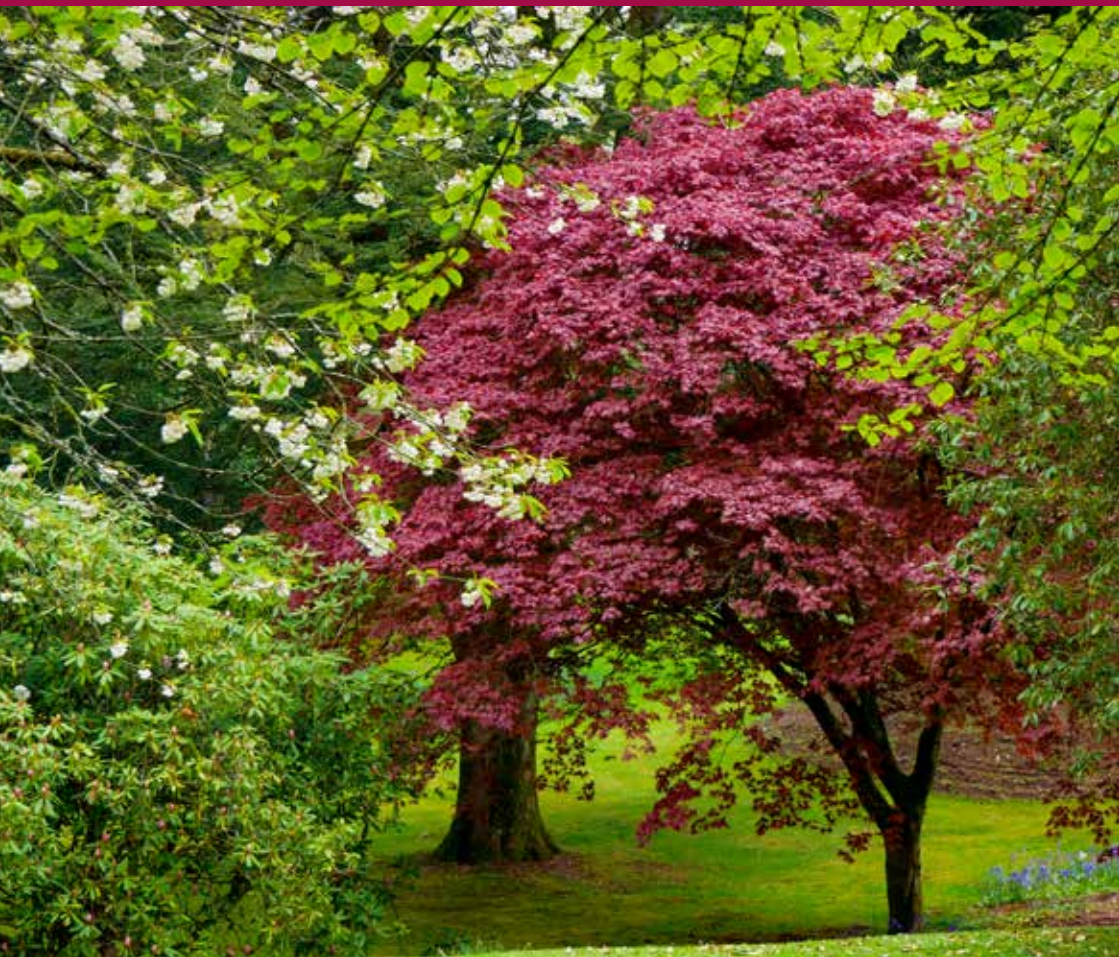


# MAXWEST CONTACT

June 2022



Maxwelltown West Church - Dumfries  
[www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk](http://www.maxwelltownwest.org.uk)



The Church of Scotland



# MAXWELLTOWN WEST CHURCH

## Our Mission

*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.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES – 11 am

Communion Service: Sunday 5th June - 11am

## CONTACTS

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**Fabric Convenor:** *(Volunteer required - please call the Session Clerk if you can help!)*

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#MaxWestChurch Tel: 01387 255900

Scottish Charity Reference: SC 015925; CCLI: 1194718

## ✝ CHURCH REGISTER ✝

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Mr Keith Richardson | 25.09.21 |
| Mrs Margaret Mullet | 02.02.22 |
| Mrs Agnes McShane   | 11.02.22 |
| Mr Robert Wilson    | 05.04.22 |

May they Rest in Peace

**Front cover:** Spring at Dalswinton - Magazine design by Mike Marshall

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# Rev Johannes



*Summertime, sunny time – that is at least what we hope for.*

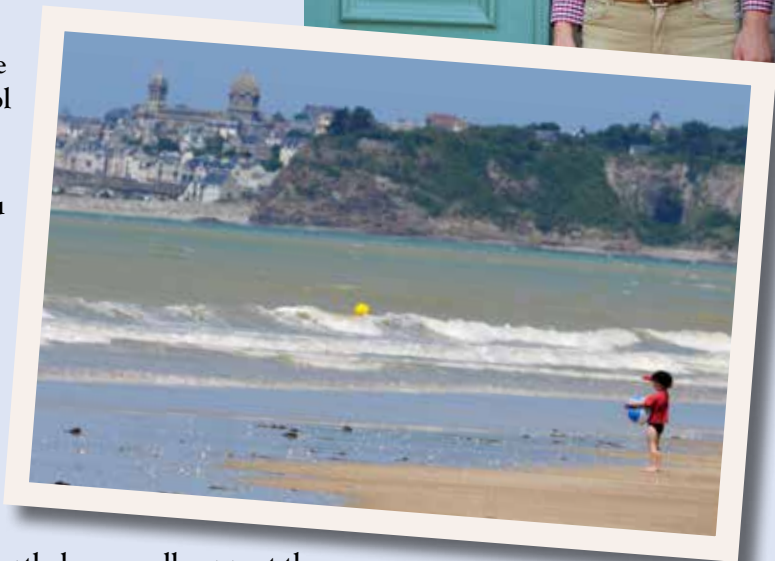
I remember in my childhood when we came back to school after the summer holidays you were always proud if you had a tan.

That was a proof that your parents could afford a holiday in the sun. Later that changed because then we learned about the risks

of skin cancer. Nevertheless, we all connect the summertime with the sun. When you read this text, of course, you link the word “sun” to the star at the centre of the solar system. But when you just listen to this text, the pronunciation of “sun” could also have another meaning: son.

What I hate and love about the English language is that it is not a phonetic language. That means that a word is not necessarily pronounced in the same way that it is spelled. That is different for example in the German language. German is difficult (not only for the non-natives), but it is very easy to read. Almost always do the German words sound the way that they are spelled. That is so different in English. You all experience this when it comes to names in the Bible. Even in churches you can hear different pronunciations of biblical names.

On the other hand, that gives the English language its ambiguity, its richness in meaning. British people like to play with their language, making puns, because the English language is ideal for this.





⇒ We can understand “son” when someone says “sun”. Shakespeare, the master of the English language, uses this pun in his play “Hamlet” when King Claudius asks Hamlet, “How is it that the clouds still hang on you?” and Hamlet replies, “Not so, my lord. I am too much in the sun.” In this, “sun” can even have four meanings: “sun” as in light, “sun” as royal symbolism, “son” as the son of his father, or “son” as the son of Claudius, Hamlet’s stepfather. That is why it is much better to listen to Shakespeare than to read him.

And of course, for a Christian the “sun” can always refer to the son of God, Jesus Christ. Yes, you can be too much in the sun getting a sunburn, but you can never be too much in the presence of Christ. We can feel in the sunlight how the son enlightens us, making our lives bright. And Jesus as the sun even shines in the darkness of our time. Just look at the news from Ukraine and all the other war zones of our time or the effects of climate change. At the present time you can get the impression that the world is getting darker and darker from crisis to crisis. But as Christians coming from Easter we live by the hope that Jesus is coming again and with him the day without end as the last book of the Bible proclaims about the new Jerusalem, the symbol of the new earth: *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”* (Revelations 21:22)



The meetings of our faith course were such situations where I could feel the “sonshine”. And in this sense, I wish you a “sonny” summertime. Do not let the latest news make you despair, but bathe in the son. *“The time has come,” he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’*” (Mark 1:15)

Johannes Wildner

# Kirk Session Report

At a meeting of the Kirk Session held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the following records of Maxwelltown West were duly attested by the Moderator, Rev. Johannes:

**Kirk Session Minute Book**  
**Deacons' Court Minute Book**  
**Property Register**  
**Communion Roll**  
**Baptismal Register**  
**Safeguarding Register**

All records were found to be in order and were subsequently presented to and attested by Presbytery on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The main business of the Kirk Session meeting was to agree a response to Presbytery's proposals under their Mission Plan, that the charge of Dumfries Maxwelltown West be linked with the charge of Lochend and New Abbey. The "Basis of Linkage" information from the Church of Scotland provided answers to many of the questions raised by Elders about the implications of such a linkage, both geographical and organisational, as well as financial. A positive response to these proposals was sent to Presbytery's Ministry and Resources Committee, subject to the implementation of such a linkage being resolved to the mutual satisfaction and agreement of both congregations.

The responses to the Presbytery Plan had to be with Ministry and Resources by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, the revised Plan, along with the Categorisation of Buildings recently carried out throughout Presbytery, will be brought to April's Presbytery meeting. As well as approval by Presbytery, this will also require approval by the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group. It is hoped to have this approval by summer and the Plan

can then be put into action. For ourselves at Maxwelltown West, assuming Lochend and New Abbey agree, this will mean drawing up a "Basis on Linking". Both congregations would have to vote to accept this, then a service of linking would be held which would also induct Rev. Johannes to the charge of Lochend and New Abbey.

**David Johnson**





## **Easter Brunch Back on the Menu!**

It was a very special brunch on Easter Sunday at Max West - the first time since the pandemic that we could gather socially at Easter. And 'special' started with a Social Group meeting: the joy of sitting all together in Colin's house, with no masks, planning the event; home-baking, laughter and fun, and Johannes and Käthe joining us.

Covid has brought such a wonderful new initiative in church in the shape of our online services. Imagine, Mathia Church and friends and family from across the globe were with us on Sunday - that was so special! Decorating the tables and preparing the food - all felt like we had moved forward to a familiar, but new normal. Although Covid regulations meant that sandwiches and tray bakes were still off the menu, there were still sweet Easter delights to be had. In his sermon, Johannes said he preferred French wines and Italian cooking. We must bow to the first, but for the second, I think we showed him that Scottish soups take a lot of beating!

Everyone who stayed behind for the brunch commented on how great it was to be gathering together again. We in the Social Committee agree - so thank you all for coming along!

And here's to the next time we can all get together - a date for your diary! June 12<sup>th</sup>, a Family Service in church followed by a Summer Barbecue in the Manse Gardens! Not to be missed!

*Julie and all in the Social Group*







### *- Dates for Your Diary -*

Saturday 7th May: *Guild Afternoon Tea*

Saturday 14th May: *Christian Aid Coffee Morning*

Saturday 21st May: *Pilgrimage walk - St John's Town of Dalry*

Sunday 5th June: *Holy Communion*

Sunday 12th June: *Family Service then Barbecue at the Manse*

Saturday 25th June: *Sponsored Walk - in aid of Church Funds*

**You'll see it here first!**

**Remember to visit our Website or our Facebook Page for the latest news of events and information about MaxWest**



# Robert Blane Wilson

1939-2022

It was with great sadness that the death of Robert Blane Wilson, who we all knew and loved as “Bob”, was announced in church on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Bob died peacefully at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Bob was born on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1939 in Glasgow. His father was a joiner and the family ran a small corner shop and dairy. Bob became Head

Gardener at the Raehills Estate at St. Anne’s, and it was there that he met Marion, also a Glaswegian, who was working as a secretary in the estate office. Bob and Marion married and had two sons, David and Alastair.

Bob and Marion became members at Maxwelltown West in September 1967, and Bob was ordained an Elder in 1981. Max West played a big part in Bob’s life: there was nothing that Bob didn’t know about our church, its history, its past Ministers, its buildings, and the way to get the best out of an increasingly temperamental heating system. Bob was particularly fond of the clock which sits below the gallery, and which he made sure was always showing the correct time and, of course, was running like clockwork.

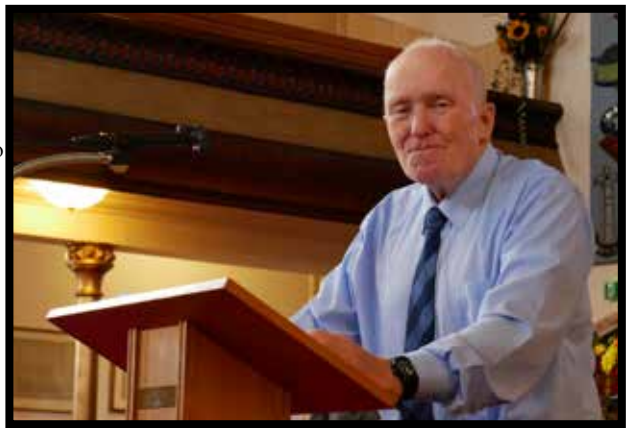
Bob had a great interest in history, the history of people connected with this area and with Max West in particular. He has done a great deal of research on our past Ministers, and he has also left us a wealth of information about those in the Armed Forces who are commemorated on our own War Memorial, and also on the Maxwelltown War Memorial.

Bob did not have a driving licence and he and his bike were a familiar sight in and around Dumfries. It was most fitting and appropriate that Bob is acknowledged in a panel of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wall hanging, now recently moved into the church. There he is on his bike, a vital, much loved and respected member of “The Team”.

Bob was always active. There was the cycling and swimming which kept him healthy. Bob never lost his love of gardening, and growing tomatoes and making raspberry jam provided him with time to relax a little. He loved dogs, particularly West Highland Terriers, and they were a big part of his life. He led a full and busy life and he was involved in many activities and organisations. He ran Cub and Scout groups here, and he was a Past-President of Burns’ Howff Club here in Dumfries. Bob lived life to the fullest, right to the end. He was always busy, always there to help others.

Bob’s funeral was held at Maxwelltown West Church on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. This was a poignant occasion as this was also the funeral service for Bob’s younger son Alastair, who died suddenly on 21<sup>st</sup> March. After Marion died, Alastair and Bob became close, spending much time together, especially when Bob was in hospital.

We remember Bob with great affection and gratitude for his love of Maxwelltown West and its folk.





# After Eights



After Eights Ladies Group have not been able to do their usual monthly meeting with a speaker. When restrictions eased a little we decided to arrange a get-together. The ladies have really enjoyed seeing each other for a catch-up and "afternoon tea". This has been very successful. Our meetings have been at Cafe Central at the Crichton. These sessions have stopped for the summer, but will resume in the autumn. If you need any information contact Anita on 01387 255080. Please enjoy summer and stay safe everyone.



*Our collection in aid of the Christian Aid DEC Appeal for Ukraine raised almost £700.*

## Badminton Report



The Badminton Club season finished at the end of April. Everyone was pleased to have been able to play for a full season once again. The enjoyment of playing was not hindered by the wearing of face coverings and social distancing whilst not on the court.

The annual competition, which could not be played last year, was held at the end of February. This is a mixed pairs competition with the aim of winning the “Ian Wilson Memorial Trophy”. Ian Wilson was a founder member of the Club. At the AGM, following his death in 2014, it was agreed that a trophy should be purchased in his memory to be played for annually. This year it was won by Jane Marchbank and Jamie Routledge.

The Club always has a break during the summer months; it will start up again at the beginning of September. New members are always made welcome.



*Easter Cross 2022*

### Three Church Pews for Sale

Each pew has a brass umbrella holder and measures 3.48 metres (11ft 5ins) in length. Because they were fixed to a wall, each pew has a missing end panel.



# Maintaining our Church

## *Fabric Report*



Now that the church is fully operational again, the programme of maintenance and repairs is ongoing. Since our last issue of 'MaxWest Contact' the following has been attended to:

- The lightning conductor has now been earthed and we have been issued with a certificate for the work.
- PAT testing has been carried out in the Church, the halls and Manse.
- The chandelier has had its annual inspection.
- Work to the Manse bathroom ceiling to alleviate the condensation issue has been completed.
- A new oven has been fitted in the Manse.
- New flooring has replaced the wrinkled old flooring in the ladies' toilets.
- Additional carpeting has been laid around the audio-visual area.
- The quilted wall hanging, depicting our church family has been moved into the Church where it is more visible.
- The Church clock is back on time again.
- A new modular staging kit has been acquired, and this replaces the old wooden and difficult-to-use unit



As always, many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with some of the above work.

*Patricia Jardine*



# THE MAXWEST CAT BURGLAR!

The mystery started with the apparent raid on the Food Bank Donation boxes - particularly, the dog biscuits. Was this a “Mystery Mouse” or a “Cunning Cat”?

After evading us for over a week, we called in “The Professionals” – Fiona from Dumfries Cats’ Protection. So, with the humane cage in position, and a very patient Patricia Jardine with a tin of tuna, we managed to catch the “Feline Felon”!

Introducing “Twilight” - traced via online missing pets by Cats’ Protection and returned home to a nearby house on Rosemount Street.

We hope you enjoyed your comfy/warm stay – but don’t rush back!



## OUR FILM NIGHTS

*‘Fasten your seat belts – it’s gonna be a bumpy night’.* The famous line uttered by Bette Davis in the classic Hollywood movie ‘All About Eve’ almost typifies the struggles we had with scheduling our film nights over the past two years! This winter we finally managed to resume with a season that had been ‘on hold’ since early 2021. But worth waiting for in that it became something of a world tour! Scotland’s Highlands took pride of place in ‘Edie’, and a magnificent portrait by Sheila Hancock of an eighty-year-old woman who finds a new purpose and determination in life while climbing the majestic, craggy Suilven. Then, we were whisked off to India to enjoy the rich colour, sounds, music and vibrant dancing of ‘Bride and Prejudice’. The central African jungle was next with an intriguing portrait of the great humanitarian, theologian and Nobel prizewinner Dr. Albert Schweitzer as he struggles to run a hospital and leper colony as well as battling with American anti-communist protagonists suspicious of his motives. During Holy Week, our silver screen took us to Israel for ‘Lemon Tree’, a powerful drama telling the story of a Palestinian widow whose lemon grove was regarded as a security threat to a neighbouring Israeli Minister of Defence.

Finally, another story of determination in the dusty African uplands of the former Bechuanaland, which we know today as Botswana. Set in the late 1940s, ‘A United Kingdom’ followed Seretse Khama, the heir to that country’s throne. While studying in Britain, he falls in love with and marries an English woman. Despite opposition from their families, the governments of both countries, as well as the dark clouds of apartheid in neighbouring South Africa, it’s a love that transcends all adversities.

**During this summer we’ll be planning our next season of films, and we look forward to welcoming you back in mid-September!**

*Mike Marshall*