



MINI INSPIRE



**We commit the future to you Lord Jesus.
You have called us, we are your people.
Open our eyes to see where you are leading.
Open our ears to hear what you are saying.
Open our minds to dreams and visions.
Open our hearts to worship, love and service,
This day and all days.
Amen.**

MANNOFIELD CHURCH of SCOTLAND

Scottish registered charity SC 001680
www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk
Tel 01224 310087

Message from Keith

Dear Friends



One year into the presidency of Donald Trump most of us are not surprised anymore by the unusual way he chooses to conduct his presidency.

He recently announced his 'Fake News Awards'. He used this gimmick to escalate his attacks on media. The article published on the Republican Party Web Page began, '2017 was a year of unrelenting bias, unfair news coverage and even downright fake news. Studies have shown that over 90% of the media's coverage of President Trump is negative.'

The battleground for 'truth' has always been a feature of communication within the arenas of society. Words are used to convey truth and opponents with differing outlooks and agendas use words to convince the masses of the validity of their diverse claims. Words backed up with proof, witness testimony, first hand accounts and other evidence gathered have a tendency to sound more convincing.

Reviewing the battleground of the biblical 1st century we can recognise that the opponents to Jesus 'New Way', sought to deploy the 'Trump Card' of allegations of 'Fake News' to neutralise the movement of Jesus' followers and adherents and to protect their own interest. Herod the Temple officials and others sought to debunk the whole legitimacy of the Incarnation of God's Son, as well as the new teaching and culture of love and equality that Jesus was establishing.

Thankfully we recognise that despite the attempts of those who would derail God's intervention through Jesus, God by the power of His Spirit prevailed and does prevail to this day.

When I look to the Church of today I am heartened by the work I see in so many places. We are part of a Church that knows the need for continued evolution and change - sometimes subtle, sometimes gigantic - as it strives towards the promotion of the Good News (not Fake News) of God's Love for all in ways that are meaningful and appropriate for the times we live in and the challenges faced.

We in Mannofield are part of the work of Good News sharing. What a wonderful responsibility it is for us to know ourselves called to play a part in God's Mission to the world.

God Bless

Keith

Blessing

May every new day
be a new beginning,
in You Lord.

May we have the courage
to know ourselves
to be loved and forgiven.

May that forgiveness
give new conception
to the opportunities of Your
Kingdom.

May today and every day
be a blessing
in Your name.
AMEN

Acknowledgement: This extract is taken from "Living Stones: Pray Now" and is used with permission. "Living Stones" publications are available from www.standrewpress.com

Friends of the Gordon Highlanders Museum

Can you help?

The Friends require an Honorary Treasurer to deal with the financial aspects of the organisation.

If you or someone you know might be able to help please contact John Allan on 01224 319043 for more information.

THANK YOU

£720 was collected on our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services divided equally between Scripture Union Scotland and the Barnabas Fund.



Congregational Register

Deaths

16 November Mr Charles Bisset
21 November Miss Daphne Monkman
6 December Mrs Doris Munro
16 December Mrs Margaret Main
13 January Miss Madge Archibald
15 January Mrs Barbara Shirlaw

New Member

Mrs Mary Murray

TABLE TOP SALE Balmanno Hall



**Saturdays 17 February
7 April**

10am - 12noon

Admission Free

Contact Church Office to book a table ☎01224 310087

CONGREGATION IS GENEROUS IN OFFERING LIFTS TO CHURCH

According to a survey on 14 January, 139 people attended church that morning. Three out of every four people arrived by car, whereas one in four walked. The weather was miserable, which may have deterred a few who would otherwise have walked.

On average, the journey took 7 minutes on foot and 9 minutes for car drivers. Car passengers reported an average time of only 6 minutes, implying that quite a few were offered a lift to church. At least 18 cars had only a single occupant, and we probably occupied 62 car parking spaces in the vicinity.

The Eco Congregation Committee hopes to repeat the exercise occasionally to see whether any trends emerge.

Alistair Stark

Convenor

Eco Congregation Committee



THURSDAYS @ MANNOFIELD

If you would like to have an afternoon out to meet and chat with friendly folk and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a *fine piece* then *please* come and join us.



THURSDAY FLY CUP Mannofield Church 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Put the dates in your diary
First Thursday every month.....
1 February, 1 March, 5 April and 3 May



On 1 February come and meet Bob's Owl Buddies!

COME ALONG--- EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Need transport?

Call the church office

01224 310087 to arrange.

LifeGroups are taking place at various times throughout the week. If there is not a LifeGroup available at a time that suits you, don't be put off. It may be possible to start one up at a time that will suit you...



Day	Start Date & Time	Topic	Place	Contact
Monday	7pm-8pm	<i>The Prodigal God</i>	Manse 21 Forest Avenue	Keith Blackwood
Thursday	11am – 12noon	<i>'Word Of Life'</i>	Sanctuary	Sandy McKenzie

For more details please contact: Church Office on 01224 310087 or Louise Barrack on 01224 311511

Reverse Advent Calendar



A very **BIG** thank you to everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar in December:

- ◆ The congregation and the community of Mannofield.
- ◆ The staff at Café Connect for allowing us to drop off all our food donations.
- ◆ Our local Co-op supermarket for supplying the carrier bags.

As you can see from the photo, the Gordon Room in Mannofield Church was full. The response was truly overwhelming.

The food has now been distributed to two local charities:-

Instant Neighbour Aberdeen and TLC Foodbank, Inchgarth Community Centre, Garthdee.

The Foodbanks were surprised and stunned, as well as VERY grateful for the donations received and they asked that we pass on their thanks to all involved.



Alpha at Café Connect

Explore
Life
Faith
Meaning

Everyone has Questions Exploring is good. We are built for it. Explore more about life, faith and meaning with **Alpha**.

The Alpha and **Alpha Plus Courses** have now started with around 27 participants spread over the two.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. And the new course **Alpha Plus** uses the Lord's Prayer as its main theme. They both run for ten weeks, and include an 'away-day' on Saturday 3 March. Café Connect at Mannofield Church has proved to be a welcoming and comfortable venue.

For more information email Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com, or via the Church office. The **Alpha Team**.



Church of Scotland's Crossreach

After persuasion from one of our Elders Keith is going to give the marathon a first attempt and at the same time raise funds for the Church of Scotland's Crossreach work. As you will see this is an appropriate cause for Keith to support.

Not only does Crossreach undertake vital work in the Church's name

across Scotland, Keith's association with Crossreach goes back to 1991-1993 when he worked at Kirkhaven, in the east end of Glasgow before beginning his training for the Ministry.



Training for Edinburgh Marathon 27 May

Keith says, *'Over the 20 weeks of my training I will provide a few updates on progress. In order not to over-populate social media with donation requests I will ask for donations through this Page on only a few occasions nearer race day and give the option for sponsorship after church services on a few dates later in the year.'*

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/keith-blackwood6>

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under its new name, CrossReach continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so it has a long history in the field of social care.



It employs more than 2,000 staff and supports some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. CrossReach has an annual expenditure of £51 million. Most of its funding comes from local authorities, but it also relies on donations and legacies to help continue its vital work.

CrossReach (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council) reports each year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:


- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission.
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church and Society Council, the Scottish Executive and the like.

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Sun 4	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun11	10am	Morning Worship
Wed14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun18	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service

MARCH

Sun 4	10am	Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11	10am	Morning Worship
Wed14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service
Wed 28	10.30am	Midweek Service

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Quiz which raised £473. The winning entry was submitted by Mrs Isobel Robb. The answers are on the notice board in the Welcome Area. Frances Walker



Keith and Dot thank everyone who sent cards or gave gifts to them over the festive period.

FLOWER CALENDAR

JANUARY

14 Miss A Thomson
21 E Youngson
28 Mr I Black

FEBRUARY

4 Mrs B. Russell
11 Mrs A. Dyce
18 Mrs C. Strachan
25 The Misses M & R Archibald



MARCH

4 Mrs A. Thompson
11 Mrs J Anderson
18 Mrs M. Craighead
25 Miss Youngson's Legacy (vestibule)

MANNOFIELD GUILD

February

1 Coffee Morning - 10am Balmanno Hall
6 Meeting Talk: Chest Heart and Stroke
20 Meeting Speaker: Gordon Casely
Columba's Sacred Isle

March

1 Coffee Morning - 10am Balmanno Hall
2 World Day of Prayer, 2pm Mannofield Church
6 Meeting Speaker: Ruth McRobb,
News from Chennai 7
Spring Rally, 7.30pm Ruthrieston West
10 Coffee Morning - 10am, Balmanno Hall
20 Meeting



MANNOFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Thursdays

15 February and 15 March

Balmanno Hall

Lunch served 1pm
Entertainment 2-3pm
Cuppa at 2.30pm
Cost: £5

All welcome
Need transport?

Contact: Lynn Allan
☎ 01224 323206



NOTE

The deadline for the
Easter Parish InSpire is
22 February
Good Friday is 30 March

Sunday 4 March

from 11.30am-1pm



'The Great British Spring Clean' is a campaign with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and beaches.

We want to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us.

Join our growing army of #LitterHeroes who have had enough of other people's litter and are willing to do something about it.

Together we can make a difference and clean up the environment on our doorstep."

We meet in the Balmanno Hall about 11.30am to collect our gloves, bags and litter tongs. After hearing the safety briefing we go out in small groups to start cleaning up. Simple!

Once the work is done we all meet back in the Church for a hearty bowl of soup, served with a good dollop of friendship!



Sign Up Today...