

Summer 2023



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**Material for the Autumn 2023 issue should be handed in to the Editor,
Bridget Hillman, or by email to bridget.hillman70@gmail.com**

by Sunday 23rd July 2023 - No Later please

Charity Numbers Mochrum SC003300 Kirkinner SC001946 Sorbie SC010621

THE STONES CRY OUT

The 11th May 1685 stands out as an infamous day in our area. Two women, Margaret McLachlan, aged 63, who lived at Drumjargan in Kirkinner Parish and Margaret Wilson, aged 18, of Glenvernoch, not far from Bargrennan, were drowned in the tidal river Bladnoch for being 'Covenanters', believing that Christ was head of the Church, not the King.

Three men from Penninghame Parish, were also hanged that year in Wigtown, for being covenanters; William Johnstone, John Milroy and George Walker. These men and women have become known as, 'The Wigtown Martyrs.' (The word, 'Martyr' simply means, witness.)

To commemorate their deaths, gravestones stand in Wigtown Graveyard as well as the stone at the Martyrs Stake, the Monument on Windy Hill, the Martyrs Cell in the County Buildings and most recently, in 2015, the Martyrs Monolith on the old railway line path.

The Wigtown Churches together, have marked this event annually. This year, on Sunday 14th May the congregations of Kirkinner, Mochrum and Sorbie Parish Churches alongside Kirkcowan Parish Church gathered together with Wigtown Baptist Church and Wigtown Parish Church for a Joint Service at Wigtown Parish Church. Our theme was, 'The Stones Cry Out.'

All through human history stones have been laid as memorials and witnesses to significant events and people. But there is a more precious stone, than any building or memorial stone, a living stone, the chief cornerstone.

'And as you come to him (Jesus), the living stone ... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ... (1 Peter 2:4-5) ... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit.' (Eph. 2:20-22)

As we face an uncertain future, Lord, strengthen and enable us to faithfully stand up for you against tyranny and oppression in our generation.

The stones cry out and bear witness and ask us to bear witness too.

Rev. Eric Boyle (*Interim Moderator*)

CHURCH SERVICES LIST - 24th SEPTEMBER 2023

JUNE

4th	Mochrum	Rev. Eric Boyle
11th	Sorbie	Elder led service
18th	Mochrum	Catherine Morrison
25th	Sorbie	Donna Brewster

JULY

2nd	Mochrum	Elder led service – celebrating “Sea Sunday”
9th	Sorbie	Donna Brewster
16th	Mochrum	Rev. Eric Boyle
23rd	Sorbie	Catherine Morrison
30th	Mochrum	Donna Brewster – with the Carnival Queen and members of the Community Association

AUGUST

6th	Sorbie	Rev. Eric Boyle
13th	Mochrum	Donna Brewster
20th	Sorbie	Elder led service
27th	Mochrum	Catherine Morrison

SEPTEMBER

3rd	Sorbie	Donna Brewster
10th	Mochrum	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Eric Boyle
17th	Sorbie	Catherine Morrison
24th	Mochrum	Elder led service

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

FUNERALS

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

February	Laurence (Lulty) Lynch	Port William
March	Brian Smith	Mochrum
	Mary McGill	Mochrum
April	Sylvia McMillan	Mochrum
	Annie Murray	Formerly Port William
	Joan Knowles	Monreith
May	Robert Turner	Formerly Port William

ELDERS' DUTY LIST

June	* Ann Wadsworth	\$ Elizabeth Wallace
July	* Harry Walker	\$ Moira Adams
August	*Bridget Hillman	\$ Moira Adams

** In charge \$ Deputy*

FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

June	4th	Lorraine Gaw
	18th	Rhona Morland
July	2nd	Bridget Hillman
	16th	Vicky Parker
	30th	Claire Nash
August	13th	Helen McColm
	27th	Maria Old
September	11th	Helen Oxley
	25th	Morag Walker

COFFEE MORNING ROTA

June 7th	Elsie Kirby and Jennifer Brodie
July 5th	Kay Gibson and Aileen Kirk
August 2nd	Rosalynd Smithson and Jane Nelson
September 6th	Monica McTurk and Bridget Hillman
October 4th	Lorraine Ker and Beth Robinson

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE QUIZ

The Bible has 66 books. 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Can you work out these quiz questions, all the answers are books of the Bible.

- 1) Friends, ??, Countrymen.
- 2) This book is full of digits.
- 3) Is this book part of a play?
- 4) This bee doesn't make a noise!
- 5) Who makes a cup of tea?
- 6) Has this book left a stain?
- 7) This water pipe has an added 'a'
- 8) Was this book written by magistrates?
- 9) This book has three 'K' s in it.
- 10) He is taller?

Answers on page 18

ADVERTISEMENTS

**PLEASE COULD I REMIND EVERYONE WHO ADVERTISES
IN THE MAGAZINE THAT THEIR MONEY (£15)
WAS DUE AT THE END OF JANUARY 2023.**

**If you could drop the cash off to me at Ben Laggan
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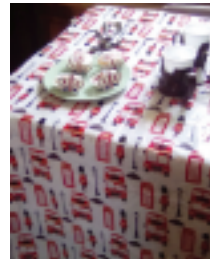
Thank you

Bridget 01988 700781

MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

As I write we have been enjoying some sunshine and warmer weather over the past few days. It does help to make everything feel brighter when the sun is shining and anything that helps to keep the bills a bit lower is always welcome. Sadly times are, I know, still very difficult. Some of you will have lost loved ones; the world is still in turmoil, the cost of living still rising, but I always think of a text which my Mum had on a plaque in her lounge 'Lord help me to remember that nothing can happen to me today that you and I together cannot handle', and with faith we know that we will get through the bad times.

The Presbytery Plan places us in Guardianship until 2025 which means we are not able to call a Minister but thanks to our Interim Moderator Rev Eric Boyle we are still able to hold services every Sunday alternating between Mochrum and Sorbie and our Easter service was led by Donna Brewster. Vicky Parker decorated the church and as you can see she made a wonderful spectacle of the Cross.



On the 7th May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III when the service was led by Rev Boyle and again Vicky did a magnificent job of making the church look extra special. I know that worship is paramount in our church life but I also think it is very important that we make it an enjoyable experience. Decorating it for special occasions, as well as the lovely hymns that we sing adds to that enjoyment, so our thanks go to Jill Bateman who plays the organ for us every Sunday; to Vicky and of course to Claire and her team who make it look so special throughout the Christmas season. We also enjoy our after worship refreshments and even those are made special with Easter eggs on the cakes for Easter Sunday and crowns for the Coronation.

On a more serious note we do have to keep the church running and in good order, and it is very much a team effort. Moira Adams has agreed to take on the role of Fabric Convener and Ann Wadsworth will be our Presbytery representative for another year. The front doors have now all been painted and Galloway Signs have been contacted to update the notice board. Kirkinner church is now officially closed and will form a Basis of Union with Sorbie; they will decide on a new name for the one church which will then be formerly linked with Mochrum. We have held our ASM; applications for our annual bursary are now invited; we shall celebrate Sea Sunday on the 2nd July and we look forward to Carnival week when we will be joined in church by our Carnival Queen and members of the Community Association. Meanwhile we are here or at Sorbie every Sunday morning at 11.00 a.m. so please come and join with us if you can. The kettle is always on and the welcome is always warm

Keeping you always in our prayers - Jenni Gray

MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT

To kickstart the New Year, Mochrum Guild held our January meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th January. We welcomed 10 members to our 'Social Afternoon' of Moving with Moira and games which was held in Maxwell Hall, Port William.

We welcomed Moira Adams, one of our members who was going to get us moving in our chairs. Moira explained about Zumba and all the training, courses and licenses she had acquired in the years she had been enjoying her dancing. Next came the dancing with legs and arms in all directions, followed by laughter. Moira warmed us up then cooled us down, it was great fun.

Once we had all settled back down, tea was served and to Margaret Murphie's surprise, Ann Wadsworth had baked a wonderful cake for Margaret's upcoming 90th birthday. With the birthday song sung, the members were given a touch and feel quiz called 'What's in the Sock, Jock'. After much guessing and amusement, we had a winner, Babs Mellor.

February came bounding along with a wonderful talk from Charlotte and Gordon Bennie, June Lochhead and the two dogs Christie and Sophie from Guide Dogs Scotland. Charlotte spoke of her experience of having guide dogs in her life. Most dogs used are Labrador Retriever Cross and German Shepherds. When a person is offered a guide dog, the person must go through training with that dog. The dogs are usually retired at the age of 10. Charlotte showed us how, when she puts Christie's harness on, the dog automatically knows that she is being asked to work.

June then spoke to us about her role as a puppy raiser. June was one of the first in this area to take this roll on and enjoys it very much. She will receive a puppy at seven weeks and start immediately with toilet training and walking and always using the same commands as all other puppy raisers. June also mentioned about taking her puppy everywhere she can to get the dog familiar with all aspects of life. It was very plain to see that June has such a rapport with her puppy Sophie and both dogs were on very good behaviour during the talk.

Next came the arrival of our AGM on the 14th March. Due to snow, this had to be rearranged to 28th March. Sadly only seven members were able to attend, but with a cuppa in our hands we covered the business and bashed out plenty of new ideas for the future.

One of our ideas is to hold a 'Ploughman's and Pudding Lunch'. This shall take place on Saturday 26th August 12 noon - 1.30pm at Maxwell Hall, Port William, with tickets only £5.

We will start our new syllabus of meetings in September and look forward to seeing lots of new members. Have a fantastic summer everyone and please do come along and support your local Guild group.

Mochrum Guild invites you to our

Ploughman's and Pudding Lunch

in MAXWELL HALL, PORT WILLIAM

on Saturday 26th August 12 noon - 1.30 pm

Only £5.00 - Plus Tea & Coffee

Call Vicky 07825 869318 for tickets

PROCEEDS FOR GUILD FUNDS - Scottish Charity SC003300

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Trust is looking to attract additional members following the retirement of its previous chairman, Anna Thompson, and Secretary, Pauline Watkins who both served the local community through the Trust with great distinction over the years.

The Trust funded and developed the Community Youth Centre and outdoor gym area and is now looking for a fresh impetus by attracting new people with a range of experiences to serve as a Trustee.

If you have a few hours a month to spare and would be willing to help your local community then we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact either Chairman Dr Mike Cooper on 01988 700734, email drmichaelcooper@googlemail.com, or Treasurer Mr Paul Carrigan on 01988 700394, email p.carrigan@tinternet.com Thank you.

PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The boys and girls (and all staff) at Port William Primary have been very busy both in school and out in the community. This year we have been working hard towards becoming a 'Rights Respecting School,' (RRS) where children are learning about the rights of children all over the world, and finding out that it is not the same for everyone. So far we have proudly achieved the RRS Bronze Award and will continue working towards achieving Silver next year. In March, we eagerly took part in 'National Science Week' with all children learning about "Connections" in Science.

As part of learning about Careers and Developing the Young Workforce, numerous parents and local businesses have shared their knowledge and experiences about what they do in their daily work including talks from an Architect, a Vet, a Farmer, a Doctor to name but a few. Children have been very inspired by all the visitors... including a lamb from a local farm.

Like many others we celebrated 'The King's Coronation' by dressing up in our finest clothes and holding a super street party style lunch with House games and activities in school.

We are also a super sporty school too with girls and boys taking part in badminton, basketball, cross country, rugby, football and netball with fantastic successes! Children are currently gearing up for Sports Day which is fast approaching.

Summer trips are also fully underway, with visits to Logan Botanic Gardens and Threave Gardens as children learn about 'Living and Growing' in school and outdoors at local educational events. Look out for us next week doing a whole school 'Beach Clean' with children and parents together at Second Sands with the Sea Shepherd.



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MOCHRUM PARISH WHO'S WHO 2022/23

(Telephone numbers all commence with 01988 unless otherwise stated)

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev Eric Boyle	402314
Treasurer	Ieuan Morgan	
Session Clerk	Mrs Jenni Gray	700948
Clerk to the Board	Mrs Jenni Gray	700948
Organist	Mrs Gill Bateman	
Free Will Offering	Mrs Jenni Gray	700948
Guild Secretary	Mrs. Vicky Parker	700312
Magazine	Mrs Bridget Hillman	700781
Coffee Morning Convenor	Mrs Bridget Hillman	700781
Church Flowers and Distribution	Mrs Bridget Hillman	700781

PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP

Secretary		700955
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PORT WILLIAM FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

Chairman	Mr Murray Morland	700488
Secretary	Mrs Audrey Kevan	700463

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chairman	Mr. Shaun Dodds	700536
Secretary	Mrs Davina Kiltie	700738

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman	Mr Robert Sheppard	
Secretary	secretary.pwcc@gmail.com	

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

Chairperson	Mrs Jean Hobbs	700703
Secretary	Mrs Eunice Murray	07818 519213
Treasurer	Mrs Margo Brawls	700832

TODDLERS' GROUP

Chairperson	Natalie Brawls	
Secretary	Laura Shell	07776 010803

PORT WILLIAM SCHOOL PARENT'S COUNCIL

Chairperson	Mrs Kay Christie	
Secretary	Mrs Emily Nicholson	700203
Treasurer	Mrs Arlene Morgan	700694

SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Mrs Nikki Steel	07766 433409
Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan	07810 435117
Treasurer	Mrs Dib Penrose	700741

P.I.R.S.A.C.

Chairman	Mr. Kenny Barr	07834 985536
Secretary	Mrs. Helen Oxley	07900 046350

P.W.R.I:

President	Mrs. Jean Hobbs	700703
Vice President	Mrs Elaine Milven	07901 623876
Secretary	Ms Elizabeth Dally	

PORT WILLIAM PANTOMIME COMPANY

Chairperson	Mrs Helen Oxley	700757
Secretary	Mrs Linda Plunket	840291
Treasurer	Mr Douglas Ballentyne	700877

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Chairperson	Dr Mike Cooper	700734
Secretary/Treasurer	Mr Paul Carrigan	700394

PORT WILLIAM MAXWELL HALL MANAGEMENT

Chairperson	Mr Tony Cottam	
Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan	07810 435117

MADAG (Monreith & District Action Group)

Chairperson	Mr Robert Mckinnel	700117
Secretary	Mrs Alison McMaster	700439

If you would like the details of your organization's office bearers listed please give the details to the Editor (shown on the front page) including any changes in personnel before the closing date stated on the front of the magazine so that the directory may be kept up to date. Thank you - B Hillman

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MOCHRUM, KIRKINNER/SORBIE PARISH DIARY

JUNE

Thurs	1st	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sun	4th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum
Wed	7th	10.15am	Coffee Morning (MH Port William)
Sun	11th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	15th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
		7.30pm	Port William SWI (Supper Room MH Port William)
Sun	18th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum
Sun	25th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	29th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View

JULY

Sun	2nd	11.00am	Service at Mochrum - "Sea Sunday"
Wed	5th	10.15am	Coffee Morning (MH Port William)
Sun	9th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	13th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sun	16th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum
Thurs	20th		SWI Outing
Sun	23rd	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	27th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sun	30th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum

AUGUST

Wed	2nd	10.15am	Coffee Morning (MH Port William)
Sun	6th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	10th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sun	13th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum
Sun	20th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	24th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sat	26th		Guild Lunch
Sun	27th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum

SEPTEMBER

Sun	3rd	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Wed	6th	10.15am	Coffee Morning MH Port William)
Thurs	7th	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
Sun	10th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum with Holy Communion
Tues	12th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild (Supper Room MH Port William)
Sun	17th	11.00am	Service at Sorbie
Thurs	21st	2.30pm	Thursday Club meets at The View
		7.30pm	Port William SWI (Supper Room MH Port William)
Sat	23rd		Closing date for Bursary applications
Sun	24th	11.00am	Service at Mochrum

MOCHRUM PARISH EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Applications are invited for a

BURSARY

from the above Trust

The fund is used to assist students in Further Education, who reside or have resided within the bounds of Mochrum Parish or who have close connections with the Parish.

Closing Date 23rd September 2023

There will be ONLY ONE BURSARY AWARDED

Applications from previous applicants are welcome

A letter of application should be forwarded to the Session Clerk, Mrs Jenni Gray, at the address below:

*Mrs Jenni Gray
Session Clerk
Mochrum Parish Church
33 Main Street
Port William
Newton Stewart
DG8 9QH.*

by Saturday 23rd September 2023



The Maxwell Hall Management Team would like to thank everyone involved for continuing to support the hall. Bookings are continuing to increase and more improvements have been made to the hall as we work through our list of projects.

New heaters have been installed by the management team and complaints of the hall being too cold have switched to ones of it being too warm!

New cupboards have been fitted in the “foyer” and are being used by our groups. They have certainly smartened up the entrance area and were installed by our local joiner, Frazer Wilson.

We are extremely grateful for recent donations. We received a total of £95 from the Mochrum and Whithorn Burns Supper Clubs and £700 windfarm money via the Community Council.

Recently, the hall provided the venue for a Coronation celebration (*pic*) which was well supported by local groups, families and community members.

With regard to building repairs to the hall, committee members had a very positive meeting with Melinda Dolan from the council and our issues with dampness are currently being addressed.

We held a well-attended AGM in April and this resulted in some changes to the committee. We are delighted to welcome Bob Sheppard onto the committee as Kirsty McMaster has stepped down but will continue to support us with future events. Tony Cottam will remain on the committee but is stepping down as Chairperson and Janis Edgar will take on this role.

Our new committee comprises:

Chairperson: Janis Edgar (from July 2023), **Secretary:** Mary Cowan, **Treasurers:** Lorraine Ker and Kay Gibson, **Committee members:** Mary Wallace, Tony Cottam, Maria Old, Bob Sheppard.

It was agreed by those attending the AGM, it was inevitable, due to rising electricity costs, that hall fees would need to be slightly increased.

Our new hourly rates are:

Main Hall:	£15
Supper Room:	£10
Upstairs Rooms:	£7 per room
Commercial Rates:	
Main Hall	£25
Supper Room	£19

We are delighted to report the Supper Room is currently being used by Alzheimer Scotland as a drop in place for those suffering from memory loss and those who are living with or caring for people with memory loss. Next sessions are on 12th June and 11th July from 10.30 - 12.00.

Finally, a date for your diaries:

A Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November in the hall. Stallholders are already signing up and for information on booking a stall, just send us a message via our Facebook page, Friends of the Maxwell Hall or contact **Mary on 07810 435117**

Once again, we thank you for your continued support.



MONREITH AND DISTRICT ACTION GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 1st May 2023

PRESENT:- R. McKinnel (Chair), C. McKinnel, B. Broll, G. Kelly, J. Lochhead, A. Perry, J. & A. McMaster plus one member of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- B. Hillman, P. Carrigan, H. McBeath, E. Kelly and A. Quinn.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:- Proposed for adoption by GK, seconded by JMcM.

MATTERS ARISING:-

1. John Kiltie dealing with hall pointing etc. when weather improves.
2. The play equipment for smaller children in the playpark should be delivered by July.
3. Thanks to BB for offering copies of The History of Monreith Hall. He would also chase up the Christmas Grant of £300 which has not yet been paid by the Council.
4. BB also reported that the Community Garden is coming along nicely. MADAG public liability insurance cannot cover the garden.
5. New goalposts for the playpark plus a new clock for the hall are in hand.
6. Jean Hindle, who donated the piano, to be consulted re. its future. It is costing approx. £50/year to heat the inside of the piano and now this is not keeping the keys working.
7. AP reported that there has not been as much vibration in her house since the potholes were filled.
8. Cream teas will resume on Wednesday 31st May and will be held monthly. AP to do posters.

A.O.B.:-

1. HMcb to be consulted re. a new microwave - the old one is irreparable.
2. The interior of the hall needs a new coat of paint - GK will see J. Kiltie.
3. Emma Drysdale was proposed as a new committee member and this was unanimously agreed.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 5th June in the hall at 7pm.

PORT WILLIAM REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

MONDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	Mothers and Toddlers (MH)
7.00pm	Bridge Club (Kirkinner)
7.30pm	Community Bingo (MH)
7.30pm	Bingo at Garlieston

WEDNESDAY

10.00 - 11.00.am	Pilates (MH)
1.45pm	Bridge Club at Wigtown Golf Club

THURSDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	Mothers and Toddlers (MH)
2.30 - 4pm	Thursday Club alternate Thursdays (The View)

FRIDAY

7.30pm	Short Mat Bowling re starts in September (MH)
7.30pm	Bingo Garlieston Hall

SUNDAY

11.00am	Morning Worship (see rota)
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KEY:	(MH)	Maxwell Hall
	(WH)	Whauphill Hall
	(MK)	Mochrum Kirk
	(PWS)	Port William Surgery
	(THW)	Town Hall Whithorn
	(KH)	Kirkinner Hall

NB. Not all exceptions to regular meetings are shown. Please refer to individual organisations if in doubt!

SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

MONDAY

10am	Aerobics (Trish active.communities@dumgal.gov.uk)
1.30pm	Craft Club on 1st, 3 rd and 5 th Monday (Rosamond 01988 850237)
1.30pm	U3A Table Tennis on 2 nd , 4 th Mondays
3.30pm	Sorbie Junior Sports Club (Michael 01988 850237)
6.00pm	Mad Mutts Dog Training (Mel Duncan 07880 590703)
7.30pm	Carpet Bowling (Neil Milven 01988 840396)

TUESDAY

9.15am	Yoga (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)
6.00pm	Lego Club (Morag Cuomo 01988 8850270)
7.00pm	Community Council 2 nd Tuesday of month (Morag Donnan 01988 850288)
7.30pm	Sorbie WI 3 rd Tuesday of month (Rosamond 01988 850237)

THURSDAY

9.30am	Homestart Wigtownshire (Office 01776 706984)
7.00pm	Yoga (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)

FRIDAY

9.30am	Homestart Wigtownshire (Office 01776 706984)
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We also host meetings for Machars Motorcycle Club, these are not in a regular slot, please contact Michael (01988 850237)

ANSWERS TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE QUIZ

- 1) Romans. 2) Numbers. 3) Acts. 4) Nahum. 5) Hebrews. 6) Mark.
- 7) Hosea. 8) Judges. 9) Habakkuk. 10) Isaiah.

WIGTOWN MARTYRS

On the weekend of 13th and 14th May, the people of Wigtown and surrounding area gathered to remember the two women and three men who were put to death during what is referred to as the 'Killing Times'.

The women, Margaret Lachlan or McLachlan and Margaret Wilson and three men, William Johnstone, John Milroy and Gilbert Walker are remembered today as The Wigtown Martyrs.

All five were put to death for their refusal to acknowledge the monarch of their time as head of the Church.

The women were tied to stakes at the mouth of the River Bladnoch and drowned by the incoming tide on May 11th 1685. The three men were hanged in the town. High above the town the tall Windy Hill Monument is a reminder of the five Covenanters put to death for their beliefs that God is the head of the Church in Scotland and not the monarch.

On the mudflats at the edge of the town stands a stark memorial to the two women, a granite obelisk set into a granite base reminds people of what befell two innocent women for their beliefs.

On Saturday 13th May a concert was held in Wigtown Parish Church, the theme for the evening was 'Memories'. Several local choirs, musicians and soloists performed for a good sized audience.

On Sunday 14th a large congregation from neighbouring churches gathered in Wigtown Parish Church for morning worship led by Rev Eric Boyle. The theme for worship was 'The Stones Cry Out.'

Direct descendants of three of the Wigtown Martyrs were present at the Church Service.

Following worship Rev Boyle said a prayer beside the Martyrs' Grave in the old churchyard. Flowers were then laid by the descendants of the martyrs.

Myrton Castle and Kirkmaiden

Built on a 12th century motte, Myrton Castle is a ruined 16th century house, originally the property of the McCullochs. The tower which overlooks the White Loch was ruined by the late 17th century.

The property was sold to the Maxwells of Monreith in 1685, who removed to Myrton from nearby Dowies. The Maxwells built Monreith House close by, which is still occupied.

The small churchyard at Kirkmaiden is believed to have been a religious site since the dark ages. The burial chapel was used by the McCulloch and Maxwell families.

