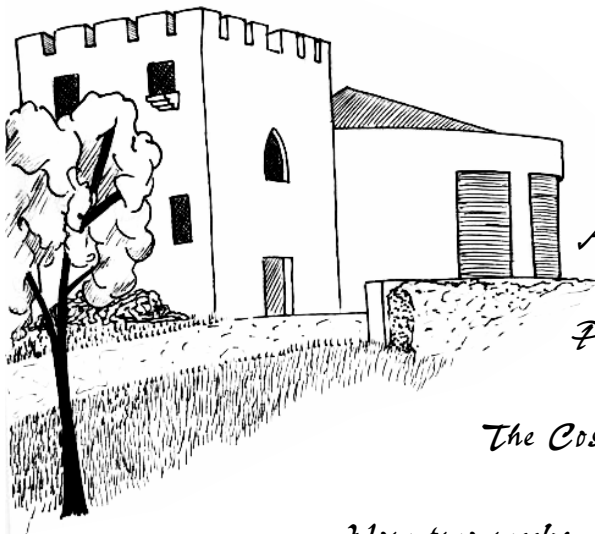


# Maxwell

## Matters



*Action stations!*

*Pressed for time*

*The Cost of Christmas*

*How two weeks changed my life*

*A conversation with Ros Carter*

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS**

- Mon 10.00 – 11.30am Daytime Home Group (crèche facilities available)
- Tue 2.00 – 3.30pm Daytime Home Group – Home based (call office for details)  
7.30 – 10.30pm Various Home Groups – Home based (call office for details)
- Wed 7.30 – 10.30pm Various Home Groups – Home based (call office for details)
- Thu 7.30 – 10.30pm Various Home Groups – Home based (call office for details)
- We run an Alpha Course – an opportunity to explore the Christian Faith (call office for details).

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

- Sun 9.30–10.00am Church Prayer  
10.30am Crèche and Hizkidz (Sunday School up to P7) and Prime Time (S1–S3 and S4–S6)
- Tue 10.00 – 11.30am Castle Toddlers  
2.00pm–3.30pm and 7.30pm–8.30pm Healing
- Wed 10.00 – 11.30am Castle Toddlers  
12.50 – 1.45pm Lunch club for MCHS pupils  
6.30 – 8.00pm Brownies (7 – 10 yrs)  
7.30 – 9.30pm Girl Guides (10 – 14 yrs)  
8.00–9.00pm Church prayer
- Thu 10.00 – 11.30am Castle Toddlers
- Fri 7.30 – 10.30pm The Lounge (S4+), fortnightly
- Sat 7.00 – 9.00pm Cafe Max! (S1 – S3)

The Castle Nursery for ages 3 – 5 meets every day at 9.15am

## *Made weak by time... but strong in will*

*P*oets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.  
(Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*, 1821)

Whether or not this is true, there is no doubt that some lines of poetry remain in our memory long after they were learned. Among those I would include the opening lines of Tennyson's *Ulysses*:

It little profits that an idle king,  
By this still hearth, among those barren crags,  
Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole  
Unequal laws unto a savage race.  
That hoard and sleep, and feed and know not me.

The poem concludes:

Tho' much is taken, much abides, and tho'  
We are not now the strength which in old days  
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are  
One equal temper of heroic hearts  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

Ulysses, or Odysseus, was the hero of the *Odyssey*. This man of many wiles was able to escape from many a tight corner. In the end he returns safely to Ithaca to his faithful wife, Penelope, who has resisted the blandishments of her suitors for many years. But Tennyson pictures Ulysses in old age, and the concluding line of the poem contains a message for those among us whose "way of life has fallen into the sear, the yellow leaf", as Shakespeare expresses it.

Harry Lauder, that "grand old Scottish minstrel" in Churchill's words, used to sing "Keep right on to the end of the road". I heard him one evening when he came to Montrose Street E. U. Congregational Church to sing his famous song. The church was filled to welcome him and he addressed his audience with these words: "Where were all you people last Sunday?"

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to write these lines for publication in our church magazine. I am deeply grateful to its editors who share their gifts so generously with our congregation. My message is simple – be grateful for what is past, for the heroic days that are gone, but look cheerfully towards the future.

*Dan McNicol*

# Contents

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>3 NEWS FROM THE PEWS</b> Elspeth and Jim Burgess</p> <p><b>4 THE COST OF CHRISTMAS</b> Raymond Brown-Hendry</p> <p><b>5 HOW TWO WEEKS CHANGED MY LIFE</b> Kirsteen Gray</p> <p><b>6 A CONVERSATION WITH ... ROS CARTER</b></p> <p><b>8 BECOMING PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY</b> Gillian Pryce</p> <p><b>9 MISSION TRIP TO ROMANIA</b> Kirsty McLellan</p> <p><b>11 HOME AND AWAY</b> Mark Cameron, Rev Fiona Maxwell, Rev Andrew Robertson</p> <p><b>15 CANADA AND AMERICA – BY INTERNET</b> Watson Beattie</p> <p><b>17 THE YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY</b> Jay Lennartson</p> | <p><b>18 LUNCH CLUB</b> Jay Lennartson</p> <p><b>19 THE MONTHLY MUSINGS AND MEANDERINGS OF THE MODERATOR OF GLASGOW PRESBYTERY</b> David Cameron</p> <p><b>22 ACTION STATIONS!</b> Sandra McNicol</p> <p><b>23 THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD</b> Sam Nugent</p> <p><b>24 PRESSED FOR TIME</b> Ken Carter</p> <p><b>25 FINANCIAL REVIEW 2007/8</b> John Foote, David McTear</p> <p><b>26 NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA</b> Martin Smith</p> <p><b>28 'WHO KNOWS?' – A CAROL</b> George Ewen</p> <p><b>29 ALMOST THE LAST WORD</b></p> <p><b>31 CROSSWORD</b></p> <p><b>32 LAST WORD</b></p> |
|--|--|

# News from the peeps

## **Births**

Steve and Hilary Robinson's son, Archie, was born on 23 June. Calum, Eilidh, Fergus, Duncan and Murdo are all delighted with their wee brother.

Hannah Foote, daughter of Colin and Lesley Foote, was born on 18 July. Congratulations to John and Evelyn on the birth of their first grandchild.

On 29 July, David and Zoë Bannerman's daughter, Carys, was born – a wee sister for Max and another grand-daughter for Sandy and Gloria Leonard.

Thomas Gordon, son of Neil and Jane Ferguson, was born on 8 August. Congratulations to big sisters Beth and Laura and grandparents Gordon and Janette.

Grace, daughter of Alan and Gillian Brown, was born in Inverness on 2 October. We congratulate big brother McKenzie and sister Kathryn and grandparents, Stuart and Catriona Anderson. On 2 May, their daughter Jennifer and husband Neil also had a wee daughter, a sister for Emily.

On 13 October, David, son of Stephen and Sandra McInnes, was born. Congratulations to big sister Laura and gran Nancy Wilson.

## **Engagements**

Congratulations to Joanne, daughter of Jim and Marlene Stirling, and Craig McGibbon who announced their engagement in July.

Fiona Martin, daughter of Stewart and Joanne, and Ben Shred were engaged in Paris on 11 August.

## **Weddings**

Rev Ian MacDonald and Colleen Amery-Behr were married on 10 August.

Matthew Cameron, son of David and Lesley, and Billie Harkess were married on 7 September.

## **Golden wedding**

Congratulations to Tom and Rita Shaw who celebrated 50 years of marriage on 7 September.

## Deaths

We regret to record the death of Pat Watt, mother of Carole, mother-in-law of Wilson and gran of Mark, Chris and David.

We were all deeply saddened by the death of Tom Dykes. Tom is greatly missed by his wife, Lena, and his children, Charlotte and Peter.

On 10 September, George Smith died. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Margaret, his son Martin, daughter-in-law Elizabeth and grandchildren Kirsty, Gregor and Stewart.

*Elsbeth and Jim Burgess*

---

## *The cost of Christmas*

Once again Christmas is almost upon us and the thought of presents and trolleys laden with food makes us shudder at the cost involved. An average of £706 per person will be spent this Christmas and when January brings the credit card statements, many will be worried sick. Yet, sadly, the real cost of Christmas is so easily forgotten.

It cost Joseph and Mary their early home life together as they had to flee to Egypt. It cost the Bethlehem mothers their infants, massacred by Herod. It cost the wise men a long, arduous journey and costly gifts. It cost the apostles and the early church persecution and sometimes death. It cost missionaries suffering, hostility and disease. Above all, it cost God his own Son, giving Him up as a sacrifice for sin, tortured and crucified on a cross for our sakes.

The cost to make Christmas happen was incalculable, and yet so many take it for granted. They celebrate the material side of Christmas but ignore the profound message that lies behind it – that God is a God of judgment as well as a God of love. If there had been no Christmas, there would have been no cross and the penalty our sins deserved would not have been paid.

May the message of the Christ of Christmas challenge us again to a wholehearted commitment as we face an uncertain year ahead.

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*Raymond Brown-Hendry*

## *How two weeks changed my life*

Earlier this year, I took some time off work to set out on a tenderfoot trip with a few other members of our congregation to Bucharest, Romania. It had crossed my mind to go the previous year, but somehow it didn't feel like the right time. Although I really wanted to go this year, I didn't think I would get leave of absence, but I decided to apply anyway, knowing that if it was in God's Will, I would get permission. Two weeks later, I was told that I was allowed to go, albeit unpaid.

Nothing could have prepared me for my experience. I had seen the pictures like so many others, but actually being there and seeing the needs of these babies and orphaned children really touched my heart. What really struck me was that they had so little in material terms, but what they really wanted was our time, and to know that someone loved them. I spent time in the Orphanages doing many things that I don't normally find myself doing, such as being a make up artist to both teenage girls and boys!!, an actor (miming in a play) and cheering on whichever team was losing at the sports day. I helped prepare the girls at the Transition House for interviews and taught a few of them some simple tunes on the piano. I played with lots of babies

and toddlers and attended to their basic needs. To many people, these are daily activities that are part of family life, but all I kept thinking was these children don't have families to do these kind of things with them. We, albeit for a short time, were their family.

On returning to Scotland, I could not get their faces and my experiences out of my mind. I really felt God had put a burden on my heart for these children. After talking it through with one of the team members, I emailed Jodi in America to see what she thought about me possibly going out on longer term mission. I was expecting to be told to wait for a while longer in case my "feelings" changed. However, I received a reply two days later saying that they had been praying that God would touch my heart for the children of Romania and that she would be delighted to have me on the team.

It is amazing how life can change so unexpectedly. I had been applying for other jobs, but the doors just kept closing. Had I got one, I wouldn't have gone to Romania for two weeks. Now I'm about to go for two years! God really does have the bigger picture.

*Kirsteen Gray*

# *A conversation with ...*

## *Ros Carter*

*You are most likely to see Ros playing keyboard as part of the worship team on a Sunday morning or evening. Here she takes some time to tell Maxwell Matters something about her life and thoughts*

### **You a Glasgow girl then?**

Not initially. My parents were from Ayrshire but I was born and brought up in Jamaica where my father, a doctor, was the director of a missionary society. I was a day pupil at a boarding school there until I came to Glasgow University to study when I was 18. I gained a B.Sc and then went to do teacher training at Jordanhill.

### **Meet any interesting people?**

I was a member of the Christian Union and went on summer mission to Arran one year where some guy fell for me on the tennis court. To cut a long story short, we have since celebrated 42 years of marriage.

### **What about your career?**

I went to Bible college for a year after teacher training, as Ken and I had felt a call to the mission field. As it was, family

circumstances did not allow us to do that for many years

I taught maths and science for a while, both in Dumfries and Glasgow although I did not find teaching was really for me. I was glad to become a full-time wife and mother and felt completely fulfilled when we adopted our two children Paul, and later Angela, as very young babies.

### **You did go abroad though?**

Ken was given the opportunity to work in Cairo when the children were at early primary school stage. I loved the ex-pat life and community and was sorry to come back to Glasgow after only 18 months. It was a difficult time for us both and I welcomed the opportunity to train as an Ultrasound Technician and take up a new career in the Vascular Dept of Gartnavel General, where I worked until 1997.

### **What about church life?**

We were involved in Clarkston Baptist Church in the early years of our marriage, but moved to our local Parish church in the early 70s.

**Maxwell?**

Yes, although I did spend some years in the 1980s and 90s at Priesthill and Nitshill church as their organist and involved in healing ministry there. I was able to attend Maxwell in the evenings where Ken continued to be involved.

**Have you been in the Mearns since?**

Ken took early retirement in 1995 and we were able to fulfil our early plans to go abroad in God's service. We spent 2 years in Kenya with Wycliffe Bible Translators as part of their Member Care team. We spent time with missionaries offering hospitality, support or counselling as required. While we were there Angela, our daughter, came out to have her wedding in Kenya. We came home in 1997 and then were given the opportunity in 2000 to go to Papua New Guinea doing something similar. Our first grandchild, Paul's son Blake, was born just before left. We returned to Scotland after a year to work in Wycliffe's office here, supporting and debriefing returning missionaries. That allowed us to play a greater part in supporting our family here, especially when Paul's twins were born and when Angela gave us our first granddaughter. I feel my role is very much as a grandmother and all the more so since Paul died last year.

**That must have been very hard**

It was the worst thing imaginable – the sudden death of your child. We felt shocked, devastated and yet supported by good friends. There has been a time of reappraising our faith and understanding of God and his ways.

**Do you spend a lot of time now with the grandchildren?**

We spend a day a week caring for the grandsons in Edinburgh and helping our daughter-in-law and a day a week with our granddaughter in Glasgow. It still gives us time to play tennis at least once a week, go to concerts, walk, travel widely and see people.

**How would you sum yourself up?**

My Christian faith is at the centre. I find expression of that in music, hospitality and supporting and encouraging people who are struggling.

Ken and I have had so many wonderful opportunities to travel and to share our lives with the people we have met. Life has been full of blessings.

**Thanks Ros. May you have many more opportunities to share your life and music with others in Maxwell and further afield**

*Ros was talking with Lyn Steven*

## *Becoming part of the church family*

On Sunday 7 October I became a member of Maxwell Mearns. When David asked if I would like to say a few words on the Sunday, I was torn. There were some things to say but I knew I would be very emotional on the day and felt the stress of speaking would overshadow the ceremony.

So how did I end up at Maxwell Mearns?

I have always had the church in my life, albeit a bit sporadic. My mum was brought up in Crofffoot Parish and it was there that Stephen and I were married in 1987, twenty years ago. How time flies. I came to Maxwell in 2003 via Castle toddlers. I was there with my daughter Holly, then eight months old.

Holly arrived on Christmas Eve 2002 a sister for Adam then aged nine. It was after a very traumatic time in our lives. I had lost my beloved mum to breast cancer and we had relocated to Yorkshire. Whilst in Yorkshire, our daughter Laura was born on the 10 April 2001. She was born with a rare genetic disorder and, sadly, only lived for a short time. This was not the first baby we had lost as, Andrew, our first son had died of the same condition in 1992.

Late in 2001 we moved back to Scotland and were trying to move on and close this sad chapter in our lives. God obviously

had other ideas. After my 40th birthday celebrations, I found out that I was expecting again. Although it was a stressful pregnancy, I seemed to have this deep faith that everything would be okay this time. After Holly was born, I felt very blessed and that God was working in my life.

When I went to Castle toddlers, I think I was looking for more than a coffee and chat.

Whilst there, Margo told me about the Alpha course that was starting soon. I joined the course and loved it and felt great friendship and warmth from the others on the course.

It was a great way to come to the church, as on my first visit in December 2004 there were some familiar friendly faces. It was also great that my family came along with me.

I am now starting a new chapter in my life, as Holly is now at school and I will return to work soon. I would like to do something to help others and am looking for Gods guidance in this.

I love being part of Maxwell Mearns and have made some great friends. I would like to thank everyone for making it so easy to be part of the church family.

*Gillian Pryce*

## Mission trip to Romania

In July last summer, I went on a mission trip to Romania, with *Heart to Heart*, an American charity which helps Romanian orphans ranging from premature babies to young adults in their twenties. I travelled by myself and joined the rest of the all-American team in Amsterdam.

Every day, the team split between the Baby Hospital and the orphanage, with the majority of the team going to the orphanage. I spent most of my time in the Baby Hospital, and it was amazing to get to know the babies and the toddlers and to show love to them. I found it challenging; the wards were drastically different to wards I am used to in Scotland and it was, at times shocking, to see how different medical and nursing practice were from our services at home. Usually the same subgroup from the team went to the Baby Hospital and as well as working hard, we also had great fun in the hospital, helping each other and trying to pick up Romanian! I spent most of the time in the ICU unit, where there were between four and seven children, one of whom, Valentine, was a delightful, tiny 5-month old 'premie'. I loved spending time with him, feeding him and making him smile! Since returning to Scotland, I was delighted to

hear that he has been adopted. Several children in the wards were seriously ill. Aged up to 14 years old, they could not move, feed themselves or communicate and it was difficult to see how little is done for these children. We spent time with them, comforting them and talking to them.

An amazing and memorable part of our time at the hospital was with a tiny baby and his 21-year old mother. She was going to abandon her child, but she said that after meeting our small team, she decided to keep him. It was such a special blessing to see the mother and the child and know that God had used our small team to make an impact on their lives.

In the upstairs ward, the children were fit and healthy. They were so cute; most of them were just learning to walk and it was wonderful to feed them and play with them.

The hardest thing was to leave the babies and toddlers. They would cry each time we left and it was hard to think that it was the last time they would have any stimulation that day. I found this especially hard on the last day, especially to leave Valentine.

My experience at the orphanage was challenging and touching. It was an orphanage for children with Special Needs – but according to the Romanian system, this may range from having eyes of different colours to having a severe handicap. Each day, the team played sport with the children, played games, did an activity, a bible story and a short talk on a subject such as friendship. An amusing experience was acting out a bible story in front of the children, but as it was being read in Romanian, we did not have a clue what was going on!

Our daily routine consisted of breakfast, followed by devotions. Then we tended to do an activity. One of the aspects of the trip was to try to help us understand why there are so many orphans in Romania and to enable us to do this, the trip organisers and leaders of the charity took us on tours of the city, to pinpoint the main places of significance in the past history and present politics of the country, including the People's palace and a tour of the locations of the revolution. After lunch, we divided into our teams for the Baby Hospital or the Orphanage. In the evenings, the girls from the Transition house came for dinner every night, so we often swam with them before dinner; I even tried to teach one of them how to swim! In the evenings we had nightlight – each evening a few members of the team would share their story, their testimony

and then questions were put to them. It was interesting, we got to know each other better and we always had a laugh.

Another major part of the trip was spending time with the girls from the Transition House. The charity owns two houses into which they take each year about ten teenagers who have left the orphanages, and teach them basic skills, domestic skills and friendship skills. They also give them biblical teaching and tell them about Jesus. A group of us went and stayed a night at Snagov, the girl's house, and it was great fun getting to know them – we painted each other's nails and did team challenges, such as having to take group pictures doing such activities as picking up litter, giving a bottle of coke to someone who deserves it etc. One of the challenges was to take a picture of the group with a cow – and we walked through the village asking if anyone had a cow!

It was an amazing trip – I made really good friends, both Romanians and Americans. I learned new skills and God moved in us and through us. It was just incredible that the trip went so smoothly (even the flat tyre that we had happened outside a garage) and that everyone really gelled together as a team. I am really excited about returning to Romania just after Christmas.

*Kirsty McLellan*

# Home and away

## Mark Cameron, now in USA

**H**i everyone! Well, it's no longer "g-day" but a "howdy partner!" from the Wild West! I have just arrived in Phoenix, Arizona. I will explain my plans for the next 14 months so it is clear and you can see what I'm up to. I will also share some of the reason for my moves!

October 31 2007 – January 22 2008

Phoenix, Arizona

January 22 2008 – December 18 2008

Sydney, Australia

December 18 2008 ... Scotland for a while at least!

In my time at Desert Hills, I will be working to grow Music and Arts within the church, work with young people and serve in the life of the church. One exciting part of this is developing Catalyst in Arizona. Catalyst is a movement in the Southside of Glasgow that regularly unites young people from all church backgrounds in worship and teaching. The youth leaders in North Phoenix have already been meeting and, when creating a name for their gathering, decided to call it – Catalyst. This had nothing to do with Scotland! I'll be training bands, leading explorations and studies in worship and we're looking at doing the celtic Labyrinth here for Christmas time.

When I return to Sydney, I will be going into second year at Hillsong International Leadership College. This will be an exciting time. I have decided to transfer to the Pastoral Leadership stream. This is a step away from studying music and worship-leading within the local church to reflect the wider area of ministry I hope to move into. I will still serve in music areas and continue to bring worship outside the walls of church and into the city. In the life of the Church, my emphasis will be on small group recovery ministry, specifically for guys dealing with sexuality issues. Academically, I will focus more on biblical and leadership subjects.

Following this I will return to Scotland for a season. Christmas should not be 30 degrees!

It has been an interesting transition moving from the Church of Scotland to Hillsong and then to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. I am also expanding over many different ministry areas. I believe that faith can live fully at two extremes; that we don't mark ourselves to the left and to the right, or place ourselves on a scale. I wish to grow all the way across denominations, traditions, loud and quiet and in doing so, I am catching a sense of the breadth (positive and negative) of the

Church worldwide, with a view to future ministry.

I am loving the process of rapid change inside and am always challenging myself. – asking why I act, believe, feel and think the way I do. I figure “Why stop?”

I would encourage you to jump on board this with me. Let’s keep on going forward; let’s work out what holds us back – and engage in something so strange: that in realizing weakness, we can turn it into strength. Let’s get free so we can help others get free who can help others get free who can help...

*Mark*

---

**Clydebank Calling: Dalmuir Parish Church – Rev Fiona Maxwell**

**L**ife here has been a challenge recently. I broke my ankle three months ago. It should have healed after six weeks but there was a delayed union of the bone, so I ended up in a cast for eight weeks and an aircast for a further four. I was at the hospital on the 2nd November and got the all clear, but need to return in three months for a further check up. As ever there have been lessons to learn. It has made me think of those who live with disability and other factors that limit their lives. Also about allowing others to take the strain; we are sometimes fiercely independent but need

to learn the lesson of humility, allowing others to come close to serve and support us.

*Pilgrims on a Journey*

The first weekend in October was our elders’ Away Day in Luss. The story of the Parishes of Luss and Arrochar are inspirational (check [www.lussonline.net](http://www.lussonline.net) to find out more). We were led in worship by the Parish minister, Rev Dr Dane Sherrad, who shared the story of what God has been doing in their midst. The remainder of the day took the theme, *Listening when it’s hard*. We were led by Revd Andrew Graham who is the chaplain of the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank. Andrew helped us think through how we support each other in the hard times and especially through illness, death and bereavement.

*Please pray* that God would strengthen and encourage the elders as they increasingly step out in faith and service.

*Emmaus*

Maggie Larkin our former Session Clerk has been leading a six week course on basic Christianity. It has been challenging and deeply encouraging for all who have attended and they want more! A further course will run in the New Year.

*Please pray* that renewed enthusiasm would be a blessing to others. Give

thanks for people like Maggie with gifts they are willing to use.

### *Griefshare*

This group will begin on Wednesday 14 December for six weeks before Christmas and seven weeks in the New Year. Through a DVD presentation, discussion and personal experience, people will share the pain and learning of the grief journey.

*Please pray* that those who need this time will have the courage to come forward and be involved. Pray for me as I lead the group and help people to cope with the deep emotions of grief.

### *Christmas*

This year we have planned a very full programme of worship and activities. There will be two services on Christmas Eve and, for the first time, worship on Christmas Day. In addition we are having a Community Christmas Tree Festival. Groups using the church, local businesses, the primary school and residential home for the elderly can buy and decorate a Christmas tree for display in the church. We throw the doors open on Friday 14 December for the big 'light up', carol singing, Christmas punch and cakes. On Sunday 16th, the morning worship will be given over to a Community Carol Service. Also during December we have the Christmas Fayre,

a Remembering Service for those who have been bereaved, an Alter-Nativity meal for the Elders (checkout this website [www.alternativity.org.uk](http://www.alternativity.org.uk)), Sunday Gang Party and Nativity Play.

*Please pray* that these opportunities will capture attention and draw people closer to the Saviour this Christmas Season.

I am very encouraged as increasingly I see people in the church family get involved and take responsibility for the work we are sharing in together. As ever, thank you for your ongoing interest through prayers. Feel free to drop me line at [fionamaxi@btinternet.com](mailto:fionamaxi@btinternet.com).

God is at work – it is not dependent on us. What we need to do is find out what God is doing and join in.

*Fiona*

### **Rev Andrew Robertson in Cathcart Trinity Parish Church**

It seems just yesterday since I started my placement at Cathcart Trinity; in fact, it is now almost four months. Time has flown and weeks seem to pass at an alarming rate. I knew it was going to be a busy place to work – and I have not been disappointed. But I am enjoying the practical aspects of ministry and the feeling of being free from academic study. However, learning continues. A big learning experience for me has been

realising that I can't always be doing everything – not something I find easy to accept or understand. But I'm getting there!

I have settled in well with Iain, Wilma and the congregation and we have made many new friends at Trinity. They are all very helpful and encouraging and have welcomed all the Robertson family into their community.

What else? I now commute around the parish on a motor scooter! It's cheap (120 mpg), has a low carbon footprint, and is quite a talking point when I am out and about (plenty of revving rev jokes etc). It has become my choice means of

transport, being a great deal of fun – and dangerously addictive.

On the home front, many of you will know that Shirley's health problems persist and she continues to experience chronic pain. It is now certain that she will be unable to return to work. Obviously, this is a difficult thing to come to terms with because she was (and still is) passionate about Community Health Care.

We are all grateful and feel blessed by the practical support that members of Maxwell are still providing and we appreciate the assurance of knowing that we are all remembered in your prayers.

*Andrew*

Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with. (Mark Twain)

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand. (Mark Twain)

In a sermon, the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, called on the Church of England to revive its spirit of "wonder" and "adoration" and rediscover the transforming power of the Gospel. "The scandal of the church is that the Christ-event is no longer life-changing, it has become life-enhancing," he told the congregation at the Minster. "We've lost the power and joy that makes real disciples, and we've become consumers of religion and not disciples of Jesus.

"We are getting richer and richer as a nation, but less and less happy. The Church in England must rediscover the self-confidence and self-esteem that united and energised the English people those many centuries ago."

## Canada and America – by internet

*Some of you will remember David, our minister, talking in a recent sermon about the organisational skills employed by Watson Beattie on his recent trip to America. Watson takes up the story...*

**I**t was my first attempt to organise a holiday using the internet.

I organised everything online from which plane I was flying on to the hostels I would be staying at.

I flew out on 24 September from Glasgow Airport on a Thomas Cook Boeing 757.

The temperature on arrival at Pearson Airport Toronto was 25 degrees which was quite a surprise as the previous Thursday in Glasgow was – 2 degrees.

I had booked the restaurant online for 8pm that night. Amazingly the plane arrived on time; my cousin was there to pick me up at the airport and we managed to get to the restaurant 20 minutes early.

On Tuesday, I was off to my first hostel on Sheppard Avenue for three nights.

It was very nice, my own room, a shared kitchen and use of a computer which was good for emails.

I was able to get a half price ticket for the Queen musical *We Will Rock You*

courtesy of Queen's Brian May's website. I sent Brian a thank you email and was surprised when he replied!

During the interval of the show I met the writer of the show, Ben Elton, who was very nice and autographed the email I received from Brian two days earlier.

Next day, I attended a recording of a TV show at CBC studio.

By Friday I was back with my cousin getting ready for the next day's trip to New York.

Saturday was a very long day as I was awake from 4.30am to get to the bus station to get a return ticket to New York.

It was the only thing I could not plan ahead on the internet.

The bus left Toronto at 6.45am and arrived in New York at 7pm.

The Port Authority bus depot was very close to 42nd Street and it was the time for people going to the theatres but I was staying at West 63rd Street YMCA which was a good 20 streets away at the Lincoln Centre beside Christopher Columbus Statue.

I found it eventually and had a wonderful three nights in New York. I went on the New York tours – Uptown, Downtown and

across to Brooklyn. It was great to see the sights of New York and I took lots of photos.

On Wednesday I was back in downtown Toronto visiting the C N Tower which, until recently, was the tallest tower in the World, and next day I went to Niagara Falls, which was an amazing. I also visited Niagara on the Lake which is a beautiful village which seems to belong to a much earlier era with small shops, a

theatre and a beautiful park; an amazing contrast to the skyscrapers of Toronto City, only an hour away.

Friday was time to come home.

It was a great 12 days, thoroughly interesting, and I will remember it for a long, long time.

*Watson Beattie*

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, 'God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know you more and love you better.' God didn't put me on earth just to fulfil a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we are called human beings, not human doings. Happy moments, *praise God*. Difficult moments, *seek God*. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, *thank God*. Rick Warren

**We do not understand**

joy... until we face sorrow  
 faith... until it is tested  
 peace... until faced with conflict  
 trust ... until we are betrayed  
 love... until it is lost  
 hope... until confronted with doubts.

We are so busy that we need a listening space. The busier we are, the more we need it. Half an hour listening to God each day is essential, except when you are busy, and then a full hour is needed. François de Salle (17th century)

## The Youth Weekend Away

This year we went to Lendrick Muir near Kinross for our weekend away in September.

Lendrick Muir is an estate that is run by Scripture Union and has the room and facilities to handle up to 120 people at a time. 38 of us took over one of the wings of the complex for a fun and challenging weekend together.

We participated in a number of activities including archery, mountain biking, disk golf, adventure playground, and beach volleyball as well as all of the football you could ever want to play. The Games Hall always had a group of kids playing a number of different indoor games. We were able to spend four hours a day in the activities, which we all enjoyed.

The food was amazing – prepared by Pat Kedsle, Sheila Cook, Heather Malloy and Christine Campbell.

Ian Macdonald was the speaker for the weekend; he spoke on Maximum Faith,

Hope, and Love. We had great times of worship led by the youth worship band. On Sunday morning, we created our own Sunday worship service. Colin and Pauline Forster ran the programme which was well-balanced and kept us busy.

It was a great weekend that helped us to get away from Glasgow but also helped us get to know each other a bit better.

The weekend also challenged us to learn a bit more about how much God loves us and it helped us to think about how we need to live our lives for Christ.

Again a BIG THANK-YOU to all who helped run the weekend as well as all of the kids who came and made it the great success that it was.

I hope you are all planning ahead for next September weekend!

*Jay Lennartson*

*Youth Minister*

---

## Bible Study Course

### The Biblical Basis for Mission

Martin Smith will give a most welcomed further course of Bible Studies commencing on Tuesday, 8 January 2008 on the theme "The Biblical Basis for Mission".

The course will continue for a series of 8 weeks and will be recorded with tapes made available for personal follow up.

## *Lunch Club*

The Basement is open on Wednesdays during the school year for any Mearns Castle High School (MCHS) pupils to come in and relax and enjoy the facilities for the lunch period. We feel that we can safely handle about 60 pupils at any one time. Because there can be as many as 30 waiting to get in, we run a 'first come first served' system and as you can imagine, there is a race to the "back door". While inside out of the weather, they play video games, table football and pool, or just sit on the sofas and enjoy their lunch.

One of the teachers, Gordon Stewart, helps me run the club and seven 4th year pupils help with the tuck shop and the

door as well as keeping the kids rotating on the games. Mostly 1st to 3rd year pupils come because they are not allowed off the school grounds and don't have a proper base. So this is a draw one day a week, when most of them bring a packed lunch and relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

Having The Basement open one day a week has been a great way to get to know some of the MCHS pupils in a more informal setting. We are also getting more of them coming to Café Max on a Saturday evening, which broadens our contact with them on a regular basis.

*Jay Lennartson*  
Youth Minister

---

## *Church Family Weekend Away, Autumn 2008*

Following the very successful weekend away at Lendrick Muir enjoyed by our young folks in September, the Kirk Session has been requested to consider arranging a similar event for all members of our Church Family.

Session has asked a group of folk to look into the feasibility of such an event and to this end, we would welcome your preliminary indication as to whether your family might be interested in taking part. The questions as to where, when and how much for such an event will be dealt with in due course. However, it would be most helpful to know an approximate number of those who might be interested.

Please let any of the undersigned know before the end of December 2007 if you and your family would like to take part in this event.

*Sam Nugent, Phyl Campbell, Pat Kedslie*

# M M M M...

## The Monthly Musings and Meanderings of the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery

Since the last edition of *Maxwell Matters*, I have been experiencing a wide range of duties and responsibilities in my capacity as Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery.

The main monthly Presbytery meetings continue to be a logistical challenge, as a lengthy agenda with a wide range of reports is tabled, discussed, disputed and finally, hopefully, agreed!

It wasn't until my third meeting in the chair before I felt I had a handle on what I was supposed to be doing and how I was meant to be doing it!

Alongside the main Presbytery meeting, I have discovered that behind the scenes is a whole plethora of meetings at which is thrashed out the detailed life and work of the world's largest presbytery.

It was a shock to discover that the Moderator is involved in many of these meetings; rarely a week goes by that I don't find myself at a couple of these.

My second main area of responsibility lies in the realm of ordaining and/or inducting

ministers, readers and principals to their particular area of ministry in the life of the church. After the first induction of a new minister to my old home congregation (St Nicholas, Cardonald) on 4 July, there was a welcome lull in engagements. However since then I have been privileged to travel to Drumchapel St Marks, and Williamwood to induct their new ministers and also to Cathcart Trinity for the induction of five readers to their ministries across the presbytery.

In November, I had the unusual experience of inducting my old Reformation History Lecturer to the role of Principal of Trinity College in the University of Glasgow Chapel.

The third area, and perhaps the most challenging, is the great variety of engagements where I am called to act as the church's representative at a wide range of civic, interfaith and inter-church events: from a rally in George Square under the banner of Scotland Against Terrorism organised by the Muslim Community in Scotland, to being present at the Service Of Remembrance in George Square on 11 November, with the opportunity to mingle over lunch with

many past and present servicemen and their families.

In between I've been given a warm welcome at many events.

- ◇ The gathering of Church leaders in Giffnock United Reformed Church for the meeting of Glasgow Churches Together.
- ◇ Leading a day's reflective spiritual retreat with the staff and volunteers of 'The Well', the Church of Scotland's Asian advice centre in Govanhill.
- ◇ The annual Trades House dinner in Glasgow at which many of the 'great and the good' of the city and its institutions gathered. The Trades House is one of the significant charitable and benevolent organisations that each year distributes more than three quarters of a million pounds to areas of need and development across the city. Well, it deserves the title of Glasgow's best-kept secret.
- ◇ On two occasions I have been able to enjoy the hospitality of the Archbishop of Glasgow, Mario Conti. He had a group of Church leaders to (and not for) breakfast in the company of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Bob Winter. He also hosted a widely represented gathering from across the many faith communities in the city and its'

surrounds on United Nations Day, as an expression of friendship.

- ◇ I also had the privilege to be part of a discussion hosted by BBC newsreader George Alagiah on issues of Fairtrade. George is the Chairman of the Fairtrade Foundation and was in Glasgow to stimulate discussion and action on developing the influence of Fairtrade amongst the many faith communities within the area. Commending as he did the significant contribution made by the Christian Churches, he was in Glasgow to explore how our communities might embrace what he asserted was an essentially moral issue, before it could be described as an economic or political one.

Being a former BB boy and officer, you can imagine how unfamiliar I felt amongst the Scouts at their Annual Review and Presentation of Awards in the City Chambers. Shaking hands with the left hand (dangerous when I have to wear a great knuckle duster of a Mod's ring) and having to keep quiet on my Brigade past was all overshadowed when, to my delight, I heard the name of our very own Euan McTear being called out in order that he might be presented with the Chief Scout's Gold Award! Congratulations Euan – it made my night. Next week I have to attend the Guides ceremonies –

no fears here, as there won't be any issues with non-membership!

On Sundays I haven't had too many demands on my time: I have visited Newton Mearns Parish Church to launch Mearns Community Week and on 11 November the Remembrance Day events in George Square. Otherwise the main impact on life at Maxwell has been on the pastoral side of ministry and I am so grateful to Alistair Cook and Evelyn Foote and the Pastoral Team for picking up the pastoral load during this time.

To those of you who I haven't been able to visit and support through your times of illness, bereavement or crisis, be assured you are very much in my thoughts and prayers.

Thank you all for your continued understanding and prayers. Do pray that I will be able to act as a good ambassador for Christ and that, when the opportunity arises, I will be ready and able to give a word in and out of season.

*David Cameron*

---

*We smiled a lot when we received this contribution from Anon. It's charming and clever, and we hope that you don't think we're terribly vain in printing it here. A&E*

*The harmonious couplet*

*Archie and Esther*

*Aren't ones to pester*

*For articles very clever*

*But gently they'll ask*

*"If you're up for the task*

*We'll print your best endeavour!"*

*Esther and Archie*

*Their heads sometimes scratchy*

*When editing Matters Maxwell*

*But their way to relax*

*On piano and sax*

*Another mag? Who can tell!*

## *Action stations!*

What are you doing in early August 2008? I hope to be dropping off my son at the Maxwell Mearns Holiday club and going for a coffee. Maybe do a bit of back-to-school shopping. It'll be great. Wait a minute... there is going to be a Holiday Club, isn't there?

It was great to see the team in action this summer, after a year of theory and planning. It all came together with very few meetings, as the team were committed, motivated and talented in so many ways. The "Tsars" took on large areas of responsibility and worked to prepare the different parts of the whole: music, drama, starter activities, games, snack and crafts. During the week the team turned up cheerfully – and on time – for the preparation meetings and the young people worked very hard as group helpers, actors and musicians and were vital in making the week fun for the children.

My one last minute worry for the whole week was that I did not have an up-front character to host the event, and thought that in the end I would have to do it myself. But on the first day of his placement, Alastair Cook asked if there was anything he could do to help with the

holiday club... and Captain Stations was brought to life.

To avoid 'death-by-worksheet' during the school holidays, we communicated five traditional bible stories without any reading or writing for the children. In groups they listened to the story being read and used pictures to explore the story, or used their dramatic skills to re-create the moments.

I wasn't sure if the Jackanory approach would work in the 21st century – but as I listened around the halls during the story time there was rapt silence as the children heard the dramatic and miraculous tales that used to be so well known: Jonah and the Whale, Jeremiah in the Well, Daniel in the Lions' Den; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace; and Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison.

Many of the team from 2007 are eager to be involved in August 2008. There were over 70 children at the club. I am sure they and their parents would be keen to see an event planned for next summer too. Scripture Union and other organisations produce packs of material and resources for holiday clubs and in the church there is a lot of experience

and advice to draw on from previous coordinators.

If you would like to coordinate next year's Holiday Club, or have an idea of someone I could hand the baton onto, please speak to me or the minister as

soon as possible. If the team know definite dates for the Holiday Club they can commit now, before their summer holidays are booked.

*Sandra McNicol*

---

## *The Greatest Story Ever Told*

Romans 14: 12

**I**n this issue of *Maxwell Matters* we have been invited to write on “The Greatest Story Ever Told” which is an extremely wide brief and should stimulate much response.

It could be argued that the description “greatest” is a subjective one resulting in stories based on a particular slant (or spin) of the writer. For example in the sixties Hollywood produced such films as “How the West was Won” (The greatest story ever told) which is all well and good, except when you look at it from the perspective of the Native American Indian where hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the advance of the so called “white” civilization.

On a more local level if you asked a sports writer to produce an article on “who was the greatest footballer in living memory”, the response would I am sure be contingent on whether the writer was a Celtic, Rangers, Hibs, Hearts (or Queens Park) fan.

The point is, surely, that at the end of the day (forgive the pun), the “greatest” story which we all, as individuals, will tell is when we are standing before our God, or, in St Paul's words to the Romans, “Each of us will have to give a personal account to God” of our lives here on earth.

Personally, I am very frightened at the prospect of this meeting but I hold fast to the promise that in the Lord Jesus I have an intercessor who will stand with me and with his help, will tell my not-so-great story of a life which is, hopefully, acceptable to my God.

*Sam Nugent*

## *Pressed for time*

Recently there have been several changes in the shops along the road from us in Langside Place. Two hairdressers now occupy sites near the barber shop, a nail extension salon is alongside the café. But the latest addition, “Pressed for Time” is the place to bring your clothes for ironing or altering. Its business reminded me of my childhood when the “Richmond Park Laundry” van used to deliver my father’s ironed shirts and starched collars each week. Other items of laundry my mother dealt with on a Monday. It was heavy work rubbing and scrubbing on the wash board and then turning the handle of the wringer to squeeze each item as dry as possible. She developed powerful biceps as a result!

These were the days of hard manual house work and I guess Mum spent a large part of her week cleaning, washing and cooking while Dad was at work. Nostalgic reflection is always prone to bias but it seems to me that my memories of these more physically demanding, less

affluent days in the fifties were of a slower, gentler pace to life than today’s hectic world – despite automated kitchens.

21st century society is said to be cash rich, time poor. So “Pressed for Time” will have an assured customer base of the hard pressed who like to be smartly dressed!

Is God ever pressed for time I wonder?

The Psalmist has this interesting perspective on God and time. “A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by” he writes in Psalm 90 verse 4 .

Imagine God regarding the whole of church history compressed into two days!

The only Divine deadline we are aware of is Christ’s return to this earth but only God knows the “when” of that dramatic event.

Could it be that time is pressing for this?

*Ken Carter*

---

### **The Forum**

Despite Sam Nugent’s optimistic outlook on the previous page, the Forum this time is empty. David, our minister, had suggested that we might write a short story that has in its message something that speaks of ‘The greatest story ever told.’

When I was at school, I clearly remember being warned away from the short story option when doing the English O level. It would seem that everyone else remembers receiving the same cautionary advice. Except, perhaps, David? *A McL*

# Financial Review 2007/8

## YOUR GIVING TO THE CHURCH

We all know that money matters and that the work of the Church cannot continue unless an appropriate level of giving is forthcoming.

Here are a few facts for you to consider when you next give prayerful thought to your contribution for the work of the Church.

During 2008, if we maintain the present level of activity, Maxwell Mearns Castle Church needs some £182,000 in total to cover the costs we are likely to incur.

This indicates that you need to donate some £150,000 from offerings alone with the balance coming from recovered tax, donations and charges for the use of the premises. The equivalent figure for 2007 is £125,000 meaning that your level of giving needs to increase by some 20%.

We believe that some 200 people/households attend regularly, so the average giving by people/households needs to reach £15 per week.

Members have chosen how they give to the Church – FWO envelopes, direct payments to the Church's Bank or the open plate. To allow the collection of the Gift Aid component, FWO envelopes or

standing order payments are recommended although one-off payments can be processed so as to receive the Gift Aid refund.

Please note that there are already 146 people/households giving regularly through FWO envelopes or Bank standing orders.

Of these, only 54 currently give more than £10 per week.

Of the 66 people with standing orders, only 28 have increased their giving over the last three years.

If an increase of the order of 20% across everyone's giving is not achieved from the start of 2008, the work of the Church, especially in outreach, will have to be radically reduced.

We urge you to consider reviewing your financial commitment to the day to day running of Maxwell Mearns Castle Church.

*John Foote*

Finance Convenor

*David McTear*

Treasurer

November 2007

# News from Ethiopia

*The following are excerpts from communications from Mark & Debbie McLachlan in Injibara. There are a few minor changes – the local people group are simply referred to as the A/people (if confused see me), and certain individuals are mentioned by initial rather than by name; mission can be a ‘sensitive’ issue and we are to be wise! Please pray for Mark & Debbie as they minister among the A/people.*

*Martin Smith*

**September 2007**

## **pressures from false accusations**

**A**gain, thank you for your strong prayers and support. Our summer was certainly a difficult one for us. I've thought a lot about the verse in Colossians 1: 11 regarding being sustained by His power: "We also pray that you will be strengthened by His glorious power so that you will have all patience and endurance that you need.". It is easy and fatal to rely on one's own strength and wisdom. We confess that on many days we have both had very grim, set faces. The joy of the Lord is my strength...that should always be our norm. Not an artificial "Praise the Lord", but a deep set reliance on the wisdom, power and mercy of God.

The three inspections seem to be over though we are still waiting for the reports

of the last two. Last week Mark received a visit by one of the Zonal inspectors from inspection number three. He actually said that the problems would never have happened if they had been close to us, helping us. Mark has said that there is a more cooperative attitude now from the government agricultural workers. We will see how long this new cooperative attitude will last! This whole business is widely known and talked about...what God will do with that we really don't know. We do know that God has a plan and purposes. It is interesting that in a place riddled with corruption that we were the ones pulled open seam by seam to be searched for any hint of wrongdoing. One person said to us, "How many of their offices would have withstood the examination they gave you?" It seems to us that the expectation was that they simply had to look in the right place to find the dirt. May it be a witness that *three* inspection teams and a full month of close examination found nothing! (I'm not saying we are perfect. We see our faults embarrassingly clear...but they are not faults of corruption!)

The Zonal team confirmed that the accusations came from our former employee. His intentions were clearly to destroy the work. So, pray for him and his church where he is an elder. The

inspector said regarding him, “He is a man without faith.” We are sorry that this has brought dishonour on God’s people. We will be seeing him around...in this country you always see people. Pray that God grants us wisdom when we talk to him.

*The following is an update late October:*  
As so often, good things along with struggles. Have had some good times discussing all sorts of things with the farmers at coffee times. The foundation is nearly complete on the house – and we have another investigation. This time it is from the federal level, mostly things that we have already been cleared of. This time the questions were directed to our national office, not directly to us, so they should be the ones handling the bulk of the work. But an attack from the same quarters, nonetheless. Please pray!

### **home schooling**

Praise that our first four weeks of school have gone very well! Jonathan is transitioning into high school and is working hard on his North Star correspondence course. The other two have taken their studies seriously as well. Getting them to be self motivated has been a huge challenge for me. I’m finding that this stage of their education is taking far more of my time than in any previous year. They are aware of this and are, in turn, helping with cooking and cleaning in a way which is revealing three responsible young people. Pray for me to

not grow weary in this final stage of educating and putting into their lives. As of now, they have no plans to leave home education.

### **bible translation**

We discovered that M and H, our Word for the World Bible translators are not at peace with each other. It is to the point that M wants to leave and return to being an evangelist. Pray for them and that the word of God goes forth to the A/people.

### **secret believers**

One of the A/people evangelists brought secret A/people Orthodox workers to M’s house for a weekend of discipleship. They are wanting to remain in place as a witness for Christ. They were very grateful for the spiritual encouragement and training they received and expressed the desire for more of that encouragement. We are encouraged to see believers willing to work with secret believers within the local religious community. What do I mean by a “secret believer”? Their trust is in Christ alone... not in the prayers of Mary, angels or saints. Nor is their faith in religious customs for salvation and acceptance. They rely on the Word of God which is opened to them by the Holy Spirit. As one local woman said, “Why should any priest have any problem with that?” Pray for all the embedded A/people believers to have wisdom in being salt and light in their communities.

*(from Mark & Debbie McLachlan)*

# 'Who Knows?' – a carol

Baby Jesus, Baby Jesus,  
Do you know – you can't know the reason  
For your coming?  
May it please us,  
May we joy in your Advent. The season  
Of your knowing,  
Will be – growing.

Father Joseph, Father Joseph,  
Do you know – you don't know the reason  
For his coming?  
You'll get close if  
You will tend and protect him. The season  
Of your knowing's  
In bestowing.

Mother Mary, Mother Mary,  
Do you know – you may know the reason  
For his coming?  
We are wary,  
We suspect that you know it. The season  
Of your knowing,  
Will be showing.

God above us, God above us,  
Do you know – you do know the reason  
For his coming?  
That you love us  
That you sent him to die in due season,  
Ever knowing,  
Ever knowing.

George Ewen

## Almost the Last Word

What can we offer to do at MMCC? Archie and I pondered this question some months after we had come to worship here. As private piano teachers, we work in the evenings when children are available for lessons, so we are not free to get involved in mid-week activities. David, our minister, mentioned that he was hoping someone might restart the church magazine which had not appeared for some years. "Sounds ideal for us," we said to each other, "something that we can do in the funny times of day and night that we are available."

So David came and had a chat about what running a magazine might entail; by the time he had enthused about all that this might involve, we had revised our views on our suitability as magazine editors. We were terrified!

"How would it be," we parried, "if we warm up with a nice Welcome booklet? We certainly felt something that told us a bit more about MMCC and all that goes on here would have been useful when we first came."

So that's what we did and we learned a lot about the people and activities of MMCC in doing it.

Then it was done and we thought again about doing a magazine. "I don't think we're up to this," I quavered "I thought it would just be a matter of laying out the articles that people sent us. I didn't realise we would actually have to have ideas about what should go into it and then ask people to do it. We don't know anyone. How can we do that?"

Unwittingly, Graeme Lipsett came to our aid and we were able to shelve that pesky magazine idea again. He asked if anyone would like to take on the task of preparing the weekly notices. "Just up your street," I told Archie, "No thinking needed – you just have to put things on pages on the computer. That's what you like doing most anyway. A good excuse to have computer fun."

So Archie took on the notices and very nicely he does it too, says his loyal wife.

But then came a time when Graeme Lipsett again asked for volunteers. Would anyone out there like to run...a...church magazine?

And this time, there seemed to be no excuses that would wash. We were getting to know more people and had a bit more idea what people might like to read about. MMCC is a big church and a

magazine is a good way of people getting to know about other people, their thoughts, interests, experiences.

We've enjoyed preparing each of the fourteen issues which have appeared over the last five years; we've been stunned at the breadth of service that we have read about, amazed by the creativity of many of the contributors, encouraged by the wealth of material that has been submitted (often without any prompting) and touched by the depth of experiences shared. We may not have known many people in MMCC before *Maxwell Matters* came into being, but we have met many through it and feel inspired and enriched by our contact with them.

We hope that someone (or two or three...) might want to take over and that *Maxwell Matters* will continue to flourish. There is a wealth of wisdom, humour and experience within our church family and it will always be so.

*Esther McLellan*

PS Graeme Lipsett and his wonderful team (or should that be wonderful Graeme Lipsett and his team?) have looked after the production of the magazine: copying, collating, folding, stapling and addressing. It is a huge incentive to the job of compiling the magazine, that we didn't (you won't) have to even think about this side of things.

*A McL*

### **Spotted the lamp?**

An observant and inquisitive member of our congregation has been asking a question about a small jug which appeared some time ago on top of one of the projecting stones at the front of the church.

Well spotted!

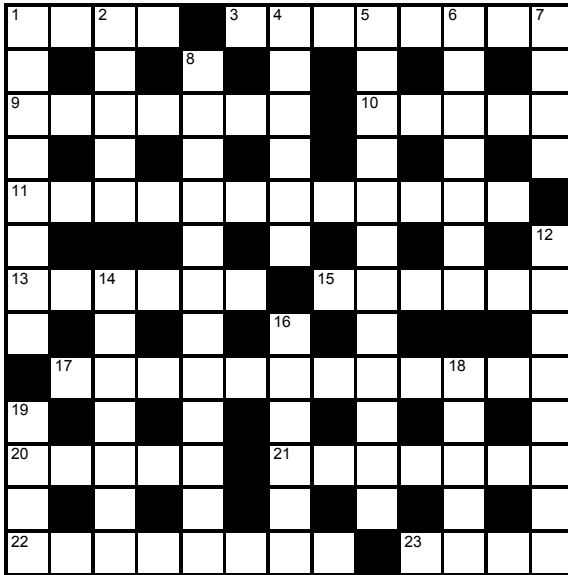
This pottery oil lamp was gifted to us by the two pastors from the Swedish Mission Church.

They were in Scotland to develop links with the national church and, as part of their time here, they met with a variety of congregations, including ours.

As yet, we haven't attempted to light the lamp. However, as you look at it week by week, may it remind you of the precious links and ties we have with the church worldwide.

*David Cameron*

## Fairtrade Farewell Chocotote Crossword!



Three words form a little message to the 115 people listed on the next page. Because of this, the solution is printed at the bottom of the next page. There may be some groaning...

Hope there's some smiling too.

### Across

- 1 Nutmeg gives Speaker authority (4)
- 3 Sea in the doldrums (8)
- 9 Sick little Edward needs little doctor, taught by rote (7)
- 10 Mole direction for fruit (5)
- 11 Repositions substitutes (12)
- 13 Gratitude for fitting skeins to a T! (6)
- 15 Store for more fat (6)
- 17 How could MM do without them? (12)
- 20 'E is one of our kith and kin (5)
- 21 Raise the tone in late eve (7)
- 22 Grooming session on a hen night! (8)
- 23 Egyptian goddess only exists with a stutter (4)

### Down

- 1 Reasonable date in Rome (8)
- 2 It's not pc including him at the tea party! (5)
- 4 Drive (abbr.) Dale up the wall? (6)
- 5 Mood at certain degrees (12)
- 6 Removed, and dealt tummy muscle (7)
- 7 In Germany there are lots (4)
- 8 Waving lance over cook-room... 12dn (12)
- 12 She waves ferns and cleans up (8)
- 14 A notice for a deadly plant (7)
- 16 Was he armed with hotel bibles? (6)
- 18 Ring friends in stones (5)
- 19 Miss a jump (4)

## Details

*The MM 1–14 contributors:* Pat Allan, Charles Amery-Behr, Colleen Amery-Behr, Sue Amery-Behr, Sue Anderson, Wendy Arrowsmith, Bryson and May Arthur, Gerry Barr, Rachel Barr, Catherine Beattie, Robert Beattie, Watson Beattie, Kirsty Bell, Wanda Bell, Darlene Braithwaite, Fiona Brown, Raymond Brown-Hendry, Alistair Brunton, Lesley Brunton, Alister Bull, Jordan Bull, Elspeth Burgess, Jim Burgess, David Cameron, Lesley Cameron, Lyndsay Cameron, Mark Cameron, Phyl Campbell, Robert Campbell, Christine Campbell, Ken Carter, Ros Carter, Oswald Carvel, Stuart Clark, Susan Clarke, David Clarkson, Margaret Cooper, Sandy Cooper, Margaret Dodds, Rachel Dodds, Michael Dodds, Rebecca Dodds, Karen Dyker, Lena Dykes, Tim Elwell-Sutton, George Ewen, Evelyn Foote, Karen Foote, John Foote, Kirsty Forgie, Jack Geddes, Ross Geddes, Paul Grant, Lorna Grady, Alan Gray, Kirsteen Gray, Margaret Guthrie, Margaret Halliday, Kathleen Henderson, Emmanuel Klu, Jay Lennartson, Sara Lennartson, Sandy Leonard, Graeme Lipsett, Denise Lowson, Kirsty Lowson, Winnie Macvicar, Alison McCree, Libby McCree, Ian MacDonald, Alastair McDonald, Hamish McIntosh, Ross Mackenzie, Archie McLellan, Esther McLellan, Lewis McLellan, Kirsty McLellan, Mary McLennan, Dan McNicol, Murray McNicol, Margo McNicol, Sandra McNicol, David McTear, Gemma Maher, Steve Malloy, Gillian Marshall, Fiona Maxwell, David Merriman, Pamela Merriman, Christine Murray, Graham Nash, Sam Nugent, Caroline Peberdy, Mark Peberdy, Carole Plews, Chris Plews, Gillian Pryce, Lawrence Renn, Andrew Robertson, Calum Robinson, Eilidh Robinson, Hilary Robinson, Dorothy Russell, Heather Russell, Doug Scott, Angela Sigrist, Andy Sinclair, Martin Smith, Kay Steven, Laura Steven, Lyn Steven, Laspic Stewart, Maggy Stewart, David Swan, May Taggart, Chris Walker, Iain Walker, Ken Walker

Thanks to Graeme Lipsett, Heather Malloy, and the production team.

### Crossword answers

Across: 1 Mace, 3 Flat calm, 9 Drilled, 10 Melon, 11 Replacements, 13 **Thanks**, 15 Larder, 17 **Contributors**, 20 Keith, 21 Elevate, 22 Preening, 23 Isis.

Down: 1 Moderate, 2 Chimp, 4 Ladder, 5 Temperatures, 6 Ablated, 7 **Many**, 8 Clean kitchen, 12 Freshens, 14 Aconite, 16 Gideon, 18 Opals, 19 Skip.

Last word

Listed here

are all

who used

Maxwell

Matters

to talk

to others.

KEEP

TALKING!