Vol. XLVI No. 10







### The Rt Rev Sheilagh M Kesting The Moderator's New Year message for 2008

"I pray that in 2008 we all - people of all faiths and of none, politicians and religious leaders, rich and poor alike - will allow the vision of a world transformed by love and hope to influence us in all we say and do.

"I pray that we will look beyond selfish ambition and the scoring of points; beyond the narrow interests of ethnicity, nationality, political party, denomination or religion and instead focus our concerns on the neediest people of our world and the things that make for peace."

## MANNOFIELD PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

# CHURCH CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

Sun 3	9.30am &11am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship followed by Holy Communion
Sun10	9.30am &11am	Morning Worship
	2-4pm	Elders and Congregational Board Training
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Mon 11	7.30pm	Congregational Board
Sun 17	9.30am &11am	Morning Worship (Young Church Holiday)
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Sun 24	9.30am &11am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship

### Blessing

Renew me with curiosity, so that I may learn more of myself and the world.



Inspire me with vision, so that I can live this day with passion for your kingdom.

### Bible Study Groups

This session the Bible Study Groups will be undertaking a study of the Apostles Creed.



Although we don't recite this creed on a weekly basis any more it has huge significance within the life and history of the Christian Church.

A study of the creed should prove to be most enlightening as it takes the participant into the foundational elements at the centre of our Faith.

Our Study Groups currently meet on a Wednesday evening and a Thursday morning. The Study Guides are available from the office at £3 each and the Groups would be delighted to see some new faces joining them in this coming session. The Wednesday study will begin on 30<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm and for more details contact Edna Cromarty or Audrey Milne Tel Nos. 317453 or 316179 Bible Study Groups are a good way for us all to refresh our faith as we question along with others and enjoy the support and friendship of others in the group.

### **Flower Calendar**

#### February

- 3 Mrs. E Thain
- 10 Miss M Barclay



- 17 Mrs. C Strachan
- 24 Miss M & Miss R Archibald Flower Convener is now Sheila Taylor Tel 319289

## THE MANSE

### **Rev. Keith Blackwood**

Mannofield Manse 21 Forest Avenue Aberdeen

*E-mail <u>k5blackwood@btinternet.com</u>* Dear Friends

Living in our City next to the sea we are very much aware of the abundance of water on our doorstep: water that provides a livelihood for fishermen and others; water that creates a network for travelling from one place to another; water that conceals a rich abundance of carbon products deep below.

Water of another sort is equally abundant as we turn on our taps and drink or use it for our daily needs.

How easily we forget that water is a precious gift of God to all people. Particularly hard to remember I imagine for those folks at risk of flooding - the result of heavy rainfall south of the Border in recent weeks!

How easily we forget the 'gift' of water. As in the developed countries of the world, we use and often abuse it as a commodity in industry; often causing its pollution and so decreasing availability of its pure form to us and others.

Environmentalists, marine biologists and those who are part of the Eco-Church sound out a warning to the world concerning the dangers of abuse of the natural resources around us. Perhaps water - apparently abundant yet fragile nonetheless - is one part of creation that we would do well to consider as something sacred.

This year, no sooner than we leave Christmas behind, Lent arrives and the Christian Year takes us on a journey towards Easter. As we take part in this journey we can prepare for Easter by remembering that Jesus in His life and by His death, came to the World to be the 'Living Water'.

Just as we at times take the abundance of water in our world for granted – so often we forget the needy in the world and take for granted the peace and comfort that people know in their lives. All of us at times have need of God – some more than others – and it is in this season that we can find signs that point to the response that God made in Jesus to the needs of people the world over and in every generation. The Love that people need is in the world, yet it is often not shared in the way it should be!

Let us learn to drink from the well of God's 'Living Water' and work on becoming better stewards of the water in our homes, communities and world and also more productive stewards of the water that is God's Love, which equally needs to be looked after, protected and shared more evenly throughout our world. *Keith* 

### In Session..... with Scribe

At the time of writing this and since the last instalment of "*In Session*" appeared in the October issue of "InSpire", Kirk Session had met twice, but the second of these meetings was a joint one with the Congregational Board in mid-December for the purpose of hearing from the consultant advising us on our future approach to Christian stewardship, and, as such, did not include purely Session business.

The November meeting of Session, however, produced the customary range of discussion topics.

The Moderator, reporting that an advertisement for an Associate Minister had been published in Life & Work with a closing date for applications in December, also outlined the procedure for such an appointment.

Mr. Blackwood also congratulated the Woman's Guild and the Boys' Brigade on reaching their respective centenaries. Session were informed that the Guild would be marking their centenary year with the presentation of a new pulpit fall and new pew bibles.

Although the decision to dispense with the pew linen for the November Communion services had produced a few unfavourable comments, the general consensus seemed to be in favour of this and other Communion changes. Another change agreed by Session will see the number of formal Communion services increased to three each year. The dates of these services have still to be decided.

Session were informed that currently three districts were without a district Elder and it is hoped that the vacancies will be filled by volunteers from among the Elders who don't have a district at the moment.

On financial matters, Session agreed to donate £1,000 to the International Nepal Fellowship.

The next Session meeting was arranged for Tuesday, January 15 (look out for a report on this meeting in the March edition of *"InSpire"*).

Editor: In the December Magazine it was stated that Mrs G Findley was a new addition to Session. This was incorrect. Mrs Findley is a new member of congregation.

#### Letter to the Editor

We should like to use the pages of "InSpire" which we look forward to reading every month, to convey our thanks to so many of you for remembering us at Christmas time. It was a great joy to hear from many of you and we were so glad to be given news of how many of you were doing.



It seems incredible that it is now over a year since we left Mannofield, but we can assure you that we are happily enjoying life in our new surroundings and finding retirement has its advantages!

Can we take this opportunity to send our warmest wishes to our many Mannofield friends whom we fondly remember and we hope and pray that 2008 will be a year of peace and joy to you all.

John & Elizabeth Anderson

# NEPAL UPDATE

#### ear Friends,

One of the biggest frustrations of working in Nepal, and indeed any developing country, is the difficulty in getting things done. Our telephone wire is a good illustration. It snapped on Christmas day. The wire had been strung so tightly between 2 far distance poles that it finally gave way under the strain. We phoned the repairs number on our telephone bill and the helpful lady said she would send someone along to fix it. Well somehow that did not seem to happen, but I kept phoning and soon the helpful lady knew my name and number before I had progressed beyond 'Namaste'. After 2 weeks she suggested it would be helpful if I were to come to the office to meet Mr. Karnal the telephone repair man. She couldn't tell me why meeting Mr. Karnal in person would help him repair the line, but always happy to oblige I jumped on my bicycle and went off to meet him. He explained the unfortunate news that Nepal Telecom has run out of telephone wire. When I went back to the hospital I had a chat with Ganga, my trusty office PA. 'So how much money do you normally give the telephone repair man?' said Ganga. I had to admit that it had never crossed my mind to give him any money. 'There's the problem' said Ganga. We're not dealing with a telephone repair man so poor that he can't feed his family. He's a state employee with a job for life and with a pension thrown in. I've no intention of paying him a bribe, but we may also have to get used to the idea of not having a phone.



It's been mentioned before but one of the most difficult parts of our job is selecting who we admit to hospital. Back in May we decided to admit a young boy of 19, Ishwar Darjee to the ward. He had fallen down a terrace and had a high neck injury leaving him tetraplegic. He had been languishing in another hospital without any treatment and we admitted him to Green Pastures and put him in a striker frame with traction on his skull. I know that many of you prayed for his recovery but it did not happen and his family took him home.

Ishwar in May2007

He was left in an animal shed for 5 months and came back to Green Pastures in December in a dreadful state. Despite our best efforts we could not retrieve the situation and he died last week. Should we have admitted him in the first place knowing that his long term outcome was so poor? Sometimes it's good just to acknowledge that we are working for an all wise and all knowing God and leave it there.

	50th Anniversary celebrations				
Give thanks for: Ishwar's time amongst the GP Christian community Ruth Pariyar and Sita KC the hospital counsellors	We were particularly pleased to have Eileen Lodge here for the celebrations. Along with Betty Bailey, who lives in Oxford, these 2 ladies started the leprosy work of Green Pastures 50 years ago.				
Please pray for: Ishwar's brothers, mother and father The telephone repair man	It was also an honour to see and hear Philip Gurung speaking. He was amongst the first group of Nepali Christians to enter Nepal in 1952.				
lain & Fiona 12 January 2008	When asked what life was like for a Christian Nepali in the early 1950's he simply drew his hand down and make a swishing noise, indicating the movement that all Nepalis are familiar with for chopping the heads off goats. No translation required there!				

## "Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song"

What does it mean to worship God?

We worship God in all sorts of different ways - in devotional ways, in personal ways, in practical ways. One way that historically the Church has Worshipped God is through the use of music and singing in church. Hymn and Song



writers over centuries have sought to capture something of the nature of God, and composers of music have used their skills to put such sentiment to music.

When it comes to singing these hymns and songs, for those gathered in worship, there is a sense of personal devotion in singing the words as we conjure in our minds a picture of God's nature or activity in the world; and in singing hymns (like any social singing) there is also that sense of being pulled together in a united voice of shared feeling.

During the months ahead I would like us to 'retune' ourselves to the glory of the sentiments expressed in our hymns and to push ourselves a little harder as we seek to sing out and make a 'joyful song to the Lord'. My experience of the Christmas services was that as a congregation we tried a little harder to sing out these familiar hymns at top voice with the result that our worship was ignited with a spark that is sometimes absent.

Perhaps we settle into habits that leave us going though the motions instead of truly participating in worship individually and collectively in a way that leaves us and others changed by the experience. This is not a criticism of the singing in Mannofield. It is merely the observation of somebody coming in to this congregation from the outside and having a sense that as a congregation we have settled into a pattern in our signing of hymns that if challenged a little, might introduce (like a fine wine) a flavour to our worship that is a little more full-bodied!

To help us concentrate our minds on worship in the next couple of months, during February a survey is going to be conducted as to the congregation's favourite hymns. Forms will be available on Sundays later in the month and after Easter the results will be collated and the 'top-of-the-pops' of our Hymns will be revealed at an Evening Service in April. The results of the survey will also provide us with a list of favourite hymns that will be incorporated in our worship services and which we can all sing with great 'gusto' as we praise God. Keith

In this building there are 8 inmates, One in each cell.

How can they be arranged so there are four inmates along each side?







Do you feel like that when you have made something good? Do you know why? See *Genesis 1:27*. 'So God created MUHNA INBEGS, making them to be KILE SILEHFM.'



A familiar story where right triumphed over evil. After reading 1 Samuel 17 choose your answers to the clues from the list of words given below. Then find the answers in the letter grid. Some letters may be used more than once, but words appear always in a straight line.

- 1 The site where Saul assembled his army
- 2 A defiant member of the Philistine fighting forces
- 3 His challenge met by this son of Jesse
- 4 No. 3 in a meeting with Saul, received this from the king
- 5 Heavily weighted armour included a bronze one for his head
- 6 Laying aside such armour, he went out equipped only with a sling and five of these to meet Goliath
- 7 Goliath's words as he saw David: 'Am I a dog that you come at me with \_\_\_\_\_?'
- 8 David made known in whose name he went forward
- 9 And promised these carcasses would be given to the birds and beasts
- 10 An enraged Goliath moved in to \_\_\_\_\_ David
- 11 A stone swiftly slung hit the Philistine firmly here and brought him to the ground
- 12 The son of Jesse with this feeling ran forward
- 13 The result caused by the death of their hero on the Philistine army
- 14 The retreating forces were driven to Gath and to these gates
- 15 This happened to the enemy camp
- 16 And David returned with these to Jerusalem
- 17 The army commander who brought David before King Saul
- 18 Still holding in his hand this gruesome trophy
- 19 'Whose son are you, \_\_\_\_ man?' the king asked him
- 20 David made known to Saul the place from which his father, 'your servant', came

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Choose your words from this list

ABNER, APPROVAL, ATTACK, BATTLE, BETHLEHEM, BRAVE, DAMAGED, DAVID, DEFEAT, EKRON, FOREARM, FOREHEAD, GOLIATH, HEAD, HELMET, JESSE, LORD ALMIGHTY, OLD, PEBBLES, PHILISTINES, PLUNDERED, STICKS, STONES, SWORDS, TERRIFIED, TRIUMPF VALLEY OF ELAH, VICTORY, VISOR, WEAKNESS, WEAPONS, YOUNG.

December's solution: It takes 2 seconds per metre however the last cut will leave one meter at the end not requiring a further cut, therefore it will take 98 seconds to cut the ribbon.

### **Fyfe Blair**

### **Kay Telfer**

Some of you will remember Fyfe Blair, a probationer with us some time ago. He went on to take up his first charge in Fife before coming back to Aberdeen as minister at Cove for a few years. From there he moved to Dunedin, New Zealand, where my husband and I met him recently.



We arrived, unannounced, at his parish church one Sunday in November to find that it was the first time that year that he was not taking the service. The duty elders were very concerned that we meet him, and we were hurried across the road to their outreach centre where the regular breakfast meeting was ending. There was just time for him to recover from the shock of seeing us, to say "Hello" and to arrange to visit the Blair family at home, before we had to get back for the service. The church is a large and attractive one; the congregation friendly and there is a buzz of activity around the place. The parish is a large one, the result of a voluntary amalgamation a few years ago of two parishes. They have moved into one set of premises and the final change to a new name for the combined charge will be completed soon. They kept two ministers (although there is a vacancy at present), with Fyfe concentrating on outreach and development and the other on church based congregational functions.

The Blair family are living in a privately rented house but hoping to buy their own soon. Apparently ministers there have the choice of having a house provided, or having the rent paid for one of their own choice, or being paid a housing allowance if they decide to buy their own. I expect our own finance and fabric committees would welcome a similar system here!

Fyfe, his wife Gillian and daughters Rachel and Anna are all well settled into their new life and thoroughly enjoy it. They send their best wishes to all at Mannofield.

The Sailor's Society (ex British and International Sailors' Society) is calling on knitters to join its campaign and help break the 2007 record of 15,000 hats.



Sailors' Society Woolly Hat Week 2008 3rd - 9th February 2008

The Woolly Hat Campaign provides seafarers arriving in the UK, often ill-prepared for our weather, with hand-knitted hats to keep themselves warm during the many months they are at sea. The Society replaces isolation with belonging, amongst some of the world's 1.2 million seafarers, through a network of Port Chaplains stationed in almost 100 ports internationally.

Last year's Woolly Hat Campaign saw over 15,000 hats distributed to seafarers throughout the UK and to Russia, Antwerp and South America, with over 6,000 given as part of Christmas packages. The Society aims to break this total for the year and encourage people to knit woolly hats for a good cause.

For further information please contact

Sailors' Society, 350 Shirley Road, Southampton, SO15 3HY Email: woollyhats@biss.org.uk : http://www.personalisedcalendars.biz/

### The Toolbox

Away back in the 1950s a young family bought their first television set. Several neighbours came to help with the installation. Some went up on to the roof to fix the aerial. However they had only a few meagre tools that would not do the job, so they came down.

On the doorstep stood a young couple who had only recently moved into the neighbourhood. They had a large toolbox which contained every possible tool for every possible job. The volunteers selected the proper tools, went back up on the roof and in no time the aerial was fixed. Everyone crowded into the living-room to watch the knowledgeable one twiddling the knobs. Suddenly there was a clear picture and excellent sound. They thumped each other on the back and shook hands. One of the women present said to the man with the toolbox, "What exactly do you make with all these tools?"

He smiled and said, "Friends."

What a lovely idea.

Of course, don't we all have within us tools of a sort which help us to make friends if we could just bring them to the fore at the right time?

A smiling face, encouraging words, a helping hand, a sense of humour, an uncritical attitude.

It is truly awesome when it begins to dawn on us that we have been "befriended by God."

When we read the Old Testament, it seems all the Promises of God, as written by the prophets, are for the Jews only.

Then we come upon a verse (and this is Isaiah 49.6) ".....I will make you a light to the nations so that all the world may be saved."

So we are included after all.

In Ephesians 3.6 GNB Paul asserts "...by means of the gospel the Gentiles have a part with the Jews in God's blessings."

I feel included and profoundly affected to read "I have written your name on the palms of my hands." Is 49.16 GNB

## Saltire Society

**Cunison Rankin Chairman** 

I sometimes think the Saltire Society has as many aims and objectives as it has members! According to its constitution one of its main tasks is to "increase public awareness of Scotland's distinct natural and cultural heritage in all its richness and diversity". The Aberdeen and North East branch of the Society puts it this way in its programme: of Scotland "The thought without its languages, literature and music is too terrible to contemplate. The Saltire Society is fighting for the things we believe in".



The Society was founded in 1936 led by a group of Glasgow University academics.

of the objects of the Society is One to encourage inventiveness and the hiahest creativity, standards of excellence in Scotland's contribution to the arts and sciences. To this end the Society makes a number of awards the oldest of which is the Housing Design Award established in 1937.

The Civil Engineering Award made jointly with the Scottish Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers is an opportunity to recognise the highest standards in the design and construction of civil engineering projects. The 2007 winner was the "squinty" bridge over the Clyde, the Finnieston Bridge or Clyde Arc.

An important award is the Scottish Book of the Year. The 2007 award made on St Andrews Day was to A L Kennedy's "Day", a war story about Alfie Day, a Wellington rear gunner. Other awards include the Arts and Crafts in Architecture Award and the Science Award.

Saltire has eight branches which hold meetings usually in a talk and discussion format. Aberdeen and North East Branch publishes a leaflet and programme and this may be requested from Miss D. Robertson, 34 Ash-Hill Road, Aberdeen AB16 5HJ 01224 484 061.

The Society's Web Site is at www.saltiresociety.org.uk and you can join the Society for about £30.

## **NOTES & NEWS**

### **Good Friday** Service



The united service is to be held in Craigiebuckler Church on 21 March and will take the form of a presentation by the joint choirs of the cantata "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer.

An invitation is extended to singers from all churches within the group to participate (whether or not they are members of their own church choir).

It is proposed to have rehearsals at Craigiebuckler Church on the four preceding Thursdays at 7.30pm - 28 February, 6,13,20 March

#### **Spectacle Collection**



Thank you to everyone who has donated their old

spectacles to be sent abroad. The collection is continuing so if there are any old spectacles you need to clear out. please put them in the box in the church vestibule.

### **MBarnardo's**

Barnardo's desperately need VINJAGE Clothing and accessories from the 1920's to the 1970's-

Puffball dresses/skirts, Fake fur coats, Purses, Bags, Retro prints and fabrics, Gloves, 80's party dresses, Flapper dresses.

> 202 George Street, Aberdeen 01224 627248

### THE GUILD February



Tues 5 Ann Buchan will tell us about her Adventures in China

Thurs 7 Monthly Coffee Morning in the Large Hall from 10am-11.30am

Sat 16 Afternoon Tea in the Large Hall 2-4pm, Tickets £1.50 (adults) 75p (children)

Tues 19 An evening with the Morven Singers

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

My book choice for February is "Women of WOMEN Faith" edited by Saint Andrew Press in 1993 for the Women's Guild



It grew out of the theme for 1991–92 "Faith works"

Members were asked to write about women who had been an inspiration to them. The book is the result of that invitation.

Some of the names are well known, some historical. Many more are known only in their own area. But all have made an impact. Maybe you know someone like that. We can all learn from the snapshots recorded here.

Edna Cromarty

## **CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER**

#### Baptisms

"Suffer the little children to come unto me" **6 Jan** Niamh Smith

#### Deaths

"I go to prepare a place for you..... that where I am you may be also" 2 Sept Mrs S McDonald, (D25/28) 16 Nov Mrs C Boyd (D8) 30 Nov Mrs W Connell (D19) 3 Dec Miss E Burnett (D13) 5 Dec Mr A Clunie (D21) 7 Dec Mrs W Wilson (D41A) 8 Dec Mr W Masson (D41A) 1 Jan Mrs A Heron (D18) 8 Jan Miss E Findlay (D4)

16 Jan Mr N Allan (D16)

#### Disjunctions

Mr H & Mrs A McClune (D51) Mrs M Walker (D1) Mr H & Mrs M Findlay (D6) Mr A & Mrs S Robertson (D31) Dr I & Mrs E Ross, (D41) Mr & Mrs G Kynaston (D1) **Change of Address** Miss R Smith (D2A) Mrs E Nutt (D13A) Mr D & Mrs T Low (D42) Mrs D Robertson (D31 to D1) Mrs | Shepherd (D44A) Mrs R Johnston (D46A) Mrs I M McPherson (D8) Mrs A McPherson (D24 to D53)



**Church Bulletins** — **They're back!!** A selection of BLOOMERS that have actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

# **CHURCH CONTACTS**

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood 21 Forest Avenue k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Pastoral Assistant	Rev George Goldie 27 Broomhill Avenue goldiegm@goldieg.fsnet.co.uk	322503
Youth Worker	Mr Stiubhart MacChoille stiubhart@fsmail.net	481359
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Mr. Nick Youngson, nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson <u>Nnikibob@aol.com</u>	743484
Website	www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk	

### **CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM**

Following comments about the quality of the sound in the church sanctuary a review of the existing equipment has been undertaken. It was concluded that an upgrade is required as some elements are more than 30 years old.



Arrangements have been made to renew the speakers, microphones and amplifier. The sound controls are to be relocated to the balcony alongside the projector and PowerPoint controls. To fund these improvements the Kirk Session has approved use of Miss Ewan's Trust Fund.

Recording of the morning service has been changed to 9.30 and the cassettes replaced by CDs. Anyone wishing to receive a regular copy of this service should contact our Secretary.

Supervision of all matters related to the sound system has been passed over from Barton Brown to Tom White.

#### PLEASE NOTE The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire is* 14 February Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:

roddy@mccollassociates.com office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk Oxfam Oxfam is delighted to accept the mobile phones which were in the Church vestibule. If you have changed your mobile recently and would like to recycle your old one and help protect the environment, please hand your phone in to any Oxfam shop.