



# INSPIRE



## **MANNOFIELD PARISH CHURCH**



**Christ The Lord Is Risen Today**

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## MARCH

Sun 2	9.30 & 11 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship followed by Holy Communion
Sun 9	9.30 & 11 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Sun 16	9.30 & 11 am	Morning Worship for Palm Sunday
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
<b>Tues 18</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Kirk Session</b>
Thurs 20	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Fri 21	7.30 pm	United Good Friday Service Craigiebuckler Church
Sun 23	8 am	Sunrise Service & Breakfast
	9.30 & 11 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Praise Service
<b>Tue 25</b>	<b>7.45 pm</b>	<b>Congregation AGM</b>
Sun 30	9.30 & 11 am	Morning Worship
	3.15 pm	Craigielea
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship



## New Communicant Class

A meeting will take place on Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> for any person who might be interested in being admitted as a member of the church. The meeting will take place in the Vestry at 7.30pm.

Making the decision to join the Church is a completely personal choice and it can be made at any stage of life.

If you are considering taking this step yourself, or you know someone who might be, then this meeting will provide the opportunity for a discussion on the process towards church membership.

If you are considering church membership at this time but are unable to attend this particular meeting please contact the minister to discuss alternative dates.

## Flower Calendar

### MARCH

- 2 Mrs. Parkinson
- 9 Mrs. J Anderson
- 16 Mrs. M Craighead
- 23 Mrs. A Thompson
- 30 Mrs. J K Hamilton



*Mannofield Manse*

*21 Forest Avenue*

*Aberdeen*

*E-mail [k5blackwood@btinternet.com](mailto:k5blackwood@btinternet.com)*

Dear Friends

Have you ever been the bearer of happy news?

When we have good news to tell generally speaking the heart-rate is increased, the Cheshire cat grin appears on our face and we skip our way to deliver the message to a recipient. I am sure we have all been in that position; it's exciting to discover something we know will make others happy!

Can you imagine the excitement of Mary Magdala?

Based on the account found in St John 20: 1-18 we can imagine how she felt in being a witness to the resurrection of Jesus:

*"Hi. My name is Mary Magdala. I have some wonderful news for you! I can hardly believe it myself, but it's true."*

In making her discovery Mary's heart must have been racing. She no doubt skipped her way to those she had to tell her story.

Mary was a figure from a marginalised group within the society of Jesus' generation but, as with other events in the Gospel, so often it was to such surprising characters that special insight was given and also the task of telling others about God. She was given a special privilege – not so much a secret – but an insight into the ways of God that promised Good News to the world. Mary responded with absolute faithfulness and played her part in witnessing to the vital news of Jesus' presence in the world despite His death on a cross.

Many scholars consider Mary an apostle of the church. She is mentioned in Acts along with other women who clearly played their part as messengers of Good News.

It is now our turn to be messengers of such Good News to the world.

As we approach Easter let's make the spirit of the season a revitalising force in our lives. Let it be so strong as to put an extra beat in our hearts and establish a smile on our faces. Let it give us the encouragement to skip our way to revealing, in everything we do in the name of the church and in our personal life, the Good News of God's life-giving spirit, alive in the world today.

Happy Easter and God Bless

Best wishes

*Keith*

As indicated in the last instalment of *"In Session"*, the Kirk Session have been considering a new schedule for Communion services in Mannofield. The January meeting of Session approved the introduction of three formal Communion services per year, on the first Sunday of October, March and June, with a less formal Communion on the first Sunday of Advent, in December. The new cycle will commence in June this year.

Another innovation linked with Communion is abandonment of the Communion invitation cards. In their place, elders will distribute appropriate literature to their district homes prior to each of the three formal Communion services.

Session were also informed that applications had been received for the post of assistant minister and interviews will be conducted in the near future.

Another new venture is the setting up of a social committee whose assignment will be the organisation of a number of social events in the course of the year with the aim of getting the congregation to mix on a social basis more frequently.

Roll keeper Jim Cardno reported to Session that our membership had dropped from 1593 to 1510 in the course of 2007. We welcomed nine new members, but 92 had been lost, most of them through death or families moving out of the area.

Elders reported on visits to the Crèche and the Mother and Toddlers' Group, and the Youth Worker updated Session on the various youth activities.

**The next Session meeting is on Tuesday, March 18.**

## PASSION ON THE TELLY

During Holy Week 2008, BBC1 is to broadcast a major drama series on the last days of Jesus. It will be 'stripped' across the week, reaching a dramatic climax on Easter Sunday.



*Passion* tells the story from the viewpoint of Caiaphas, Pilate and the disciples. It is likely to be seen by up to 8 million viewers.

Director of the Churches' Media Council, Andrew Graystone, has held extensive discussions with *Passion* producer Nigel Stafford-Clark.

He said, "This is a straightforward account of the last few days of the life of Jesus told with honesty and passion. Obviously it is a work of drama not theology and wasn't conceived as an exercise in evangelism. It promises to be the most honest and challenging account of Jesus seen on TV in many years and will prompt believers and unbelievers alike to think about Jesus."

Award winning producer Stafford-Clark has commented: "The *Passion* is a gripping, multi-stranded dramatisation of not just the most familiar but arguably the greatest story ever told. Both truthful and simple, it gives it back to the audience in a way that will feel as fresh, contemporary and surprising as if it were happening for the first time."

Dear Friends,

This is a shorter and later e-mail than usual. Our lives both at hospital and home have been busy, but its been good.

We are overflowing with patients in the hospital. It's a time of year when there is little farming work to do and so patients take full advantage of the time to come and have their health related problems sorted out!

Dena Khatri is a girl of 11 years with cerebral palsy. When we first met her a few months ago she had severe contractures in both legs and had never walked. Over a period of months we have gradually managed to get her legs straightened out and last week she started to walk using a special set of braces. At the moment her walking is cumbersome and difficult, but it's gradually improving as she starts to use her muscles for the first time. The novelty of being able to stand upright has not worn off and she is smiling a good deal more than before.



As you may already know we plan to return to the UK to allow Jenny to start secondary school after the summer. It might have been possible for Jenny to continue her schooling in Kathmandu, but the idea of being separated as a family does not appeal and I am keen to get back to general practice, a job that I love. I've been keeping an eye on the job adverts and as a result I will be coming back to the UK for a job interview in Aberdeen next week.

**Please give thanks for:** A full hospital; Dena's progress over the last few months; being short listed for a job in the first place

**Please pray for:** The elections in Nepal scheduled for 10th April; our decision making as we plan a return to the UK; the hospital in my absence

*Iain & Fiona 31 January 2008*

## Claire's Christmas Angel Cards

Many thanks to all who supported the sale of the Christmas Cards.

The total raised for the Grampian Children's Cancer Research Fund was £1095. This exceeded all expectations.

A special thanks to Scott and Pam Gourlay for their help and time in assisting me with the production of the card.

Dr King, patron of the charity, was delighted with this donation which will particularly support the research work of his colleague Dr Neefjes.

*Maureen Murray*





## God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding

Come and join us in the World Day of Prayer Service

**Where:** Ruthrieston West Church

**When:** Friday 7 March

**Time:** 2.00 pm

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Guyana on the northern coast of South America.

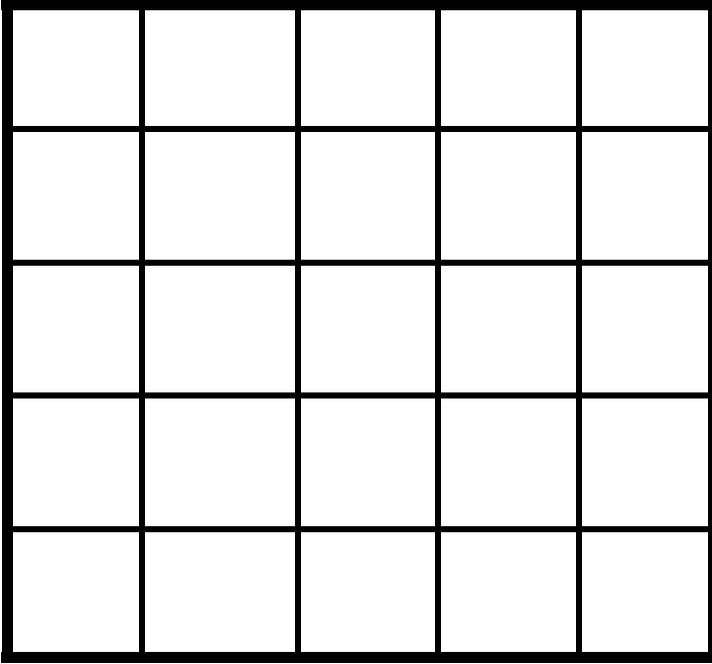
The Cacique Crown is the head-dress worn by the chief of an Amerindian village or community. It is the Crown of the Godhead — the wisdom, light rays, love and togetherness that are representative of the providence of God. Under the crown of His grace we find unity, one with the other.

We hope to have a united choir. This will meet to rehearse in Ruthrieston West at 1.00pm on 7 March. Can you help? If so please contact Audrey Milne Tel 313179.

Services will be held throughout the city to celebrate the day of Prayer. For details see the Countesswells Road Notice Board.

The offerings last year were given to a project assisting people affected by AIDS in South Africa as well as to the Scottish Bible Society and Feed the Minds. Thanks to all who helped.

This year's offerings will support the Scottish Bible Society and Feed the Minds which has projects in Guyana as well as helping AIDS victims in Guyana.



*How can you place five each of A's, B's, C's, D's and E's so that no letter is repeated horizontally, vertically, or diagonally?*



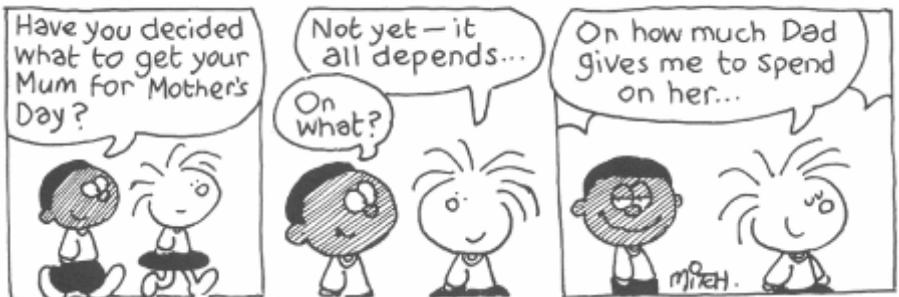
# Missing Numbers

Find the missing numbers to the questions, then enter them in the squares so that the total for each column from top to bottom adds up to 18.

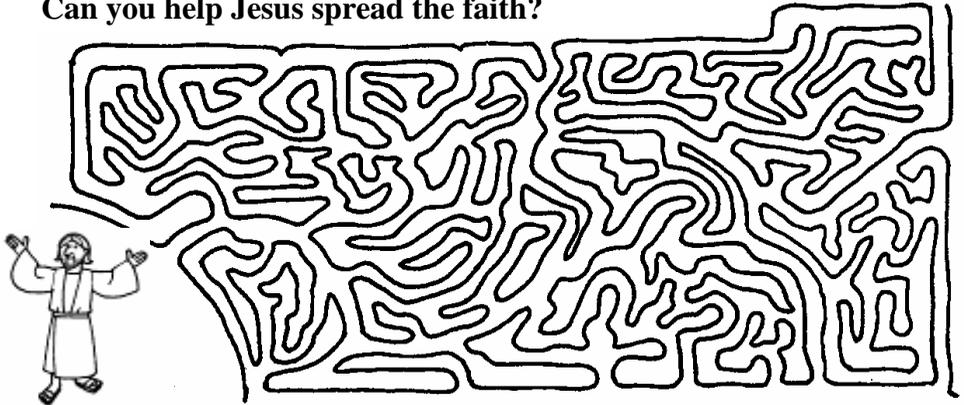

Q. What do you call a flying sausage?  
 A. An Unidentified Flying Object!

- A No servant can serve \_\_\_ masters (Luke 16:13)
- B On the fifth day prepare \_\_\_ bulls (Numbers 29:26)
- C The Lord is \_\_\_ (Mark 12:29)
- D She hid him for \_\_\_ months (Exodus 2:2)
- E Jehoiakim reigned for \_\_\_ years (2 Kings 23:36)
- F Moses gave \_\_\_ oxen to the Merarites (Numbers 7:8)
- G Gideon took \_\_\_ of his servants (Judges 6:27)
- H Each had \_\_\_ faces (Ezekiel 10:21)
- I The throne had \_\_\_ steps (1 Kings 10:19)

## the mouths of babes



Can you help Jesus spread the faith?



Q. What do you call a policeman  
lying in the road?  
A. A sleeping policeman!

My dog is a nuisance -  
he chases everyone  
on a bicycle,  
what can I do?  
Take his bike away!!!

**USING THE CODE,  
MATCH THE LETTERS  
TO REVEAL THE MESSAGE HIDDEN**

I	O	F	J	L	E	R	B	U	A	S	D	,



## CROSS-SEARCH

All 32 words hidden (horizontally or vertically) in the letter grid can be fitted into the crossword pattern. Among the words to be found are a city of which

Melchizedek was king (Genesis 14), a precious stone (Exodus 39), the husband of Ruth, a New Testament epistle of uncertain authorship, the brother of Martha and Mary and the name of a fruit. One word has been inserted in the crossword grid.

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

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

February's solution: To have 4 inmates along each side of the prison, two inmates have to share each corner cell.

Ken Hancock of Stained Glass Radio North Sound 2 was the guest speaker at the Unity Prayer week supper at Mannofield Church on 23 January. His presentation included extracts from some of his broadcasts. This was both stimulating and challenging especially those which might be regarded by some as bordering on the superstitious with near death and post death experiences being recounted with passion and conviction.



Unfortunately it is not yet possible to download his broadcasts but for those who missed his talk and wish to hear his programme it is on Sunday between 9 and 10 pm.

Stained Glass Radio is a title that probably neatly sums up the mood of the programme -- *Music and chat with a Christian slant, but designed to appeal to a wide audience* -- not too serious, and so fitting in with the station's ethos but still dealing with complex subjects with respect and trying to be accessible to people who are not necessarily "church" people.

Ken is Chief Engineer for Northsound. He has been an Elder at the North Parish Church, Rhynie for the last 7 years but before that was a Jehovah Witness for 13 years. About two years ago he was approached by the station's programme controller and then the MD and asked if he would like to launch a Christian programme. This was an extremely unusual suggestion given that time is money in commercial radio. So he felt compelled to take up the challenge and did a pilot CD. The rest is history with SGR starting 18 months ago.

During that time he has experienced some very rewarding interviews. One of the first interviewees was David Pawson -- *Not as Bad as the Truth: Memoirs of an Unorthodox Evangelical, 2006*.

He would like to interview the leaders of the various denominations particularly Rabbi Jonathan Sachs. Ken has a tremendous love for the Jewish people and has a deep belief that as "Gods People" they will come to recognise the Messiah one day. His support for the British Messianic Jewish Alliance (an association of Jewish people who have found the Messiah as their Saviour and Lord ) was passionate and full of conviction.

As Mannofield Church is conducting a survey to find out the congregation's Top of the Pops of Hymns I asked Ken what were his favourites. Classical hymns but with a modern approach:

*My Song is Love Unknown* by Rachael Lampa.

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

*How Deep the Father's love for Us* by Stuart Townend

*Trust and Obey* by Big Daddy Weave

Continued on Page 12

## All You Cant Leave Behind

On the weekend of 3–4 May, 2008 the Church of Scotland will host its largest ever gathered event in the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston. Two days with 10,000 people meeting, sharing, learning and growing.



*It's like the people of God moving out of slavery on a journey of rediscovery.  
It's like the Feast of the tabernacles when people returned to tents and shelters for a time of transformation.*

*It's like the Gaels moving to the Highland shielings with a new season.  
It's the experience of freedom and creativity for 21st century churches*

The national gathering is an event that opens its doors to all mages and to all denominations in Scotland. It is a celebration of the great diversity across the Churches, and a time to come together to share and learn from one another in the Royal Highland Centre Ingliston.

This venue provides the opportunity for both indoor and outdoor programmes. One of the most dramatic features will be the tented village for visitors to explore and opportunities for prayer and worship, both in the peace and quiet of a reflective labyrinth and in the power and joy of communal worship.



Tickets are available from the website and range from £10 for a single day ticket to £30 for a family ticket.

[www.cwwresources.org.uk](http://www.cwwresources.org.uk)

## Stained Glass Radio Interview with Ken Hancock continued

Ken's ambition for SGR is to keep on producing the programme for the "broad Kirk;" both for those who do and don't have faith.

*"If just one person who has listened and has had their life touched by what they have heard then I would be immensely gratified but even if it doesn't achieve that but in some way that person is strengthened in faith then the programme would have been just as worthwhile."*

This was a fascinating and wide ranging chat from a not so learned discussion on what red wine to have with sausage egg and chips to musings by Ken about the time when he was learning the violin and his teacher used to say that he played like a man with arthritis. So he wonders whether if ever he gets arthritis he will play like Yehudi Menuhin!

Roddy McColl

# A Hymn for Gardeners

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.  
But what we never mention  
though gardeners know it's true  
Is when he made the goodies  
he made the baddies too!

*All things spray and swappable,  
diseases great and small*

*All things paraquatable, the  
Lord God made them all.*

The greenfly on the roses, the  
maggots on the peas,  
Manure that fills our noses, he  
also gave us these.

*All things spray and  
swappable.....*

The fungus on the goosegogs,  
the clubroot on the greens,  
The slugs that eat the lettuce  
and chew the aubergines.

*All things spray and  
swappable.....*

The drought that kills the fuch-  
sias, the frost that nips the  
buds,  
The rain that drowns the seed-  
lings, the blight that hits the  
spuds.

*All things spray and  
swappable.....*

The midges and  
mosquitoes, the  
nettles and the  
weeds,  
The pigeons on  
the green-stuff,  
the sparrows in the seeds.



*All things spray and  
swappable.....*

The fly that gets the carrots,  
the wasp that eats the plums,  
How black the gardener's  
outlook though green may be  
his thumbs.

*All things spray and  
swappable.....*

But still we gardeners labour,  
midst vegetables and flowers,  
And pray what hits our  
neighbours will somehow  
bypass ours.

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
the Lord God made them all.*

*If this sounds familiar, you may  
have seen in the Press and  
Journal a few years ago. Try  
singing it when doing your least  
favourite but necessary summer  
garden task.*

*This should at least cheer up the  
neighbours-perhaps you as well!*

# NOTES & NEWS

## Gift Aid



Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convener, wishes to thank all who have forwarded Gift Aid payments in the current tax year.

He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, either sent directly to him at 27 Norfolk Road, Aberdeen AB10 6JR or deposited in the church plate in a clearly marked envelope by 30 March 2008.



Donations of used stamps are welcome and can be placed in the box in the church vestibule.

They will be passed to the Scottish Bible Society to help fund its work

## Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Tuesday 4 March

Airyhall School, Braeside Place

10:00am - 11: 45am

Fairtrade Hamper for Raffle winner

The money raised will go to Airyhall's link school in Sierra Leone.



## THE GUILD



### March

- Tues 4      Colin Johnston will tell us about the Aberdeen March Stones
- Fri 7        World Day of Prayer (see separate article for details)
- Wed 12     Spring Rally & Business Meeting in Ruthrieston West Church

**The Guild AGM will now be held on Tuesday April 8, not March 18 as on syllabus.**

### BOOK REVIEW

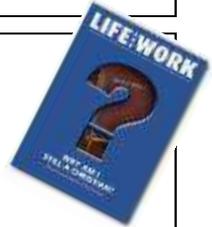
Rather than a book, it's the Church of Scotland's own magazine "Life & Work" that I'm reviewing this month.

Maybe it's a long time since you read it. Maybe you've never read it. Maybe you remember it being rather dull and academic.

Well, it's had a facelift. There are all sorts of interesting articles on different aspects of the church's life as well as the Christian viewpoint on current issues. To this is added colour pictures, a crossword, letters page, a travel feature, news snippets and the Register of Who's Where. And that's only some of what's in it. October 2007 had an article on Aberdeen Presbytery.

We now have a year's back file in the Library. Do have a look at them. If you would like to order your own copy see Gill in the Church Office.

*Edna Cromarty*



# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

**New Members** *"They were welcomed by the Church"*

Rev T & Mrs P Richardson (D49)

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

20 Dec Mrs E Fowle (D33)

31 Jan Mrs F Taylor (D44A)

4 Feb Mr D McLeod (D13A)

11 Feb Mr D Laing (D46)

**Change of Address**

Mrs A McRobbie (D24 to D53)

Mrs C Wallace (D33)

Mrs C Robbie (D28)

Mrs L MacLean (D22 to D42)

**Disjunctions**

Mrs L Andrews (D44A)

Mr I & Mrs A Fraser (D1B)

Rev W & Mrs C Beattie (D46)



## **MISSION:** **easter08**

A Holiday Club Event for Children and Young



bible time, silly sports,  
quizzes, puppet shows,  
singing, memory verses,  
surprises and prizes!

**6.00-7.30pm Monday 24th - Friday 28th March 2008**  
**Mannofield Parish Church, Great Western Road.**

**Doors Open 5.45pm!**

**Come and join the fun and make  
friends too!**

All children under five must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

All Team Members have successfully completed Disclosure Scotland applications and have received Child Protection Training.

# 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 <b>office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk</b>	310087
Church Officer	Mr. Nick Youngson, nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 <b>M 07850 733402</b>
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson <a href="mailto:Nnikibob@aol.com">Nnikibob@aol.com</a>	743484
Website	<a href="http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk">www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk</a>	

## GOD.com

Every single evening  
As I'm lying here in bed,  
This tiny little Prayer  
Keeps running through my head:

God bless all my family  
Wherever they may be,  
Keep them warm and safe from harm  
For they're so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing  
I wish that you could do;  
Hope you don't mind me asking,  
Please bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's unusual  
To Bless a motherboard,  
But listen just a second  
While I explain it to you, Lord.

You see, that little metal box  
Holds more than odds and ends;  
Inside those small compartments  
Rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them`  
By the kindness that they give,  
And this little scrap of metal  
Takes me in to where they live

By faith is how I know them  
Much the same as you.  
We share in what life brings us  
And from that our friendships grew.

Please take an extra minute  
From your duties up above,  
To bless those in my address book  
That's filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach  
To each and every friend,  
Bless each e-mail inbox  
And each person who hits "send".

When you update your Heavenly list  
On your own Great CD-ROM,  
Bless everyone who says this prayer  
Sent up to GOD.com

### PLEASE NOTE

**The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is 20 March**

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to  
[roddy@mccollassociates.com](mailto:roddy@mccollassociates.com) or [office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk)