



INSPIRE



Lilies of the Field



Mannofield Church Reading Lectern Fall

Designed by Juliet Hemingray, Church Textiles, Derby

Presented to the Church by the Guild to mark its Centenary
1907-2007

"SO WHY DO YOU WORRY ABOUT CLOTHING?
CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY
GROW: THEY NEITHER TOIL NOR SPIN; AND YET I
SAY TO YOU THAT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY
WAS NOT ARRAYED LIKE ONE OF THESE."

MATTHEW 6:27-29

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SCO 01680

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sun 7	10 am	Christmas Gift Service
	3.30 pm	UNICEF: Carols & Candlelight Concert
	6.30 pm	Blue Christmas Service
Mon 8	7 pm	Advent Bible Study
Tues 9	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
Wed 10	2 pm	Afternoon Tea & Christmas Sing -a- long
Sun 14	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Carols & Lessons
Mon 15	7 pm	Advent Bible Study
Sun 21	10 am	Young Church Nativity
Mon 22	7 pm	Advent Bible Study
Wed 24	7 pm	Family Service
	11.30 pm	Watchnight Service Mulled wine, mince pies & carol singing from 10.45
Thurs 25	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Service
Sun 28	10 am	Family Service

JANUARY

Sun 4	10 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
Sun 11	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Sun 18	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Tues 20	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
Sun 25	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship

Flower Calendar

December

- 7 Miss Wilkie
- 14 Mrs A Reekie
- 21 Mrs A McCaskill
- 28 Flower Fund



January

- 4 Flower Fund
- 11 Mrs M Malloch
- 18 Miss A Thomson
- 25 Mrs SS Black

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is **15 January 2009**

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:
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office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

Mannofield Manse
21 Forest Avenue
Aberdeen

E-mail minister@mannofield.org.uk

At the beginning of Advent a single question frames our sense of expectation and longing, "Where are you God?"

In our spiritual journeys we seek a glimpse of the glory of God revealed in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ. Although the end of this journey towards light is almost complete, the sombre colours of the season - purple being predominant - remind us that this journey is not complete until the glory of Christmas and the fulfilment of all our Advent hope.

Meanwhile as we journey along that Advent path we find ourselves in the company of dramatic prophets, psalmists who sing of their longing, fishermen called away from their lifelong work and disciples struggling to understand. In the voices of these fellow travellers we recognise the same sense of urgency as we find within ourselves, as each strives to find 'Peace in life'.

Many ask in these dark days of credit crunch, rising unemployment, continued warfare and strife, *'Is there any hope in these troubled times - where is God?'* Perhaps we experience difficulties of our own and find ourselves questioning in the same way.

The good news of the season is that as questions are asked, slowly yet surely an answer becomes revealed. The promises that emerge in the stories and in carols and in the spirit of Christmas itself allow us, and the whole world, to find the reassurance that God remains faithful!

In the coming weeks and during our celebration of Christmas, I pray that each person may be led to a deep sense of the light of Christ; and as that light of the season envelopes us, may the gloom be lifted from our lives— allowing us to have reason to be joyful

Best Wishes

Keith

Joy and Peace at Christmas



Keith, Katrina, Aaron, Finlay and Angus wish all our friends in Mannofield a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2009!

The zephyr of modernisation currently easing its way through Mannofield Church was again in evidence at the October meeting of Kirk Session.

Appropriate to an occasion which saw the newly-ordained elders welcomed to their first Session meeting, approval was given for updating other aspects of our worship.

By the time you read this, you will have noticed that the teams welcoming members at the Sunday services have been reinforced, allowing for a more personal approach to worshippers on their arrival at church.

A full report of the “BeInspired” stewardship campaign will not be considered by Session until their December meeting, but Keith presented an interim report at the October meeting, stressing that what he had seen of the members’ replies led him to the view that we required to fill a gap and provide activities for young people and families as well as carrying on with what we provide for other age groups.

Meanwhile, a review of elders’ districts is to be undertaken over the next few months and elders are asked to report on their respective districts, whether they feel that they are too large, too small, or if there is any need for change.

Session learned with regret that Keith and Ann Buchan had decided to retire after many years of distinguished service. On a happier note, glowing reports were received from elders following their visits to the Youth Club, the Rainbows, the Bowling Club and the Brownies.

Advent and Christmas Events



The month of December will be as usual a busy time in the church. You will read from the Church Calendar the diary of regular and special events.

By the time you read this it may be you enjoyed the Advent Celebration afternoon on 30th November, an event of food and Christmas crafts.

Ongoing through the weeks of December is an Advent Bible Study. It meets on Monday evenings between 7 and 8.30pm and provides the chance to journey through the themes of the season.

Sunday 7th December again sees Mannofield playing host to the ‘Acclamations Choir’ who present their ‘Carols by Candlelight Concert’ that afternoon, with funds raised for UNICEF.

Sunday 14th December at the 6.30pm service will be a ‘Lessons and Carol’ style service with the Church Choir leading the praise.

The Young Church will present their Nativity Play within worship on Sunday 21st December and on Christmas Eve there will be a Family Carol Service at 7pm and a Watchnight Service at 11.30pm. From 10.45 on Christmas Eve mulled wine and mince Pies will be served in the Large Hall with a small donation to cover the costs happily received. In the church from 11pm Carols will be led by Alistair Stark.

A short Family Worship will be held on Christmas Day at 10.30am with children encouraged to bring a favourite Christmas present along.

Mannofield Hill Walking Group

The Mannofield Hill Walking group's summer trip this year took 13 of us to Soll in the Austrian Tyrol, a village in the Wilder Kaiser region mid way between Innsbruck and Salzburg. Everywhere you looked you were awestruck by the soaring majestic peaks of the Hohe Salve and the Wilder Kaiser range.

We stayed at the family run Postwirt hotel where the staff was so friendly and the food excellent. I can still savour the champagne sorbet even now.

Our first purchase was of course the Wander Pass, a ticket which enables tourists to use any combination of transport – cable cars, gondolas, funicular railway or buses up and down the valley, making access to the various attractions so very easy.

There were different activities to suit all levels of fitness or inclination. Some went on a strenuous trek to the Grutten Hutte [no cable car!], part of the beautiful high-level walk in the Wilder Kaiser range. They were rewarded with stunning views of the Wilder Kaiser's bizarre rock formations as well as wonderful views across the valley. Others took the organised tour to Salzburg, while others enjoyed ambling along the high paths sampling the local soups, dumplings and Apfelstrudel at the numerous Hutten along the way.

We also explored the villages along the valley, one of which was called 'Going'. Of course we all had to go to Going just to say we'd been to Going or were coming back from Going. The bus journey there was another adventure. The queue of over 90 people was cajoled, exhorted, bullied on board until the bus resembled the proverbial tin of sardines. The driver then proceeded to lead the communal singing in a grand operatic tenor and we swayed along the road to 'Danny Boy, She'll be coming round the mountain.' and other tunes. Who mentioned health and safety?

As you would expect in the homeland of Mozart there was plenty of musical entertainment throughout the week. There was organ music in the central church where the young organist was so enthusiastic he broke the high C! The traditional brass band played; there was zither music and an evening of light entertainment with dancing and a Tyrolean evening where some of our group were invited to join the performers on stage. We have the photos for embarrassment purposes!

Folklore and traditions abound in the Tyrol and each village had its maypole decorated with bunting, towering over the nearby houses.

There were many family theme parks based on the characters from folklore –witches, trolls and goblins abounded. At the top of the Hohe Salve there was the Salven Kirchlein built in 1641 which at 1828 metres is the highest Pilgrimage church in Austria.

The weather wasn't particularly kind to us but the memories we have are not of rain and mist, but of shared fun laughter and fellowship. Why don't you come and join us next time?

Ellen Smith



Salven Kirchlein
Austria's highest church

Cameroon Update

Last time I reported that Anne gave each of her schools £125 of the Mannofield money to get their fundraising efforts underway. Now she asks me to pass on their thanks and report how it is being used.

“Mofou-sud Primary asked if they could use the money for teachers’ books. If teachers had books at all, they were the old editions. Any pupils lucky enough to have parents who can afford to buy books (there are parents who work in the hospital here) have the new editions so teachers were having to borrow from the pupils to prepare their lessons. I thought that would be a good way to use the money and they are thrilled. It has bought books for all the main subjects plus some teachers’ guides and boy do they need them!

Membeng school has bought material to resurface a blackboard and are making a list of documents they need – again good use of the money. It did seem a shame for it just to go into a big unidentifiable lump. I hope that is OK with Mannofield.”

Random facts from Zidim

- ◆ Zidim has been promised electricity by December – or January – or February.
- ◆ There is no Fulfulde word for wheel or tyre. Instead of having a puncture, the car was described as having a sore foot!
- ◆ One Sunday the entire church service was led by women. Worship was bilingual – in Fulfulde translated into Mofou. Sometimes in the hospital a consultation with a patient requires a 4-way translation

With grateful thanks for your support

Elizabeth Anderson

Christmas greetings



from Mannofield Church

**The Editor
and his team
wish you a
peaceful Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**



Christingle

The Christingle Service is a service of candle lights and can be held during Advent, Christmas or Epiphany.



The meaning of Christingle

The word 'Christingle' refers to the candle used in the Christingle service.

The Christingle is an orange, decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and nuts, in which is placed a small candle.

The orange represents the world, the ribbon Christ's blood, shed for all creation. The sweets and nuts skewered on four cocktail sticks facing out to the four corners of the earth represent the fruits of the earth. The candle in the centre of the orange represents the light of Christ to the world.



Santa has a problem. During his deliveries he has to take a dog, a cat and a mouse down one chimney. However, he can only carry one animal at a time.

Given that the cat will fight when left alone with either the dog or mouse, how can Santa safely complete his deliveries?





" SHE REFUSES TO SING IT BECAUSE IT'S SEXIST..."

BIBLICAL GIFTS - CAN YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS?

1. The gift of God is _____ (Rom 6:23)
2. Who have tasted the heavenly gift _____ (Heb 6:4)
3. Every good and _____ gift (James 1:17)
4. With you of the _____ gift of life (1 Peter 3:7)
5. Let him take the _____ gift (Revelations 22:17)
6. Presented him with the gifts of _____ (Matthew 2:11)
7. To give _____ gifts to your children (Luke 11:13)
8. Eager to have _____ gifts (1 Corinthians 14:12)
9. Those having gifts of _____ (1 Corinthians 12:28)
10. If I have the gift of _____ (1 Corinthians 13:2)

Can you discover all the Christmas
Words by using the code?

K	S	Y	I	M	U	G	Q	P	N	D	O	J	Z	X	T	B	E	L	C	F	V	R	W	A	H
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

smcqomqmj

kzgmol

ixzdma

jkzgeme

lqmtqmei

nmlfl

gxoi

nxlmtq

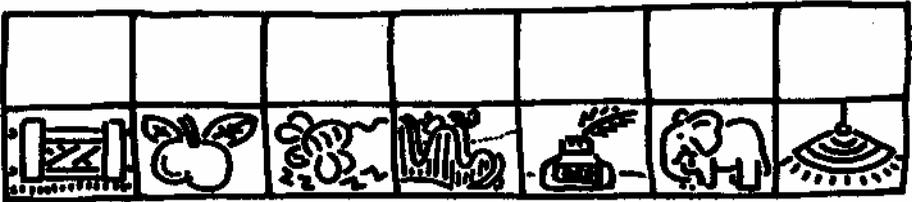
ykziom

uekzdpzlymzlm

zkcpvpca

lcksom

What was the name of the angel?



USE THE FIRST
LETTER OF
EACH OF THE
CLUES ABOVE
TO SOLVE
THE CODE





Christmas Word Search

U Z F H R U D O L P H P U H U
N U V A Y E L L E B A R W N T
L O S I G T I L S C U P I D E
T E R A X L S N A M W O N S M
S S P T N E J O D B R H R E O
T T R S H T N I R E H S A D C
N O E L U P A A K F E K T Y H
Y C S E W G O C C Z X R S E T
B K E D R R A L L Y Y O T N A
G I N G E R B R E A D W I M E
S N T N C W M G P E U N B I R
M G N T N E Z T I L B S A H W
K O U D A N C E R F U S A C K
D N P R R C H R I S T M A S A
L A A G P E A C E A Z V S V K

BALL	FROSTY	SANTA CLAUS
BELL	GIFT	SLED
BLITZEN	GINGERBREAD	SNOWMAN
CANDYCANE	NOEL	STAR
CHIMNEY	NORTHPOLE	STOCKING
CHRISTMAS	NUTCRACKER	SUGARPLUMS
COMET	PEACE	TOY
CUPID	PRANCER	TREE
DANCER	PRESENT	VIXEN
DASHER	REINDEER	WORKSHOP
DONNER	RUDOLPH	WREATH
ELF	SACK	

November's solution: You should have ended up on Road 2.

India Village Ministries (IVM) began in the year 2001 with Suresh & Roja Vemulapalli. They responded to the call from God to reach the un-reached and serve the needy people in the villages of India.



Suresh is a civil engineering graduate but when he was called to the work of the Lord, he left the engineering profession and went to a Seminary in India. He graduated from there with a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) in 1997. Subsequently God led him to Aberdeen University (U.K.) where he graduated with a Masters in Theology in 1999 and a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies in 2005.

Roja, who is also a graduate, has a call from God to work with orphans and children.

In 2001 the first Children's Home was opened offering support for 7 children. Now in 2008- 25 children have a home and we have nearly completed new building to house up to 100 children.

Ministries (IVM) gift catalogue.

As many of you are aware, a number of charities and organisations now supporting developing countries have invested in gift catalogues-you may even be the recipient of a 'gift' from such an organisation. At IVM, we have decided to give you a similar opportunity to support the work currently being undertaken.

As we approach Christmas, many of you will be thinking of shopping for gifts for your family and friends. Often these shopping trips become quite a difficult experience as you look for new and interesting gifts but you often return with very little and have to make further shopping trips until the task is completed.

We would like to provide you with an opportunity to not only provide your family member or friend with an interesting gift, but one which invests in the lives of others

Giving people a new start in life

Do you believe in providing sustainable sources of income to people in developing countries? If so, what about a sewing machine. If you can invest £70-the cost of a meal out for a family in a nice restaurant, you can give a person in India an opportunity to earn a living.

Your £70 will provide an amazing opportunity for someone to start up in business and provide for their family.

For further information and how you can assist contact India Village Ministries at

PO BOX 18485, Kittybrewster, Aberdeen AB24 3XN
IVM is a Charity registered in Scotland. Charity No: SC032158



An Educational Mission in Uganda

Mannofield Church member, Dr Douglas Nisbet and his wife Patricia are in Uganda with the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM), where Douglas is acting as Vice Chancellor of the Mountains of the Moon University.

“As I sit in my office at Fort Portal in western Uganda, I can look out over the Rwenzori Mountains, one of Africa’s longest mountain ranges with peaks at over 18,000 feet. Even where I sit to write this, I am above the height of Ben Nevis. This means that even although we are only one degree north of the Equator, the climate is amazingly temperate here.

The University is only four years old and was conceived and founded by leaders in the local community [Http://www.mmu.ac.ug](http://www.mmu.ac.ug). Although we have universal primary and secondary education in Uganda, you’re lucky if a primary teacher in this region has more than two O-levels. The University was established to try to address these difficult educational problems by providing in-service teacher education. We also operate relevant and practical degrees in Public Health, Horticulture, Community and Social Development, Computing/IT, Business and Public Administration. All students get hands-on training in computing and a course in ethics.



students in a practical session in horticulture

Mature volunteers are becoming a growing feature in third world development. So if you missed out on the gap year experience there’s still time!

The Volunteer Missionary Movement is a multi-denominational Christian charity based in Dublin with offices in Glasgow and Liverpool [Http://www.vmm.ie](http://www.vmm.ie). We have a small community of VMs in Fort Portal working on health and educational projects. VM works very much on training and building capacity in local staff and tends to work with locally-based organisations.

The job has been challenging in many ways, but the University is progressing well with now over 600 students and 50 academic staff. Finance is always an issue and although many students continue to work whilst studying, they have difficulty paying their fees. We have some limited funding to build our new campus but lack a Project Manager with construction experience – any offers?

If coming to Uganda is too much of a thought, you can also help from home – we are looking for retired primary teachers that would be interested in helping to write materials for our in-service course. We have a guest house for volunteers that come to help us, so if you feel you have anything to offer I’d be delighted to hear from you, email at d.nisbet@rgu.ac.uk I shall be back in Aberdeen over the Christmas period till 17th January as daughter Gillian, who is based in London, is due to make me a grandfather once again. Meanwhile, best wishes to all at Mannofield.”



**Christmas Carol Singing
for our community**

Mannofield Church Hall

Wednesday 10th December 2008

2.00pm

**Come along and enjoy afternoon tea
and a Christmas Sing-a-long**

**Tickets may be obtained from the
Church office, Countesswells Road**

Monday - Thursday

9.00am - 12noon

Alternatively Tel: 315144

**There is no charge for the tickets but donations
will be welcomed.**

NOTES & NEWS

BOOK REVIEW

As we approach the season of Advent, I have chosen to review "More than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell published originally in 1977 in the USA.

We often forget that the baby in the manger was God's son sent to die for our sins at Calvary. In 11 short chapters Mr McDowell considers what the Bible tells us about Jesus as well as putting the scientific viewpoint. Having started life as a sceptic himself, he has much to teach us. I hope you find it as thought provoking as I did.

Finally my thanks go to those who have contributed Book Reviews and look forward to others in future months. I will see you again in March.

Edna Cromarty

LAUNDERING TEA TOWELS

Quite a few people have offered to do this so a list of those selected at random has been made for 2009.

Those on the list will receive details of what is involved before January 2009

The other names will be kept on a list in case required.

The Guild ladies who have done this task for many years are getting a break next year!!

Norma Shearer

Heroes of Kohima



Comment has been made by some of the congregation about the tune played for the exit of the Colour Party at our Remembrance Service.

The piece is "The Heroes of Kohima" and it was written in honour of all who served in the Burma Campaign during the Second World War.

It may be of interest to note that there is a "Kohima Epitaph" sometimes used at Remembrance Services

When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.

THE GUILD

MANNOFIELD GUILD



DECEMBER

- 2 Advent Evening
- 11 Coffee Morning
10am-11.30pm

JANUARY

- 13 Rev Keith Blackwood
- 27 "Anither Whiff o' the Doric"
Dr Campbell Murray

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms *“Suffer the little children to come unto me”*

2 November Freya Fiona McHattie

16 November Benjamin Charles Currie

23 November Jessica Elizabeth Young

Deaths *“I go to prepare a place for you.....that where I am you may be also”*

16 October Mrs Rubina Johnston (D46A)

Disjunctions

Mr Keith & Mrs Ann Buchan (D51); Mrs Jean Wilson (D48)

Change of Address

Mrs Irene Thain (D5 to D2)

Special Collections

The retiring collection at the October Communion raised a sum of £252 for the local Cyrenians.

Kirk Session has decided that Retiring Collections be made at both Communion Services (i.e. 10am and 6.30pm) in March, June and October. Money raised will be given to various local and world-wide charities, as determined in advance of the particular collection.

The Retiring Collection at the First Sunday in Advent Communion Service will be for special purposes within our congregation. The first of these will be for Young Church and K.I.C.K.S. special events.

Offerings received at the 11.30pm Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve will this year be sent to Voluntary Service Aberdeen to help their work with disadvantaged children and the elderly within our city.

Highland Food Bank, Blythswood Care

Thank you so much for thinking about us at your Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year. The total amount received from Mannofield Church was 114kgs. We are very grateful for the support of the church at Harvest time.



So far this year, we have helped 1800 people, 100 more than the total number of people helped throughout 2007. Your contribution will enable us to help many more people who are really struggling in the coming months.

While the food will meet a physical need, our prayer is that it will give opportunity to meet a spiritual need also.

Many thanks again for your help!

Yours sincerely

Lorna Dempster

Project Co-ordinator

CHURCH CONTACTS

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LITTLE OLD LADY

There was a little old lady, who every morning stepped onto her front porch, raised her arms to the sky and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD!'

One day an atheist moved into the house next door. He became irritated at the little old lady. Every morning he'd step onto his front porch after her and yell: 'THERE IS NO LORD!'

Time passed with the two of them carrying on this way every day.

One morning, in the middle of winter, the little old lady stepped onto her front porch and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD! Please Lord, I have no food and I am starving, provide for me, oh Lord!'

The next morning she stepped out onto her porch and there were two huge bags of groceries sitting there.

'PRAISE THE LORD!' she cried out 'HE HAS PROVIDED GROCERIES FOR ME!'

The atheist neighbour jumped out of the hedges and shouted: 'THERE IS NO LORD; I BOUGHT THOSE GROCERIES!!'

The little old lady threw her arms into the air and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD! HE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH GROCERIES AND MADE THE DEVIL PAY FOR THEM!'

