



# INSPIRE



**Warmest blessings  
MANNOFIELD CHURCH**

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

## JANUARY

Sun 6	10am	Christmas Gift Service with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tues 8	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 9	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 13	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Lessons and Carols
Wed 16	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 20	10am	Nativity Service 
Thurs 24	7pm	Family Christmas Service
	10.45pm	Mulled wine, mince pies & Carols
	11.30pm	Watchnight Christmas Service
Fri 25	10am	Family Christmas Morning Service Children invited to bring a small Christmas gift 
Sun 27	10am	Morning Worship

Sun 3	10am	Morning Worship
Sun 10	10am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Service resumes
Wed 13	10.30am	Midweek Service resumes
Sun 17	10am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Service
Tues 19	7.30pm	Congregational Board
Wed 20	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 24	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 27	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 31	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Service

**PLEASE NOTE**

**The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is *Thursday 21 January***

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:

**[rodody@mccollassociates.com](mailto:rodody@mccollassociates.com)**  
**[office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk)**

Dear Friends

Writing to you last year in December, I referred to the impending credit crunch and threat of recession. Perhaps we can't quite believe that we have been talking about such things for 12 months and probably even longer.

While we can't say for certain that the recession is over we can certainly say that together with war in Afghanistan, the ramifications of a slow-down in the economy have dominated the news during 2009.

I suspect we are all able to consider how these things have affected us. In a business sense and in personal ways I suspect we have all been affected by this crisis in some way. For some it will have been in a very specific and threatening way, for others less so.

As we look to 2010 I suspect that all of us are hoping that the worst is behind us and that we can look forward to more stable times for ourselves, family and friends. The experts tell us these things go in cycles. There are good times and there are bad times; there are times for investment and times for protecting what we have; there are times for speculation and times for sticking with the familiar.

One of our most known stories in the Bible is the story of Joseph – the one with the colourful coat! In the dream he interpreted there were signs of 7 years of full harvest and abundance and 7 years of famine and shortage predicted.

Joseph had the sense to persuade the people to make preparations to store up the bounty from the good times so that they would have a source of food in what was to come. The story goes further than this, indicating that it was God who in the first instance would supply His people with what they needed so that ultimately no harm would come to them.

The Bible is littered with stories of how God provided for His people in threatening times.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas we can take heart again as we are given a reminder of the ultimate provision of God for His people. When Jesus was born into human life, the world then and now was given a sign that while everything else in life may fluctuate and move in cycles, God's Love for us is stable and dependable. What's more, Christmas reveals that no matter how dark the threat around or upon us – the light of Christ and the quality and depth of God's Love for us is stronger!

Blessings to one and all at Christmas!

*Keith*



*Keith and Katrina , Aaron, Finlay and Angus send Christmas greetings from the Manse to all our friends in Mannofield with God's Blessing for 2010.*

Dear All,



I have now been here at Mannofield Church for around two months. I have met most people but if I haven't met you yet please introduce yourself to me during coffee time after the service or if you see me around in the office during the week.

I would like to thank you for your warm and friendly welcome and for helping me settle in and feel at home here with you.

I would like to let you know a little bit of what I've been up to and what I'm planning to get up to in the future.

I spent my first month just settling in, getting to know people and what happens when. My first task was to get a Sunday night youth club on the go which I've called Revolution. There is a chance for the young people to hang out together and play pool and table tennis before playing games together and this is followed by a Christian DVD or short talk. We started off my first Sunday with only two or three young people and now have ten which is great.

Within the next two weeks I am hoping to get an after school youth café on the go. This will be on Mondays 4.00-6.00pm and to make it a success I urgently need some volunteers to come forward for this and would be very appreciative of any help.

Research shows that in most parishes only 9% of the young people in the area are associated with the Church. It would be great if you would help me here to buck the trend and instead of 9%, let's reach out to 90% of the young people in the area!

I spend a lot of my time involved in chaplaincy duties at Hazlehead Academy where I visit guidance classes and also RE classes. In the New Year I hope to set up a Scripture Union lunchtime club.

I'm also involved at Airyhall Community Centre where I help with a Friday night youth club. In the New Year I hope somehow to get involved in Airyhall Primary School and also hope to establish a youth Bible study group.

So that's most of what I'm up to, as well as building links with youth workers at other churches.

Please if you can help in anyway with the youth café let me know. Both the youth and myself rely on your support.

*Tim Still*  
*Youth Ministries Worker*

## In Session..... with Scribe

The future development of the Mannofield Church buildings, referred to in “In Session” in the October issue of “InSpire”, took another step forward when the Kirk Session met on October 27.



The elders were informed that the Development Committee had appointed the architect firm of Mackie, Ramsay and Taylor to carry out a feasibility study on improvements that might be made to the buildings. Comments and observations received from individuals and organisations using the premises had been passed on to them and it is hoped that the study will be completed by the end of the year, allowing these matters to be debated further early in the New Year.

Also under discussion at the October meeting was the form of worship at Mannofield, with various suggested changes to the present format being put forward.

These included a balance of old and new hymns, with any of the latter being included for a few successive weeks to allow the congregation to familiarise themselves with them. Also suggested was moving the intimations to later in the morning service, with provision made to ensure that those leaving for Young Church were kept informed.

Tim Still, the new Youth Worker, was introduced to Session. He felt it was important to have wide-ranging activities to appeal to all ages of young people.

Under “Minister’s Matters”, Keith announced that a “Souper Sunday” will take place on January 10 in support of the Presbytery’s bid to raise £15,000 for the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids Church in Society appeal.

The Social Committee will organise a soup-and-sandwich lunch and the Worship and Devotion committee will be involved in the service along with the Youth Worker and Young Church in an effort to raise awareness of and funds for, this project.

John Telfer, who has given long and devoted service as our Presbytery Elder, intimated that he is standing down. Any elder willing to succeed him is asked to contact Keith as soon as possible.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 (7.30pm).

## WHAT IS ALPHA?



The Alpha course, which is supported by all the main Christian denominations, is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

It is relaxed, low key, friendly and fun. There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other.

Listen, learn, discuss and discover. And ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

## WHAT'S INVOLVED?

The Alpha course consists of a series of talks. After each talk, we divide into small groups for a time of discussion.

### **Introductory supper on Monday 18 January 2010 at 7pm**

The Alpha team will be hosting this supper for anyone thinking about joining the course. The Reverend David Swan will give us a talk about Alpha which should help anyone who is interested in the course. This is an excellent opportunity to come along and find out more about Alpha before committing to the 10 week course. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the course then please come along on 18 January.

### **The Alpha course will start on Monday 25 January for ten weeks finishing on Monday 29 March 2010.**

The course also includes an away day. This has been arranged for Saturday 6 March from 9.30am - 4.30pm at Newhills Parish Church, Aberdeen.

To help us with the catering, please contact either Alan or Anne Thompson (681384) or Louise Barrack (311511) to let us know that you will be attending.

Alternatively, fill in an Alpha registration form which is available from the Church office.\*\*\*\*

**WHERE:** Large Hall, Mannofield Church.

**COST:** No Charge for Introductory supper or Alpha course.

\*\*\*\*The Alpha Course registration forms require to be returned to the Church Office by Monday 11 January.



*Rudolph is older than Dancer but younger than Vixen.*

*Dancer is older than Donner and Blitzen.*

*Blitzen is younger than both Prancer and Donner.*

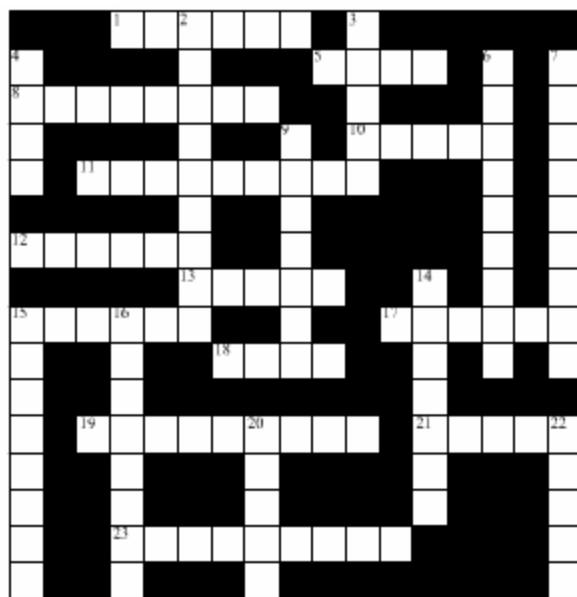
*Vixen is older than both Dancer and Blitzen, but younger than Prancer.*



*Who is the oldest, and who is the youngest Reindeer?*



## The Nativity



### ACROSS

- 1 Jesus' earthly father  
 5 Mother of Jesus  
 8 Where Jesus grew up  
 10 Where Joseph took Jesus and Mary after the wiseman left Bethlehem  
 11 King of Judea after Herod  
 12 A trough: an open box from where cattle feed  
 13 Joseph and Mary were of the lineage of this former king

- of Israel.  
 15 A multitude of these praised God, saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."  
 17 God had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Christ.  
 18 Precious metal: one of the gifts  
 19 Father of John the Baptist  
 21 An aromatic herb:

One of the gifts

- 23 Mary's cousin and mother of John the Baptist

### DOWN

- 2 Those watching over sheep  
 3 Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to pay these  
 4 A widow who served in the temple: she saw Jesus at His dedication.  
 6 City where Jesus was born  
 7 Cloth used to wrap babies  
 9 The angel who visited Mary and told her she would have a Son.  
 14 These came from the East and brought gifts  
 15 Roman emperor at the time of His birth  
 16 God with us  
 20 This empire ruled the western world at the time of His birth.  
 22 King of Judea at the time of His birth



Can you spot 25 differences between the two pictures?



## The Nativity

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

ANGELS	MARY
ANNA	MYRRH
ARCHELAUS	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	ROMAN
CYRENIUS	SIMEON
DAVID	SHEPHERDS
ELIZABETH	STAR
FRANKINCENSE	SWADDLING
HEROD	TAXES
JOSEPH	ZACHARIAS



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November's solution:- How many times does the letter S occur in the name of the world's longest river? - None, the Nile is the longest.

A tourist went into a café to get breakfast. The waitress was abrupt and rather rude. He said, "How about a kind word?" She leant over and said, "Don't eat the eggs."

Sometimes you come upon a sentence that stops you in your tracks. You go back to read it again to savour it and from time to time it tugs at your sleeve thereafter e.g.

"Kind words are the golden rivets which help to hold together the splintered vase of human happiness."

Philip Larkin wrote on the death of a hedgehog.

"Next morning I got up and it did not.  
The first day after a death, the new absence  
Is always the same; we should be careful  
Of each other, we should be kind  
While there is still time."

Tim Kimmel writes an account of Sing Sing prison one of the toughest in U.S. In 1921 Lewis Lawes became the warden and when he retired 20 years later it had become a humanitarian institution. He insisted it was due to his wife Catherine.

In 1921 she had three young children and everyone warned her never to enter the prison. She said, "My husband and I are going to take care of these men and they will take care of me."

At the first game of basketball, she took her children along to watch. She insisted on becoming acquainted with all the men in prison and studied their records. She discovered one was blind. She visited him in his cell. She took his hand and said, "Do you read Braille?"

"What's Braille?" She was able to teach him to read.

Later she found a man who was deaf-mute. She went to school to learn the sign language for his sake.

Many said that Catherine Lawes was the presence of Jesus that came alive again in Sing Sing from 1921 to 1937.

Then she was killed in a car accident.

Next morning only the deputy warden appeared and the tragic news spread.

The next day, the deputy warden was shocked to see a large crowd of hardened criminals gathered at the gates of the prison, many of them weeping.

"All right men, you can go," he said. "Just be sure you check in again to-night." He opened the gates and the prisoners walked the three quarters of a mile to Catherine Lawes house to pay their last respects.

Then they all came back. Every one.

# The Christmas Mouse



A wee mouse lived in a cold, dark shed.

She'd just finished making her winter bed

She'd "borrowed" some straw from the animals there,

But the ox and the ass and the sheep didn't care.

"A few wisps of straw we can easily spare,

For everyone knows that it's good to share."

Now one dark night some visitors came,

And wee mouse said, "Please, tell me your name."

"My name is Joseph," the gentleman said.

"We're tired and weary and haven't a bed."

"And my name is Mary," the lady then said.

"Would you mind if we spent the night in your shed?"

The wee mouse replied, "We would love you to stay-

I'm sure you could make up a bed in the hay."

And Joseph said, "Well, if you're sure you don't mind."

And Mary said, "Thank you. You're so very kind."

Now later that night, when all were asleep,

She quietly crept out – just to have a wee peep.

I wonder if you can guess what she saw

All cosy and warm amongst the straw?

A wee Baby Boy in his manger bed!

"And who are *you*" the little mouse said.

And then the wee mouse felt just a little bit sad

For she hadn't a gift for this poor little lad.

You usually get presents the day that you're born,

But all that she had were a few ears of corn,

Which she laid at the foot of the little boy's bed

Saying, "Some day your Mum could make those into bread."

'Twas some time later – an hour or more –

Some shepherds appeared and knocked on the door.

"We're looking for Jesus, God's Infant Son.

The angels did say "He was here," said one.

And that was the mouse's greatest surprise!!

For then-only then-did she realise

That this little Babe-so tiny-so small-

Was the little Lord Jesus, King of us all!!

And Mouse had been first-before any other

(Except, of course, for His father and mother)

To see Baby Jesus the night He was born

And to give *all* she had- a few ears of corn.

"I'm the proudest mouse in the world," she said,

That first Christmas night in the cold, dark shed.

*Sybil Merrilees*

## Mannofield Church Lunch Club

**Come and join us!**

**17 DECEMBER**

Thereafter  
3rd Thursday each month  
until May 2010  
Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!  
Cost -- £3

Need transport?

**Contact: Mhairi Clark tel. 317982**



## HELP REQUIRED

Car drivers and kitchen helpers

This is not a "Kitchen Nightmare"  
But FUN and FELLOWSHIP

The TIPS are good!!



If you can assist once a month or  
even every second month from  
January to May 2010 then please  
contact

**Mhairi Clark tel. 317982**

On Sunday 10th January 2010, churches all over Scotland—and all over the world will be marking "Souper Sunday", when church services promise to be a little different.

**SOUPER**  
The Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project  
**SUNDAY**  
changing the world one spoonful at a time  
**10.01.10**

This special day has been endorsed by The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as a time when congregations might choose to hold elder-led acts of worship, followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread. As a result of the day it is hoped that all church members will become more aware of the many issues surrounding HIV. Also, Souper Sunday will offer a brilliant opportunity to raise much needed funds for a wide range of HIV initiatives at home and overseas.

## Sweet Potato and Coconut Soup

Serves 10

### Ingredients:

25g/1oz butter; 2 large onions, roughly chopped; 2 cloves of garlic roughly chopped; approximately 2kg/4lb sweet potato; 4 pints vegetable stock; 400ml can coconut milk; ground black pepper; chopped parsley (optional).

### Method:

Melt the butter in a large pan; sauté the onions and garlic until golden; add the sweet potato; cook for 4 – 5 minutes, stirring occasionally; add the stock and bring to the boil; simmer until the potato is soft (approximately 15 minutes); place the soup in a blender and cream; allow to cool slightly and stir in coconut milk.

Season to taste; gently reheat to serving temperature; serve with some chopped parsley to garnish, if you wish. Mmmmmmmmm!!

# NOTES & NEWS

## GUILD



### December

Tuesday 1 Something for Families, Children's Panel

Tuesday 15 Christmas Party

### January

Tuesday 19 Rev Alisa Ferlicca

### February

Tuesday 2 Something Nostalgic, Video

Thursday 4 Monthly Coffee Morning

## Aspire Book Group 2009-2010 Reading List

- December** The Shadow of the Galilean, by Gerd Theissen
- January** The Book of Lamentations, by Rosario Casellano
- February** Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- March** Paradise, by Toni Morrison
- April** A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving
- May** Travelling Mercies, by Anne Lamott
- June** The Tartan Pimpernel, by Donald Caskie and Mike Hughes

## POPPY SCOTLAND APPEAL



The Retiring Collection on Remembrance Sunday raised £661.33 for the Poppy Scotland Appeal.

## Instant Neighbour



Instant Neighbour was set up in 1984 by a group of local churches to help the disadvantaged and socially excluded in our community.

It is 'celebrating' its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, although its continued need is perhaps not a reason for celebrating.

Currently a dried or tinned food collection is arranged on the last Sunday of each month and the Guild very successfully collects specific goods at its meetings.

The operation has expanded from its early days and the organisation can now also handle (and collect) bedroom furniture, white goods, beds, carpets and bicycles. Its base is now at the top of St. Machar Drive.

The congregation will have the opportunity to give help on Christmas Eve. Offerings received at both services will be sent to Instant Neighbour to assist its work.

## LAUNDERING TEA TOWELS

Thank you to all those who helped this year. I would be very grateful if you could take the same month for 2010. If you cannot do it please let me know.

*Norma Shearer Tel 317141*

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### New Members

Mrs B Gow

### Deaths

10 October Mr Alexander Mackie

### Disjunctions

Mr John McKay

### Change of Address

Mrs M Matheson

Mrs Betty Sutherland

## OUR WONDERFUL WORLD MANNOFIELD CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

**18th – 20th March 2010**

This event will give many people from Mannofield and across the city the opportunity to see God's world represented in flowers.

Individuals, groups or companies are invited to SPONSOR a floral arrangement.

Your support is much needed and will be acknowledged in the programme.

If you can provide sponsorship please contact:

Sheila Towns, Tel: 589812 or speak to an Elder at the church door.



**THANK YOU**

## Flower Calendar

### December

6 Flower Fund

13 Mrs Reekie

20 Mrs McCaskill

27 Flower Fund

### January

10 Margaret Malloch

17 Flower Fund

24 Anne Thomson

30 Sheila Black



### ABERDEEN FAIR TRADE

Aberdeen's

Original Shop

Third World Centre

101 George Street  
(opposite John Lewis)

Jewellery and Gift Ideas

Open Mon – Sat 10am-5pm

**Volunteers welcome Tel 645650**



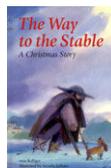
## YOUNG CHURCH

19 Dec **Christmas Party for 3-8 year olds,**  
Centenary Hall 2 - 4pm.  
Lots of games and yummy food, not to mention a very special guest who might drop in!!

**"A Christmas Carol"** in 3D  
for 9-11 year olds  
Beach Cineworld  
times TBA.

20 Dec **Nativity play**  
Morning Service  
"The Way to the Stable"

For more details contact  
Fiona Chambers Tel 861899



# CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
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Youth Ministries Worker	Tim Still	tj.still@btinternet.com M 07535 356346	
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@talktalk.net	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	<a href="mailto:Nnikibob@aol.com">Nnikibob@aol.com</a>	743484

# Sing-a-long at Christmas

## WATCHNIGHT SERVICE 24 December 11.30pm



A group is being organised to lead the congregation in the singing of the Carols during the Watchnight Service. Singing towards the congregation from the chancel area the group will give greater encouragement to the congregation to sing out at top voice.

With practice, the hope would be to add the harmony line to the carols to give that extra special feel.

Four practices have been arranged for  
Sunday 6 December (5pm), Sunday 20 December (4pm)  
Wednesdays 9 and 16 December (7pm).  
(Lasting approx.45 minutes)

**Come along to two practices and you are part of this ad hoc singing group for Christmas!**

**For existing choir – for sing-along group – for anyone!**

**It's about Fun!!**

