offset the cost of our Public Performance Licence. We look forward to seeing you on September 13th. “Whip crackaway!!”

D J

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Scout Group

The Scout Group have now moved out of the Church halls, to Georgetown Scout Hall, to allow for a full complement of sections.

The Group would like to thank the Kirk Session and everyone at Maxwelltown West for supporting the Group for probably more than 60 years. We are indebted to the Church and still hope to attend the Church Parades. The Scouts had a camp at St Annes the week before Edenfest. Unfortunately it poured, so the AGM to be held there was abandoned and moved to the last Scout night before the holiday.

H MacD, GSL

The Guild

Autumn again with lots to look forward to in the Guild.

I hope you all feel refreshed after the summer break and have possibly made many journeys on holiday or to visit family.

Following our strategy “One Journey many Roads” and now “Seeking the way with Companions on the Road”, we are on a journey of development, moving with the times and hoping to stimulate more interest in our Guild, still with a Christian base.

We hope our meetings will continue to appeal to more men as well as women with a lighter focus and perhaps more music. Any good ideas are always welcome with our committee and we are happy for visitors to come along any time and find out more about us.

Harvest Thanksgiving and the Guild Service of Dedication will join together again, taking place on **Sunday 29th September** when you will also hear about this year’s project “The Free to Live Trust” rescuing women and children from modern slavery in India.

Look out for information regarding the Guild programme in our Church Diary or from any member of the committee.

A D, Guild Convener

Brownies

During the last term, the Brownies worked on their Innovate Skills Builder badge. Activities included setting up zip wires (for a Teddy Bear) where speed, distance and time were measured, building towers to consider foundations and structures and being a sports scientist to improve sports equipment.

We also held a Movie Night and enjoyed watching the film "Ballerina".

Our sponsored walk in Mabie Forest raised an excellent total of £553.50. The Brownies chose the charities of Children with Cancer UK, Born Free and the First Base Agency for the sponsor money to be divided between.

Gemma achieved her Brownie Gold Award in June and was presented with her badge and certificate by Mrs Rosalind Hall, County President of Girlguiding Dumfriesshire. Gemma is the first Brownie in Girlguiding Dumfriesshire to achieve the Brownie Gold Award. We held a special celebration evening and had a delicious cake for everyone to enjoy. (See photo on back cover.)

At the end of term, we visited the Savings Bank Museum in Ruthwell where the Brownies had a tour of the museum and enjoyed completing an activity book. We then had a Teddy Bears' picnic in the museum garden in the summer sunshine.

We said goodbye to our Assistant Brownie Leader, Lynsey, who is moving to a teaching position in Fife and to our Young Leader, Caitlin. Thanks again for all your hard work.

Brownies resume on 27th August. We currently expect to have a full Unit of 30 Brownies but can take names for our waiting list.

J McE, Brownie Leader

Badminton Club

Last season's numbers were down slightly until some members who had played with us a few years ago came back again. We also had a new junior member whose mother has been playing for some time. He joined after the Christmas break and played regularly, fitting in well with everyone.

The Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy was won by Jane Marchbank and Les Martin.

The annual dinner was held at the Nith Hotel, Glencaple, and we had a fun night ten pin bowling at Carlisle. We are a very sociable group and new members are always made very welcome. Our new season resumes on Tuesday 3rd September.

J M

Good Companions

I am happy to report that Good Companions is thriving. We now have 12 members in our group and would welcome anyone wishing to come along and join us.

Our session ended with a lunch at Cavens which we all enjoyed and we look forward to the next session starting on 18th September at 2pm in the Committee Room.

We are indebted to David Matheson for the time he has given us for the bible study and hope to continue with this in the next session.

Please come along for an afternoon of friendship, tea and biscuits.

E R

Parish Visitors Group

This group continues to visit our housebound. We had a very successful afternoon tea at the Edenbank Hotel when we enjoyed hot scones, jam, cream and a tray bake with tea and coffee. There was lots of chatter when those attending caught up with their news, as many hadn't been in touch since the last meet up before Christmas.

Please let me know if you know of anyone who would welcome a visit.

E R

	Church Flowers	Memorial Vase
October		
6th	Mrs. S. Gurney	Mrs. S. Gurney
13th	Mrs. M. Kingan	Mrs. O. Woods
20th	Mrs. M. Thomson	Mrs. E. McNay
27th	VACANT	Mrs. R. Poole
November		
3rd	Mrs. H. Johnson	VACANT
10th	VACANT	Mrs. M. Coulson
17th	Mrs. B. Shearer	VACANT
24th	Mrs. E. Crossan	VACANT
December		
1st	Miss. J. Marchbank	Mrs. C. Muir
8th	Mrs. M. Wallace	Mrs. N. Cameron
15th	Mrs. S. Brown	Mrs. E. Riddick
22nd	Mrs. A. Dunbar	VACANT
29th	Mrs. A. Dunbar	VACANT
January		
5th	Mrs. E. Riddick	Mrs. L. McWhan

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

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 1st September: Communion at 11am and 3pm

Friday 13th September: Film Night at 7pm

Sunday 29th September: Harvest Thanksgiving and Guild Dedication Service

Friday 11th October: Film Night at 7pm

Friday 15th November: Film Night at 7pm

Friday 13th December: Film Night at 7pm.

VACANCY CHURCH OFFICER REQUIRED

Due to the pending retirement of our long standing Church Officer, a vacancy has arisen for this post.

The Role:

- Prepare halls for outside lets as required for meetings. Ensure halls and toilets are clean and all pathways and grass cleared of rubbish.
- Ensure heating and lighting is used in the most economical way to meet all requirements.
- Ensure the grounds of the church are kept in good order.
- Ensure cleaner's duties have been fulfilled and adequate supplies are available at all times.
- Be responsible for the security of the church.
- Refer all matters of repair and maintenance to the fabric convener.

The successful candidate will attract an hourly rate of £8.21. They will require some experience of working alone and managing their own time.

Hours of Work:

10 hours per 5 day week.

To apply, please send your C.V. with a covering letter to:

Clerk to the Deacons' Court
Maxwelltown West Church
Rosemount Street
Dumfries

Closing date: 1 September 2019



Celebrating Brownies



Presentation to Mathia Students

Parish Visitors' Group Tea



