



INSPIRE



The spirits of the air live in the smells
of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
the gardens, or sits singing in the trees.

Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

"To Autumn" by William Blake

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Sat 2	2.30-6pm	Messy Church
Sun 3	10am	Sacrament of Communion at both Services
	6.30pm	
Wed 6	10.30am	Midweek Service with Communion
Sun 10	10am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism followed by Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 13	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 17	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 20	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 24	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tues 26	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 27	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 31	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship

Faa's Daen Fit — Missing Digit!!

Tim's telephone number is missing a digit in FDF.

It should have been 07578 057090.

Flower Calendar



October

- 3 Flower Fund
- 10 Rhoda Wright
- 17 Ann Farquhar
- 24 Sheila Taylor
- 31 Niki Anderson



REFORMATION 450

Sun 3 October Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting (West Door, Back Wynd) at 3 pm.

The second of four discussion/talks, open to all, in which Henry Sefton and James Stewart look at the background, events, and consequences of the Scottish Reformation - "*Men and Movements, Continental and Scottish Leaders.*"

Sun 10 October same venue and time.

The third of the series of discussion/talks, open to all, on the Scottish Reformation-"*At Parish Level in Aberdeen and Elsewhere.*"

Sun 24 October same venue and time.

Last in the series of four discussion/talks, open to all, on the Scottish Reformation-"*Nothing Fixed and Final - The Legacy of 1560.*"

Blessing

In our relating and our doing,
In our unwinding and relaxing
In our solitude and struggling
God's blessing.



Dear Friends

At the end of a day when Pope Benedict XVI spent time in Edinburgh and then in Glasgow I reflect on the bits and pieces that I witnessed during the course of the day. The sun shone for him as well as for the thousands who greeted him and I think the strength of the sun's rays was not the only positive energy observed in the day.

Three things stand out for me that moved me and which ultimately will leave me with a sense of Hope long after the Pope returns to the Vatican City.

I was warmed by the sight of people swarming to Edinburgh and Glasgow; people who wanted to be there because their religion matters so much to them. In this day and age of scepticism and at times incredulity, it was refreshing to see that in society there are still people who sense there is more to life than the quick-fix promises of secularism.

The second thing I felt was pleasure. I realised how pleased I was to count myself part of this same Christian Faith as the Pope and the people who journeyed to see him. I know the Pope is head of a different denomination of the Christian Faith than the church I am part of and comfortable in; yet any sense of division between the Churches today seems not to matter much at all.

I was heartened to see the representatives of all sorts of Churches saying through the media how good it is when we work together. Gone are the days when we need to feel threatened by the different denominations or when we need to view them with an air of suspicion. We all have issues to address and errors to atone for, but when the will to do so is there and when steps are taken to address these misdemeanours, we can move towards a focus on the things we have in common and work towards the same objective of sharing God's Love with the World.

The final thing that that touched me today was a Pride for the country of which I am part. Scotland does days like today extremely well. Compared to the pomp and circumstance of other places, we in Scotland seem to retain a sense of decorum and appropriateness. The people were cheery and sociable and the tone of the day was reasonably informal which I think suits our Scottish character. Where else but Scotland would a Cardinal think to smuggle a tartan scarf past security and drape it round the neck of the Pope? Good on Pope Benedict XVI for getting into the spirit and happily keeping it on for a good part of the day.

Faith still matters to people. Unity of purpose between the denominations of the Church will stand the furtherance of our shared faith very well. It's an important task but we can learn from today and carry out God's work with a smile on our faces.

Regards

Personal InsightHeather Tait



Q. What is your age, occupation, marital status and family?

A. I'm 46, a primary teacher and married with two daughters, Ashleigh and Kirsten.

Q. What is your favourite character from the Bible?

A. Mary

Q. What motivates you spiritually?

A. Knowing I can pray any time and someone will be listening.

Q. It's not cool but.....

A. I liked watching Big Brother !

Q. What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

A. Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves - my gran: *"all my coppers are always put to good use."*

Q. Who is your favourite fictional character?

A. James Bond

Q. If you could choose a profession that you would like to try what would that be? Why?

A. A vet, because the work done by vets fascinates me.

Q. If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?

A. I'd really like to be at least five inches taller !

Q. If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

A. I would like to go back to around 1900 when all my grandparents were born, to see what life was like then.

Q. What would you do if you ruled the world?

A. I would make sure everyone had no prejudice against anyone else anywhere.

Continued on page 5

Personal Insight ...continued

Q. On what purchase have you spent most apart from a car or property?

A. A surprise trip to the British Grand Prix for one of my husband's "special" birthdays!

Q. Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A. My Russian teacher Mrs Macrae, who brought the language to life with our Russian spy novel of the KGB every Friday afternoon last two periods !!

Q. Who or what is the love of your life?

A. My family

Q. What is your most treasured possession?

A. My wedding and engagement rings.

In Session.....with Scribe

The valuable contribution made by Elders to the operation of the Church of Scotland in general, and to Mannofield Church in particular, was highlighted at the Kirk Session meeting on 31 August when tributes were paid, at different stages of the Agenda, to two Session members.

John Telfer, who was delivering his final report as our Presbytery Elder, received a resounding vote of thanks for his contribution in this role over many years.

On a sadder note, tribute was also paid to the late Eric Smith, whose involvement in numerous aspects of church life was highlighted by John Little in an obituary tribute in the September edition of InSpire.

Session were advised of changes which have been made in the set-up of Young Church and the Crèche.

In Session.....with Scribe

Lesley Taylor has taken on the role of co-ordinator and a recruitment drive has provided sufficient volunteers to assure a good rota of helpers, while Anne Imrie and Alison Farquhar are in charge of a revamped crèche which will operate throughout the year. It is hoped that parents will take advantage of this facility.

Additionally, it is hoped to establish a group for 12-15 year olds, meeting on Sunday mornings under the supervision of Tim Still. Another innovation is the formation of a Breakfast Club for young people, meeting at 9.15am on one Sunday per month.

Under "Minister's Matters", Keith thanked Session for allowing him time to attend an Army Cadet Force summer camp in York. He found it an extremely worthwhile experience, affording him contact with youngsters who would otherwise have no church connection.

The next Session meeting is on 26 October but the Session meeting originally scheduled for 7 December has been switched to 30 November as the December date clashed with a Presbytery meeting.



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Church of Scotland Annual Review 2010

*A church reformed,
always being reformed*

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/organisation/organnrevindex.htm>



PLEASE NOTE

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

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

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

"Crisis in the Kirk"- BBC Documentary Keith's Sermon 29 August 2010

A tough question was slipped into my consciousness this week; not in origin from someone else but as my own response to watching the BBC documentary 'Crisis in the Kirk'. How many of you watched it?



So the question I asked myself was, 'If I was not a minister would I go to Church; how regular in attendance or involved in its inner workings would I be?'

This question made me slightly uncomfortable. Maybe you think it a rather strange question to ask, and even stranger for me to admit to asking as I stand before you folks to whom I minister and so am meant to encourage.

A strange and uncomfortable question to ask but quite natural to consider, having watched the programme, for it is not an uncommon thing for someone of my own generation not to attend church. It's not just the norm; turning it on its head we might agree it's actually very uncommon for someone in his early forties along with his family to attend church. And if you want proof of that just look around church this morning.

I would expect 20-40 years ago most of you were attending this church or another church - being the same age as I am now. But let's be very frank – not a great many of your children or grand-children attend church as regularly as you did when you were their age.

The BBC painted in this documentary and in their news reports a pretty bleak outlook for the Church of Scotland.

So what do we think? That's what I want to address this morning. As we stare into the future what feelings do we have concerning the place of our Church?

Before we consider future things it's necessary to look at the past and to be honest. Therein lies a big problem. Even the documentary footage of a Church (St Georges Tron in Glasgow) from the 60's succumbed to the temptation to picture the past as gloriously better than the present. A time when pews were filled, young people came to church and Sunday Schools were large.

Yes, the 60's and early 70's clearly was the Church's hey-day. The glory years! Mannofield was no different. With numbers peaking sometime in the 70's with a membership of over 2000 and only declining with a little more speed as the new Millennium arrived on the scene.

It's human nature to look back at the past with longing. It's one thing to do so with slightly flawed memories, the way we do when we think the summers were warmer and the winters had more snow and the streets were cleaner and life much easier. It's another thing all together when the past we look at was indeed (by some perspectives) more glorious and the glory years can be pointed to by the facts and figures argument.

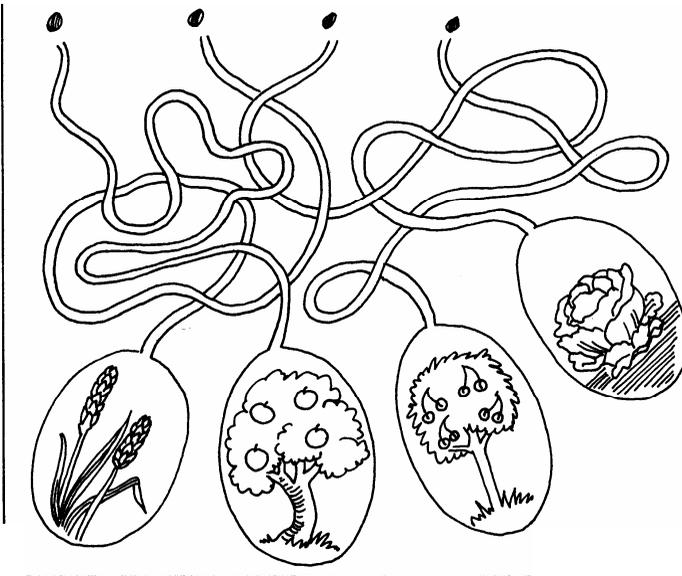
I know some of you are Dons fans and if there is one thing you are very good at telling me about - me being a Motherwell fan and all – is that as a football club Aberdeen Football Club has enjoyed the 'Glory Days'. Not sure Motherwell have had any! Alex Ferguson became manager in 1978, which was the start of the best eight years of the club's history.

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**If it takes 5 men
To dig 5 holes in five
Hours, how many men
Does it take to dig
100 holes in 100 hours?**





What will the seeds grow into?

*For the flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, for hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see;
Father in heaven, we thank thee.
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Harvest Fruit & Vegetables Search

SEARCH THE PUZZLE TO FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS IN THE WORD LIST. WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE ARE HIDDEN ACROSS AND DOWN.



APPLE
BEANS
BEETS
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROTS
CAULIFLOWER

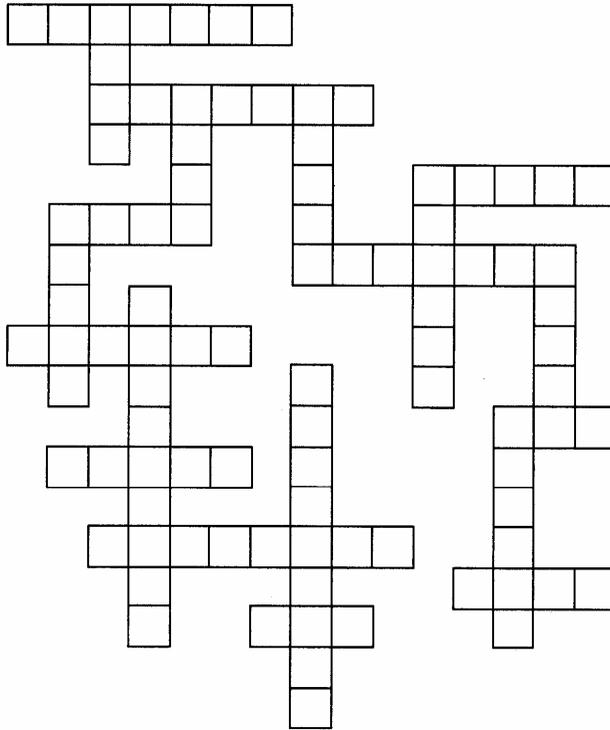
CELERY
CORN
EGGPLANT
FIGS
GRAPES
ONIONS
PARSNIPS

PEARS
PEPPERS
POTATO
PUMPKIN
SQUASH
TURNIP
YAMS

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



CAN YOU FIT THE WORDS BELOW 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 Solutions:-

Front page - ? = 24, Elephant = 4, Pig = 2, Camel = 6

The club's second League Title came in the 1979-80 season, followed by three consecutive Scottish Cup wins in the subsequent seasons, two league wins between the 1983-85 seasons and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1983, making them the third Scottish team to win a European trophy. They followed this by winning the European Super Cup in December of the same year, and today they still remain the only Scottish team to have won two European trophies.

The problem in having had 'glory years' is that every year and era since is compared to those days; human nature again to compare the 'now' unfavourably with the past. The players and coaches and even fans exist now in a shadow of the past that sometimes makes the job of winning harder in the present.

Bruce Springsteen has a song – it's called 'Glory Days'. The lyrics tell the tale of three people who look back on times gone by with longing. Why? Because their current situation is disappointing and doesn't measure up to the good old days.

One guy had real baseball talent, could throw a fastball past the hitter no problems when he was at school. Now he just talks about it all the time. A girl who in high school 'turned all the boys heads' looks back at the glory days and wonders when it all turned bad. The third can't really recall anything glorious about his life. The last verse goes like this:

*"Yeah, just sitting back trying to recapture
a little of the glory of, well time slips away
and leaves you with nothing mister but
boring stories of glory days"*

And the Chorus :-

*Glory days well they'll pass you by
Glory days in the wink of a young girl's eye
Glory days, glory days.*

All of us can easily fall victim to what we might call Glory Days Syndrome (GDS); when things in the present don't seem as good as the past.

What Glory Day Syndrome is not!

Hopefully, we all have fond memories associated with different times of our lives, times that stood out as special. We think of those times with great fondness and we enjoy reflecting on them. This is normal and healthy, even comforting. It is not Glory Day Syndrome unless we feel that life is not now, or will it ever be that good again.

As long as we can continue to look forward to tomorrow with a positive sense of eager anticipation then we are fine. In this case, our good old days are just the really memorable parts of our living experience. But our focus is still in the here and now, and we expect each coming day to be a positive and worthwhile experience.

OK, so what is it?

It's all about where we choose to put our focus.

Continued on page 12

If we are so emotionally invested in the past that it prevents us from seeing and appreciating the wonderment of our present life and the opportunities of the present day then we've got GDS. What our Christian faith needs is a right and appropriate focus. What the Church needs is right and proper focus.

Both individually and as a Church of faith, our focus must be in the here and now, it must be God-centred, God-activated and God-sustained. Focus in the Christian life must come from the belief that God seeks to make good things happen for us and through us in the present circumstances. Faith is about believing that for God such good things are eternally possible.

Our focus can so easily become skewed. That's what Jesus' parable of the banquet reveals. For the participants what was important was the level of honour lavished upon them as revealed by their position at the table. They craved being waited on hand and foot – nourished by the finest food - and uplifted by the high company with whom they shared the celebration. Jesus turned such a focus on its head!

Episcopal minister and theologian the late Rev Dr John Claypoole tells a story of the class system of the old stagecoach travelling across America's mid west.

There were three types of tickets sold. The first class, which of course was the most expensive, entitled the ticket owner to remain in the stagecoach no matter what conditions might be faced; exempt from having to put forth any kind of effort. A second-class ticket meant that if difficulty arose, you had to get out and walk alongside the stagecoach until the difficulty could be resolved. The cheapest ticket, the third-class one, called on the holder to take responsibility for the difficulty. This meant they not only had to get out of the coach when there was a problem but they also had to get down in the mud and do whatever had to be done so that the vehicle could either get through the mud or get up the hill. Needless to say, this was the least prestigious of all the categories.

Rev Claypoole recognized that this was reflective of our human nature, namely equating the category of first class and value with privilege and being exempt from having to do the most menial kinds of work.

Yes, he says, Jesus came to realign the human focus to turn such a value system on its head. In God's eyes value is not the privilege of expecting things done for you as if justified to be rewarded; but value in life comes in assuming the role of servant, willing worker, optimist – in other words one who is focused on here and now and on doing the work of a servant of God's Kingdom no matter the circumstances of the time. And I want to share with you something this morning. That is why I would hope I could answer the question I posed myself with a resounding YES. YES.

It's hypothetical but I would hope if I was not a minister I would attend church; and I would want to be involved in the outworking of Church activities and practice. While I am proud of the Church of Scotland tradition over 450 years and while I look back fondly on the business of my Church life as a child and all I have been involved in since as an adult (including 15 years of ministry), I recognize that none of it really matters.

Continued on page 13

That past would not be enough to keep me interested in attending church now - or being part of its working heart. Instead what keeps me encouraged and willing to work now as a minister and in a different life what would see me support the Church by attendance and volunteering and commitment were I not a minister, is the focus that in the here and now as an individual and as part of the Church I and we can in service make a difference to the lives of each other, to society and the world as God would wish.

None of us should attend church because of a fond memory of glory days in the past and out of the sense of loyalty to a past day. None of us should attend church because we feel it to be a place where honour is bestowed. Jesus sought in his life to turn the focus away from such things and instead to a very simple vision of service where each man and woman does what they are able, now.

I still believe the Church can facilitate this focus. Despite the harbingers of doom and gloom, after a period of reforming, our Church of Scotland will tell a new story to the nation and the world. The story of the 'glory days' will be assigned to the shelves of the library that house the history books and we in churches like Mannofield will find that we are able to write a new story – a story of current and future glories – that will sit in books alongside the history ones, so completing the picture.

And so I send out a challenge to you this morning. Well two actually – one maybe easier than the other.

First - I challenge you to be part of the writing of this new story in our Church. It really shouldn't be too hard; an adjustment of focus maybe that turns attention to the here and now and the future; a challenge that asks for optimism and courage, and involvement as we pursue a relevant focus for our Church today.

The second is I admit a harder one. How do we encourage others to be part of the new story-writing? The lost generation.

How do we encourage others to see that there is value to being part of a Church that is focused on the now?

So many of your children and grand-children probably don't have a particularly bad thing to say against the Church but nonetheless life has moved on and so too have they.

Maybe the challenge for all of us is to find a way to make the Church attractive again to those who have drifted away; to create palpable glory and joyfulness in our life and worship now that makes people want to stay and become involved. We are challenged to encourage somehow those we know – who have feeling for the Church but who have lost touch with it – to find a place for it in the business of their lives; to be part of the writing of the Church's new story.

If we don't encourage the generations who are absent then maybe that prediction about the church not being here in 2033 might indeed be true.

We can't let that happen. The Church is too important to God – too important to the future Scotland and the future people who make their home in our communities. God will be with us in these challenges. Of that we can be sure. Amen

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Guild October



- 5 Oct Catch of the Day -
Demonstration by
Downies of Whitehills
- 7 Oct Coffee Morning
- 19 Oct The Denburn - Source to Sea
William Stephen
- 27 Oct Autumn Meeting –
Cross Reach Project,

Mannofield Church Bowling Club



The Club is holding a
Coffee Morning on
Saturday 23 October in
the Large Hall from
10am to 12noon. There will be a
cake and candy stall, bottle stall
etc. Donations for any of the stalls
can be handed in to the kitchen
between 6.30 and 7.30 on the
Friday evening or on the Saturday.

Guide Dogs Puppy Walking Group



Annual Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale

Saturday 2 October

Large Hall 10am -12noon

Come and meet *Faith* and other
Guide Dog puppies and choose
from a selection of good quality
cards

Tickets £1.50 adults

Retiring Collection October Communion



The Retiring Collection
at the October Communion will be to
help finance the work of the Church
of Scotland in Africa.

Forms will be available to enable
donations to be made by Gift Aid

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



21 October
Come and join us

Lunch is served at 1pm
in the **large hall**
followed by a cup of tea

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact
Mhairi Clark tel. 317982

2010 Golf Outing to Kemnay



Congratulations to Peter
Stewart the 2010
champion. The team prize
was won by Alistair Morrison, Peter Stewart
and David Clark.

Roddy McColl the 2009 champion won the
Longest Drive. No-one was Nearest the Pin!!
(It was a difficult green to hit — Editor!)

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Wedding

28 Aug Anita Michie & Andrew Mewse

Deaths

24 Aug Mrs Jean Henderson

11 Sept Mrs Agnes Leiper

Disjunctions

Mr John and Mrs Norma Fraser

Mr Bob Thomson

Programme of External Classes 2010-2011



Mondays

Friskis & Svettis Keep Fit

14.00 – 15.00 in the Large Hall.

This is a Swedish exercise class for Seniors. Contact Susanne Johnston on (01224) 484643

susanne.j@tesco.net

Yoga

Beginners 18.30 – 19.30,

Intermediates 19.30 – 21.00

both in the Centenary Hall.

Contact Jenny Anderson on 07951 765590.

jennyflowerw@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesdays

Quilting Group

13.30 – 16.30 in the Centenary Hall.

This is a group which meets and sews together. Anyone interested in joining or taking up quilting please contact Mary Milne on 07999340475.

mary@patchwork-creations.com

Scottish Slimmers

17.30 – 19.00 in the Centenary Hall.

Class manager is Sylvia Strachan. For class details call 0800 362636.

pat.lovie@scottishslimmers.com

Saturdays

Jazzercise Exercise Class

9.30 – 10.30 in the Large Hall.

The class blends dance and muscle toning set to music and includes a warm-up, 30-minute aerobic workout, weights segment and a stretch finale.

Contact Judy on (01224) 647695 or Kay on (01224) 772589.

Aberdeen@jazzercisemail.co.uk

**New members are welcome at all
of these classes.**

Mannofield Book Club

Book for November 3rd

The Other Hand

by

Chris Cleave



The Other Hand, an ambitious and fearless story, goes from the jungles of Africa via a shocking encounter on a Nigerian beach to the media offices of London and domesticity in leafy suburbia.

Part-thriller, part-multicultural saga, the book enmeshes its characters in the issues of immigration, globalisation, political violence and personal accountability.

As suggested by Chris Cleave's editor, this book is an amazing novel – horrifying but hilarious, tragic but uplifting, hugely entertaining and highly intelligent.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
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Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@talktalk.net	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484



MESSY CHURCH

A family fun afternoon of crafts, worship,
and a meal

DATE: Saturday, October 2nd

WHERE: Mannofield Church

TIME: 2:30-6:00pm

WHO: All are WELCOME!



Interested?

**Would you be willing
to be a helper?**

**For more
information
contact
Alisa Ferlicca**