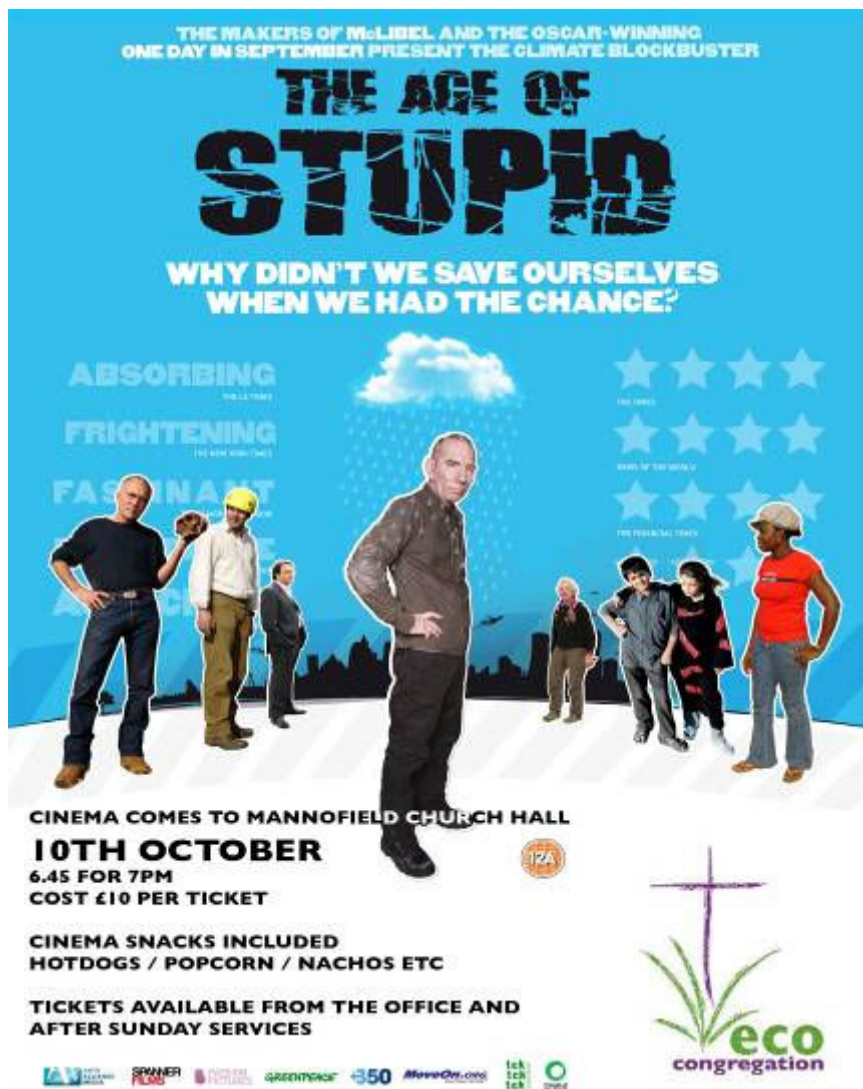




INSPIRE



MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Sun 4	10am	Sacrament of Communion at both services
	6.30pm	
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11	10am	Harvest Sunday Informal Communion after Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tues 27	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 28	10.30am	Midweek Service

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is Thursday 22 October

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

roddy@mccollassociates.com
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Flower Calendar



OCTOBER

4 Mrs J Taylor (Vestibule)
11 Harvest Thanksgiving
18 Mrs R Wright
25 Mrs S Taylor



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Disjunctions

Miss Mary Barclay
Mrs Gillian Main
Mrs Jennifer Rataj
Mrs Edith Smith



29 August 2009

Dear Pat (McColl)

THANK YOU

A very big "thank you" to all the boys and girls of Young Church at Mannofield for their very generous donation of £100 for the work of the Guide Dogs.

It is very much appreciated and will be put to very good use by the Association. All good wishes to everyone.

Sheila Taylor Countesswells Branch



Dear Friends

As I write this the weather is fine and sunny and has been for most of the month of September. We might go as far as to say we are enjoying an 'Indian Summer'.

I recently looked into the origins of that familiar phrase. It was first used as a phrase in Europe and the Americas over 200 years ago. It might have some correlation to the timing of the northern hemisphere's autumn matching the summer of India or it might be to do with Native American Indians and their relationship with early settlers in Europe - sometimes warring in the season before winter or the opposite - sitting down together in peace and exchanging harvests.

Nowadays it is an expression of the fact that the weather has improved late in the year – where surprisingly we see sunshine and warmth as we approach colder winter months. Sometimes it is used metaphorically as in David Weir the Scotland football player (aged 40) who is enjoying somewhat of an 'Indian Summer' in his career. In this sense we know the expression means the late blooming of something, often unexpectedly.

One of the things I like about the sentiment behind the phrase is the encouragement for us to remain hopeful – to never give up – to think optimistically. There is a tendency in life to think some things are beyond us; or that our past will prove better,

more exciting and more fulfilled than the future.

As individuals we sometimes lament the loss of the past and loss of our abilities and strength. Also institutions like the Church can sometimes be affected by the tendency to think like this. But the phrase 'Indian Summer' should remind us all that there is reason indeed to think positively for we can regularly find that we will surprise ourselves by blooming late or enjoying unexpected success.

With God as our guide the opportunities for 'Indian Summers' in life remain strong. We can trust him to grant us opportunities and the means to fulfill them. We just need to trust God more!

Best Wishes
Keith

Following the Footsteps of Paul



St Paul by El Greco

*Mannofield Church's
Trip
to Greece
June 2010*

12 Days

Cost £1,750

For more information contact Alisa
at
alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com
or
07838835778

The Sacrament of Communion



Holy Communion has a special place within the Christian Faith. We believe it to be God's gift to the Church; an opportunity to use the common elements of bread and wine for a mysterious ceremony which reflects the Last Supper. We believe that in sharing communion we are in fact receiving the grace and spirit of the risen Christ as conferred on us by the Holy Spirit. The Communion celebration is a wonderful opportunity for any Church to come together in fellowship as a family of God's people, to be fed spiritually by God as individuals, and allow for the sharing of God's grace.

Over the last two years we have introduced some changes in terms of the way Communion Sundays are scheduled and in the way the sacrament is physically arranged on the day itself. In addition to occasional informal Communion services throughout the year, we celebrate Communion on the first Sundays of October, March and June (10am and 6.30). These are preceded by visits from the elders to members. We also celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of Advent as this is traditionally the first Sunday of the Christian Year and it seems very fitting to share in God's meal on that date.

In most of the churches I have worshipped in, it has been clear that not everyone actually enjoys the Sunday services when Communion is celebrated. This has always struck me as strange given the significance of this tradition and the underlying intention in creating the opportunity for people to be lifted in spirit through the sharing of God's grace.

In asking the question of such people, why they feel like this about Communion Sunday, the recurring answer is they feel uncomfortable given the heightened formality and tension of the occasion. Most especially they say the apparent tension within the elders distributing the elements who 'feel themselves on show' and who are anxious not to let anyone down by getting something wrong, is transferred onto the celebration itself.

What we have sought to achieve in Mannofield in the last two years is to retain the special nature of these Sundays but lessen the tension that is so often observed as serving elders distribute the elements. Of all the Sundays in our calendar it seems to me a Communion Sunday should be the happiest of all for on that day we are deeply privileged to be reminded of God's Love for us and be the recipients of His grace.

Elders are invited to gather round the table at the appropriate time rather than having to sit through an entire service looking out at the congregation from the front. Elders are reminded that they need not worry about getting things wrong in the distribution of elements but are encouraged to enjoy the privilege of serving others. We hope elders will smile and be natural as they undertake this responsibility and not be seen to be overly tense because in their minds they are 'on display'.

The Sacrament of Communion

continued

Communion Sundays used to be the occasion when members of the Church who were not regular attendees at services would come as if to get a tick against their name. Now we are keener on creating a balance and variety to all our Sunday services that will encourage people to come along and be part of the family Sunday by Sunday.

The Sundays when Communion is celebrated remain special but the aim is for these services to mirror the appropriate and uplifting atmosphere common to all services. We desire that people feel that they can be themselves when they come to worship and not feel that they have to take on extra formality because of the occasion.

You might also have noticed that as a minister I prefer not to be served as one of the first to take the communion elements. There are good reasons for this! Thirteen years ago when I undertook my ordination vows I felt called as a minister to be the servant of congregation and parish and I chose as my role model Jesus Christ who was first and foremost servant to others. I decided in those early days that when it comes to communion I would not like to be seen as one of the first to receive the elements as if I, as minister, had a privileged place at God's table. Sometimes this might mean I am the last of those sitting on the chancel to take the elements or sometimes on receiving Communion only after the congregation has been served. The thinking being - there should be no inference of a hierarchy of importance in the Church. Such a thought can so easily be encouraged if the order for Communion is observed as minister first, elder second and Church member last.

We are all equal in God's eyes and as your minister I see myself as a servant who would rather serve others first than be served first. I think if you were to participate in Communion services in other congregations today you will find that my preference for the order of serving is repeated in many other churches and perhaps even in most – for many ministers share my thoughts.

I like to think of Communion Sunday as similar to the family meal we share within our own families from time to time. Very often we live fragmented lives with people in our family eating at different times and in different places. But we all enjoy those rare opportunities where we, as an entire family, can sit down together and experience the joy of being altogether. The joy of these family occasions is that individual members of the family can be true to themselves, the atmosphere bright and cheery, and the result leaves everybody thankful for the chance to be all together in one place.

For me Communion Sunday is like this. It is not so much about formality as it is about celebrating our 'oneness' and enjoying the opportunity to come together as a family of God's people as God himself feeds us by His grace. *Keith*

It is not finished

It is not finished, Lord.
There is not one thing done;
There is no battle of my life
That I have really won.
And now I come to tell thee
How I fought to fail.
My human, all too human, tale
of weakness and futility.
And yet there is a faith in me
That Thou wilt find in it
One word that Thou canst take
And make
The centre of a sentence
In Thy book of poetry.
I cannot read the writing of the years,
My eyes are full of tears,
It gets all blurred and won't make
sense;
It's full of contradictions
Like the scribblings of a child.
I can but hand it in, and hope
That Thy great mind, which reads
The writings of so many lives,
Will understand this scrawl
And what it strives to say – but leaves
unsaid.
I cannot write it over, the stars are
coming out,
My body needs its bed.
I have no strength for more,
So it must stand or fall – dear Lord,
That's all.

G A Studdert Kennedy

Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, MC (June 27, 1883– March 8 1929), was an Anglican Priest and poet. He was nicknamed 'Woodbine Willie' during World War1 for giving Woodbine cigarettes along with spiritual aid to injured and dying soldiers.

In Session... with Scribe

The future development of Mannofield Church was only one of several important matters discussed at the August meeting, when it was reported that completed questionnaires on the subject had been received from individual members as well as the various organisations using our facilities.

Although no specific proposals were submitted, the consensus view was that the church premises needed smartening up. In pursuit of this goal, the Development Committee was authorised by Session to appoint an architect and carry out a feasibility study.

Progress was also made in the search for a new youth worker, Session agreeing that an appointment could be made if the interviewing panel settled on a suitable candidate. The prospect of Mannofield earning Eco-Congregation status took a step nearer with a presentation by Colin McColl outlining what was involved, what will be happening and the progress made so far by the committee appointed for this task.

By the time you read this (*assuming, of course, that you do read 'InSpire' from cover to cover!*), a service entitled 'Family of the Church' attended by representatives of all organisations using the church will have been held on 20 September. This service followed on from a meeting Keith had with leaders of youth organisations aimed at involving more young people in the Church's work. The next Session meeting is on 27 October.

Each of the six lines of verse given here is the second line of a well-known poem. What is the first line of each poem and the name of the poet?

1. 'That floats on high o'er vales and hills'

2. 'Now that April's there'

3. 'That there's some corner of a foreign field'

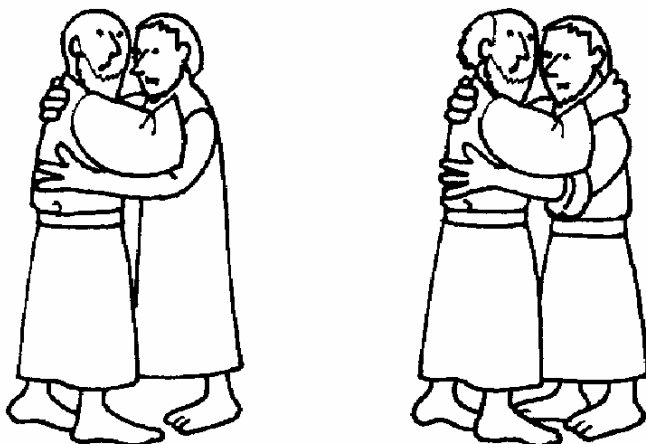
4. 'Walk upon England's mountains green'

5. 'The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea'

6. 'A stately pleasure-dome decree'



Spot six differences



Sort out the muddle below to find who
sorts out our
muddles, so we can be happy!

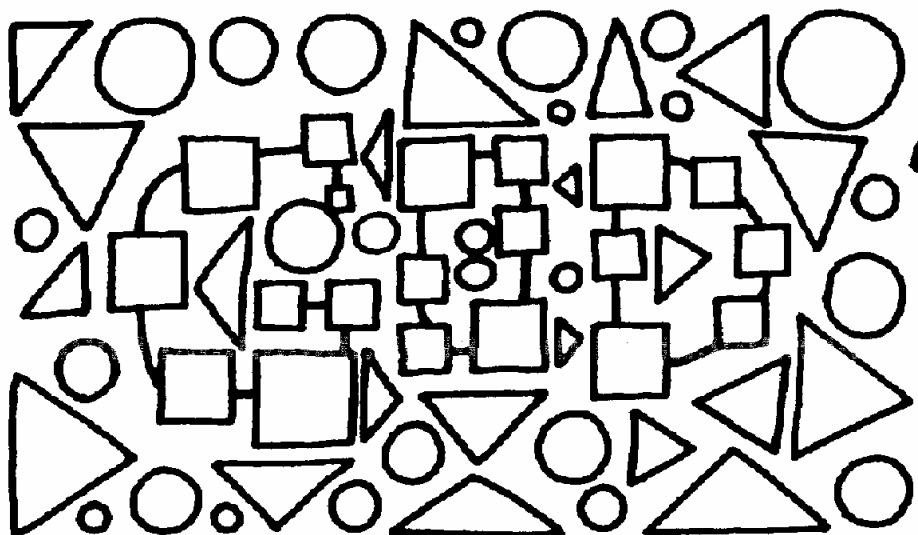


=Red

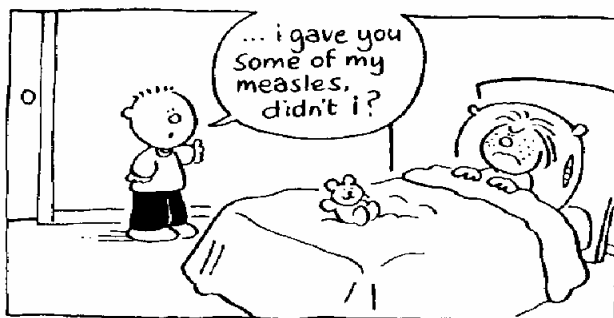
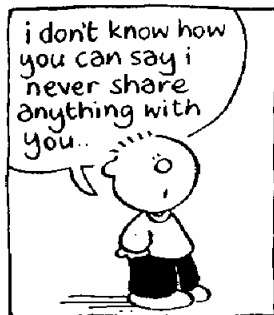


=Green

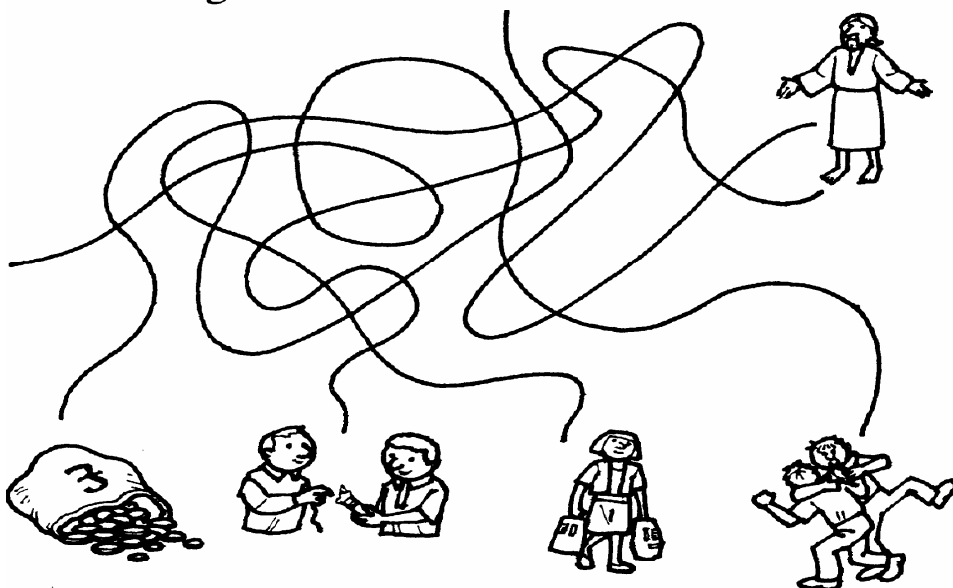
=Blue



the mouths of babes



What things lead us to Jesus?

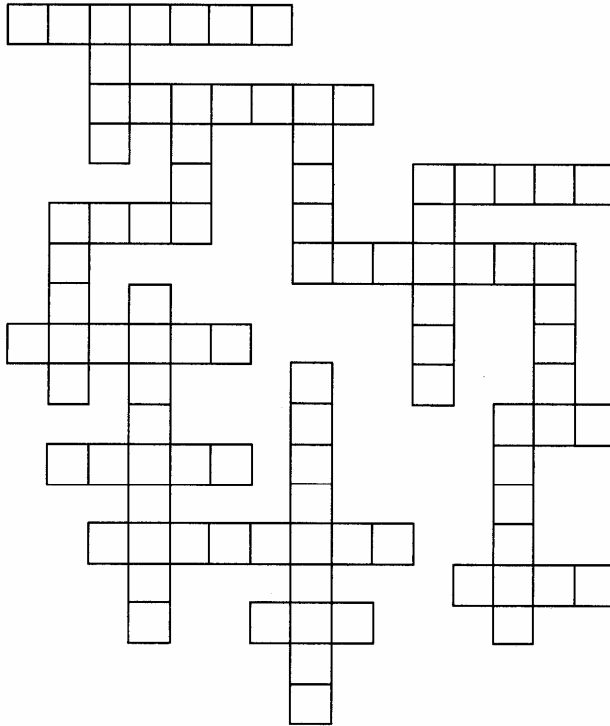


Money

Kindness

Helpfulness

Violence



CAN YOU FIT THESE WORDS INTO THE GRID:-

3 Letters:- AND HIM

4 Letters:- EACH SIDE WOKE WIND

5 Letters:- WAVES OTHER STERN DROWN STILL

6 Letters:- SQUALL BEHIND AFRAID

7 Letters:- EVENING CUSHION REBUKED

8 Letters:- SLEEPING

9 Letters:- DISCIPLES TERRIFIED

September's solution: The symbols represent a mirrored image of the digits from 1 to 7, therefore the next two symbols are a mirrored image of 8 and 9.

Good Hope for the people of Malawi

A Mannofield Connection

It felt like being in a scene from the New Testament as a crowd of people which included at least three ministers, four Europeans, the local Chief and many local people gathered on Wednesday 12th August under a huge mango tree by the beautiful shores of Lake Malawi for a short (by Malawian standards) service of dedication of the new ambulance boat that had just been delivered for Livingstonia Hospital.

“Good Hope” as the new craft is named, had travelled in a container from Macduff where it was built by Macduff Shipyards through sponsorship by various Scottish companies and individuals and she now lay at the end of the jetty in Mlowe where she will be based, just a few yards from where we were sitting.

She was built following a request by the Synod of Livingstonia in the north of Malawi for help to replace their present vessel “Robert Laws” (**named after Rev Dr Robert Laws who was born at Mannofield, Aberdeen and founded the Livingstonia Hospital**) which was in very poor condition but was the only viable way of bringing medical help to remote towns and villages along the lakeside – places that can only be accessed on foot over very rough country.



It was a great relief for everyone involved when the container was opened a couple of days earlier at the port of Chilumba to find everything just as we had packed it in May for the journey to Malawi. The boat was then removed from the container in true Malawian style by a huge crowd of excited people including a group of Scouts from York who were out there building a new eye clinic at the hospital.

The rest of that day was spent re-assembling the bits we had taken off in Scotland so that the boat would fit in the container until she was finally ready for lifting into the water using the large crane on the pier. As soon as someone said that the boat was ready to lift and before any of the half dozen men on board at the time had a chance to get off (anyone involved in health and safety would be better to skip this section) we found ourselves hovering 30 feet above the concrete quay!

A lot of shouting and waving of arms later, the situation was modified so that we were now swinging 50 feet above the water of Lake Malawi from a crane that we learned later had not been used for ten years and was being operated by the port electrician because the trained operator had died a couple of years previously. Despite these drawbacks he managed to lower us gently into the water to the sound of cheers from the quayside.

Day two was spent sailing the ambulance down the beautiful shores of Lake Malawi to the bay at Mlowe where we laid a new moorings 50m from the jetty that had also been built by “The Raven Trust” a couple of years earlier. *Cont P13*

AN ABERDONIAN

An Aberdonian walks into a bank in Union Street and asks for the loan officer. He tells the loan officer that he is going to Australia on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000.

The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Aberdonian lad hands over the keys and documents of a new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the Log Book and everything checks out.

The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's Manager and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the rough looking Aberdonian for using a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral against a £5000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the Aberdonian returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41.

The loan officer says,

"Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled.

While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi millionaire.

What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow £5,000 ?"

The Aberdonian replies,

"Where else in Aberdeen can I park my car for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

Ah, the mind of the Aberdonian

This is why they survive



The Age of Stupid is a new and hugely ambitious drama-documentary-animation film.

It stars the Oscar nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching archive footage from 2008 and asking, 'Why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance?'

**AN OPPORTUNITY
NOT TO BE
MISSED**

**Saturday 10th October
6.45 for 7.00pm**

**TICKETS: £10
(INCLUDING CINEMA SNACKS!!)
Please support this Mannofield
ECO Church programme**

ASPIRE

Book Group

2009 Reading List

1st & 3rd Wed. of month

7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall

November The Hiding Place, by Corrie Ten Boom

December The Shadow of the Galilean, by Gerd Theissen

+++++

Massage and Meditation

4th Wednesday of month

7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall

An event for women of all ages to come together and learn Christian meditative practices for the body and the soul.

For more information contact Alisa at
alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com or 07838835778
<http://aspiremannonfield.wordpress.com/>

It had been a busy few days getting the boat ready for use but as we now sat at the lake-side listening to the various dignitaries make speeches I could not help reflecting on the wisdom of God when he tells us "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

If the donors that sponsored the boat had kept what God had given them for themselves no doubt they would have been blessed by the knowledge that the company profit was higher or their bank account was looking healthy but now how much greater was the blessing? The donors were blessed when they got the money originally; the organisers of the project "The Raven Trust" were blessed as they saw their prayers being answered and people inspired to help; the ship-builders were blessed as they did their part; the 250 people who turned up to see the boat named and launched at Macduff; the people who met and befriended the two Malawians who came to Scotland to be trained in the use and maintenance of the boat; the staff at Livingstonia Hospital who will now travel safely to remote communities for clinics and community health care; the fishermen who will operate the new vessel instead of the old boat that they had to be bailing continually to keep afloat and many more before we even begin to consider the lives that will be saved and the illnesses cured or avoided, all because people gave.



As I considered this I too was blessed with the others who were there as the song says "Underneath the mango tree."

George West, Gardenstown (a friend of the Editor)

The Mannofield Food Critic

A recent two course meal impressed the gourmet critic and left him salivating about the prospect of a repeat experience. Here is what he had to say:

The aroma from the kitchen suggested a pleasant meal was on its way. Soup was served and what a treat. Chicken broth with plenty of vegetables to bring good health. A pinch of pepper to add some spice and some salt (optional) for added taste.

Potatoes (mashed with no lumps) had a deep and creamy flavour.

The mince was tender and flavoursome; served with oatmeal and peas - there was plenty of nourishment on the plate.

Service with plenty of smiles from waitresses who added class to the experience and the fleeting sight of the cooks reinforced the sense that all was well.

Top Marks from this Critic!

Food: 5 out of 5

Presentation: 5 out of 5

Service: 5 out of 5

Value: At £3 per person it has to be - 5 out of 5

Venue: 4 out of 5 (But don't worry a committee is working on this!!)



Lunch Ladies

If you want to experience such delights for yourself then mark
Thursday 15th October at 1pm in your diary. Venue is Mannofield Church.

NOTES & NEWS

MANNOFIELD CHURCH SENIOR MEMBERS' FELLOWSHIP



First meeting of the new session to be held on Tuesday, 13th October in the large hall at 2 pm.

Entertainment by Jim Ruxton & Co.

GUILD NEWS OCTOBER



- | | |
|---------|--|
| Thurs1 | Monthly Coffee Morning |
| Tues 6 | Something Corny, Elaine Lindsay |
| Tues 20 | Something Admirable, Street Pastors, Margaret Ross |
| Wed 21 | Autumn Rally, 7.30pm St George's, Tillydrone. |

Bus Outing



This was very much enjoyed by those on the bus. Keith could not come due to family commitments but Alisa came and saw new parts of the country.

The journey to Montrose was in brilliant sunshine with good views of a very calm sea. The soup and sandwiches were very much enjoyed with excellent service from the Park Hotel. Folk were delighted to be joined for lunch by John and Elizabeth Anderson. Both are very well.

After lunch we drove through Laurencekirk and Fettercairn before heading over the Cairn o' Mount. We stopped at the Raemoir Garden Centre, where some folk bought bedding plants.

After a raffle we continued the journey home. A great time was had by all and the question was "When is the next trip?"

GIFT AID

MANNOFIELD CHURCH, ABERDEEN
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC001680

Please regard the enclosed as a Gift Aid donation

giftaid it

Title _____ Surname _____

Foraminated _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Date _____

Please remember that to make this Gift Aid donation you must pay an amount of U.K. income or capital gains tax or both equal to the tax and profits on your donation for the appropriate tax year.

You may have noticed that there is a supply of Gift Aid envelopes in dispensers on the table in the church vestibule.

These envelopes are primarily for the use of visitors but they can be used by members wishing to make a one-off donation to Mannofield Church under the Gift Aid Scheme.

The only stipulation is that the person making the donation must pay UK Income Tax sufficient to cover the amount of tax that the Church will be able to reclaim on the amount of their gift.

Donations under the Gift Aid scheme must of course be capable of being recorded. In making a donation by way of the special envelopes, as an alternative to cash in the open plate, the donor therefore increases the value of their donation by approximately 28% (e.g. £1.00 becomes £1.28, £100 becomes £128.20).

Members are encouraged to make their regular offerings where possible under an enduring Gift Aid Declaration.

Further information and the necessary forms can be obtained from Sandy McKenzie, Gift Aid Convener (Tel. 311261) or Roger Imrie, Freewill Offering Treasurer (Tel. 316500).



welcoming international students

A Stranger for Christmas — HOST

Visits from strangers at Christmas began with the arrival of wise men from a foreign land. You could carry on this tradition, by inviting an international student to spend Christmas in your home. HOST is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. They are prepared to travel to stay with a host far from their university. Welcoming a student who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's volunteer regional organiser in this part of Scotland, Brian Conn, on 01224 733073. HOST arranges visits throughout the year, so if your 'inn' is full this Christmas, you can still offer an invitation at another time.



Many of you probably had the opportunity to see the recent big movie, "Slum Dog Millionaire". What a contrast between the children's lives in the film, with no hope, parents, or love, and the children that India Village Ministries is bringing God's Love and Hope to today in India ... All Because You Care!

We have started the new academic year at our Children's Home in June at Puritigadda with 37 boys and girls from 5 to 14 years of age. It is exciting to see all these kids playing and running all over the grounds. It is a beautiful sight to see. There is a lot of life on the land now. We are humbled to be a little part of sharing God's love to the unfortunate, poor, needy, and orphan kids with your partnership.

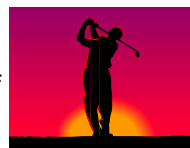
The stories behind these kids are heart-moving. Thank the Lord for giving us HIS burden to care for them and share HIS LOVE with them.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
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Church Officer	Mr. Nick Youngson	nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484
Website	www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk		

2009 Golf Outing to Craibstone

A group of 24 budding golfers descended on Craibstone Golf Club on Friday 28th August for an afternoon of golf and fellowship. Defending Champion Keith Blackwood got us underway at 12:59 and the typical Scottish summer weather provided challenging conditions for all.



The course was in fantastic condition and some extremely difficult pin positions had been chosen by the green keeping staff.

This year again the generosity of local businesses ensured that there were some great prizes on offer with both team and individual competitions being closely fought out.

Team honours went to Alastair Hunter, Peter Stewart and Keith Campbell. Nearest the Pin was won by David Clark and Longest Drive by Peter Stewart. The 2009 Champion was Roddy McColl. All enjoyed a wonderful day and look forward to the competition in 2010.

MANNOFIELD CHURCH BOWLING CLUB

Coffee Morning



WHEN: Saturday 24 October

WHERE: Large Hall

TIME: 10am to 12 noon

Cake and candy stall, bottle stall etc.

Donations for any of the stalls may be handed in to the kitchen between 6.30 and 7.30pm on Friday evening or on the Saturday before 10am.

Soup and Sweet Lunch

A big thank you to all who helped and attended the Soup and Sweet Lunch. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the event.



A profit of £428 was made. This money will support the monthly lunch club for the rest of the year.

Thank you again for your support.