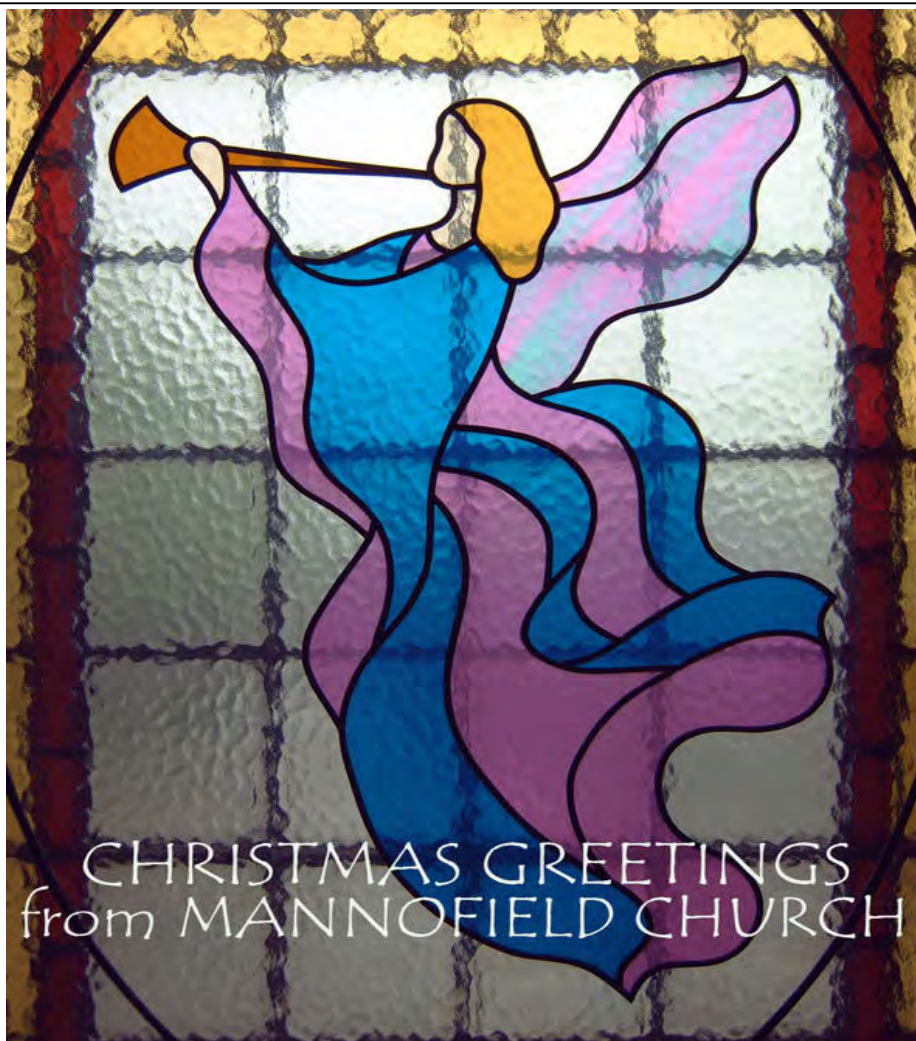




INSPIRE



MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sun 4	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Carol Service
Wed 14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18	10am	Family Christmas Worship with Nativity Play Craigielea
	3.15pm	
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 22	7pm	Hazlehead Academy Christmas Carol Service
Sat 24	7pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	10.45pm	Mulled wine, Mince pies and Carols
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 25	10am	Christmas Morning Worship

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is Thursday 19 JANUARY

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

JANUARY

Sun 1	10am	Morning Worship
Sun 8	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 11	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 15	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 18	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 22	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 25	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 29	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Service

Flower Calendar

DECEMBER

- 4 Mrs M Hunter
- 11 Mrs A Reekie
- 18 Mrs A McCaskill
- 25 Flower Fund



JANUARY

- 1 Flower Fund
- 8 Mrs L Anderson
- 15 Mrs M Malloch
- 22 Miss A Thomson
- 29 Mrs S Black

Christmas Carol Singing

Mannofield Church Hall
6 December at 2.00pm
 Afternoon Tea and sing-a-long
 FREE tickets from office or Tel 315144

Dear Friends

December fast approaches and by the time you read this the season of Advent will be upon us. The season of Advent could be described as the season where God's people reveal themselves at their most faithful.

I know it's hard to do this given that we live 2000 years on from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, but the season in a sense asks us to forget all about that and live as if we yet dream of God's intervention into our lives and the world. We are asked to mirror the faith of the prophets who believed God would reveal Himself. We are asked to have the conviction of those who believed that the Jesus, who walked in sandals across the dry parched earth of his day, could be the one who changes the World forever.

It's a frenetic time of year but we would do well to slow down and pay attention to the themes and promises contained in the stories of the season. Finally after 4 weeks of reflecting and waiting the World will wake to the sounds of joy and triumph as Advent gives way to the glory of Christmas and the culmination of our faith in Christ Jesus born as Saviour of the World.

As 2011 ends I would like to thank you for your support of the Development Fundraising. It was January of this year that we began the project to raise funds and I think it has gone very well. Having barely started to look to outside funding sources we have through effort and generosity managed to make available over £300,000 towards the costs at this stage.

This is no small effort in these times of recession and reveals the loyalty of many of our members to our church.

The money raised is one thing but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for something else that in many ways is much more important. I would like to thank you for the 'spirit' you have shown! I have observed and shared in a wonderful sense of togetherness as we have worked away at fundraising. That 'spirit' is what makes this a great church to be minister of and fills me with hope and encouragement for the years ahead.

As we go into 2012 I can only implore you for 'more of the same' please! The work of looking for outside funding will begin in earnest but the Development and Fundraising Committee really do need the efforts of 2011 to be repeated in 2012 as we seek to fulfill a vision for our church and its relationship with its community.

The promise of Christmas awaits those who travel through Advent with anticipation and faith.

Christmas reveals to us a God who is faithful and who can do great things; a God who is courageous and dependable. Let us continue to believe in Him and to believe He will help us in our personal lives, and in what we seek for Mannofield Church in order to best serve Him into the future.

I wish you and your loved ones every blessing for Christmas and beyond into 2012.

Best Wishes *Keith*

Joy and Peace at Christmas



Keith, Katrina, Aaron, Finlay and Angus wish all our friends in Mannofield a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2012

Gordon Cooper

Hello!

Since beginning my time at Mannofield at the start of November, the two questions I've been asked the most are:

What is my surname? and What am I doing here?

The first question is a lot simpler to answer than the second!

I am Gordon Cooper and I have been placed at Mannofield Church for the first of the two six month training placements I will be undertaking as part of the formation process for the Readership within the Church of Scotland. A Reader is someone who is qualified in preaching and in leading worship, but is not ordained and does not perform the sacraments.

I have been delighted to see a few familiar faces at Mannofield Church. As a native Aberdonian, I am a member of Craigiebuckler Church and therefore you will normally see me either walking or cycling to Mannofield (it's good to leave the car at home!) I will be with you until the end of April, and taking part in services, doing some pastoral work, and perhaps getting involved in some youth work and schools' ministry. However, the Readership is a part-time ministry, and I also have evening classes to attend in theology and essays to write.

When I am not at church, my "day job" is as a musician – I graduated this year from the University of Aberdeen with a BMus (Hons) and am pursuing an interesting career now combining piano teaching, accompanying, playing in the Sideline Jazz Quartet and working as an organist in Stonehaven Dunnottar Church of Scotland (part-time) too. So I have plenty to keep me busy!


I'll be at Mannofield for normally three services per month (including morning, evening and Wednesdays). I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can and thank you already for welcoming me to your church family for the next six months. It will be past very quickly so I will try to make the most of my time with you.

Please say hello to me after services, as I have a lot of people to try to get to know in a very short time!

Gordon Cooper



**THE PICKLED COW** Drama Group
Proudly Present




Sinner Ella

A Gospel Pantomime

Wednesday	7th December	@ 7.30pm
Thursday	8th December	@ 7.30pm
Friday	9th December	@ 7.30pm
Saturday	10th December	@ 2.30pm



Tickets available from the office
or any PCDG member.
Also available after the 10am
Service on 4th December.



Live, on stage at Mannofield Parish Church, Great Western Road, Aberdeen

ARE YOU A CARER?



If you provide unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without your help due to illness, frailty, disability, mental ill health or a substance misuse problem then you are a carer.

VSA Carers Service offers a menu of services to carers of all ages.

Information on topics e.g. breaks from caring, practical help, housing options and advice on benefits including form filling and access to grants.

Complementary therapies such as reflexology and massage along with Counselling and Life Coaching are also provided.

Training programmes throughout the year on lifestyle management and emotional issues can also be accessed free for carers.

One carer who has recently used the service said, *"As a carer you don't realise the help you need. You think you just have to get on with it. It's not a failure seeking help. Getting help and support makes a difference to your own health. The happier you feel the more able you are to support the person you care for. I am a member of a generic carers support group. I have also attended excellent training courses for carers. I would encourage other carers to get in touch – get the first phone call done. It will open so many doors"*

If you would like more information about any of our services contact us;

T 01224 212021

M 07525 670538

38 Castle Street, Aberdeen.

E carers.info@vsa.org.uk

W www.vsa.org.uk/carers

Registered Scottish Charity – SC 012950

Mobile Phone/ I-Phone Fun



It's true what they say isn't it! Technology and Communication options have really moved on in recent years. Thankfully it's pleasing to note that Mannofield Church moves with the times too.

We've had a web page for a number of years and we now have a FACEBOOK with over 70 friends who regularly receive updates from the Church by way of Prayers for the Week, occasional sermons and indeed electronic access to the InSpire Magazine.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/mannofield/>.

Many of us have I-Phones, Android or Blackberry phones and there's a facility on these phones to download an App that 'scans' patterns like the one below. They are called Data Matrix or QR codes.

See what happens when you scan the code below!

For those who want to know – on your browser it will take you to a contact page for our church which with a simple click will take you to the church web page.

Of course the point of one of these codes is to use it almost like an electronic signature as we communicate with others. That way they scan the pattern and within seconds have all the information they need about our church and have access to its content. Clever isn't it? - takes communication of the Gospel into a whole new sphere.



Editor

If anyone has a problem in following the instructions contact Aaron Blackwood age 13!!



We are hard at work on our Nativity play "Why Choose the Angel?" and we hope everyone will come along to see it at the morning service on Sunday 18 December.

Other Christmas highlights include our Christmas party on Saturday 17 December at 2.30pm with lots of games, fine food and maybe a visit from a very special visitor.

The children are also invited to bring on Sunday 4 December Christmas gifts for onward distribution by Social Work for less fortunate children, Finally Young Church wishes the congregation a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!

PS Shhhhhh... Don't tell anyone but there are still one or two "Jubilate" CDs left— the perfect Christmas present! Catch Lesley on a Sunday morning or give her a ring on 734097

In Session With Scribe



The forthcoming redevelopment of our church buildings again figured prominently on the agenda at the October Kirk Session meeting.

There was encouraging news on the financial aspect of the project with the announcement that there is currently approximately £200,000 in the bank and with other committed sums, available funds have now reached the £300,000 mark.

Still on the financial theme, comparative figures showed general income from the congregation had increased and expenditure decreased this year compared to the previous one, but it was stressed that income had been boosted this year by one-off payments such as legacies.

Session agreed to take part in the Bethany Winter Shelters scheme which involves homeless persons receiving food and accommodation between November and February with churches providing seven-strong catering teams between 8 and 11.30pm.

Mannofield has been assigned three dates – 8 December, 22 January and 16 February. Helpers for the December date have already come forward but volunteers for the two other dates are asked to contact Keith as soon as possible.

Volunteers were also sought to cover the church secretary's absence on holiday from mid-November to mid-December.

Session granted a request from Mrs Sheila Murray to be placed on the Retired Elders' List and tribute was paid to the contribution she has made to the Church's work over many years.

It was also agreed that elders who had completed 30 years service in the eldership and had not received a long service certificate previously should be identified and presented with a certificate as soon as possible.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 December at 7.30pm.

Merry Christmas!

Mr Robinson wanted a house where the windows in all of the rooms faced south.
How did he manage



As you read this well-loved Christmas story concerning the shepherds, you will see that some words have been replaced

by a reference in brackets. Try to find the missing words. One word has been given to start you off.



Shepherds were watching over their sheep as they (13D) in the fields near Bethlehem. This was to be an exciting night and (7A) which the world would never (14A).

They were alarmed when (19D) of the sky an (1A) of the Lord appeared. But to (21A) their (14D) the angel told them: 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (6D) in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the (3D).'

This was (2D) news than men in their (17D) of life had ever heard before. (1D) hearing the good news, the shepherds made their way to Bethlehem. They left (8A) sheep in charge of others who, at any

(10A) did not wish to go in search of Jesus.

As they (12D) an inn which was (22A) in the town it appeared to be full. And when they were sent to a nearby stable, inside they saw the baby Jesus, the one whom God had sought to (23A) with power from on high. (11A) was his mother Mary and Joseph.

When they had seen Jesus, they returned home praising (5D). And as their journey (9A), they told (20A) people (18A) the amazing event they had witnessed

In the (15A) following, the shepherds talked often of the (4A) Jesus was born - born to be Saviour of the world, in which people are (4D) to trust and (16D) him.

STORY CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across

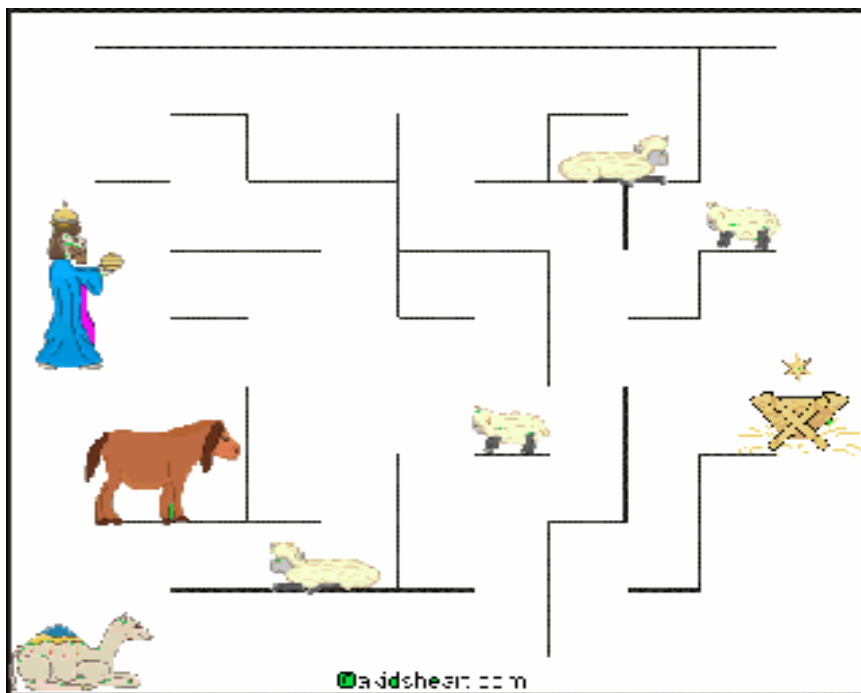
- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1 ANGEL | 4 NIGHT | 7 ONE | 8 THEIR | 9 ENDED |
| 10 RATE | 11 NEARBY | 14 FORGET | 15 DAYS | 18 ABOUT |
| 20 OTHER | 21 END | 22 SITED | 23 ENDUE | |

Down

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1 AFTER | 2 GREATER | 3 LORD | 4 NEEDED | 5 GOD |
| 6 TODAY | 12 REACHED | 13 RESTED | 14 FEARS | 16 SERVE |
| 17 MODE | 19 OUT | | | |

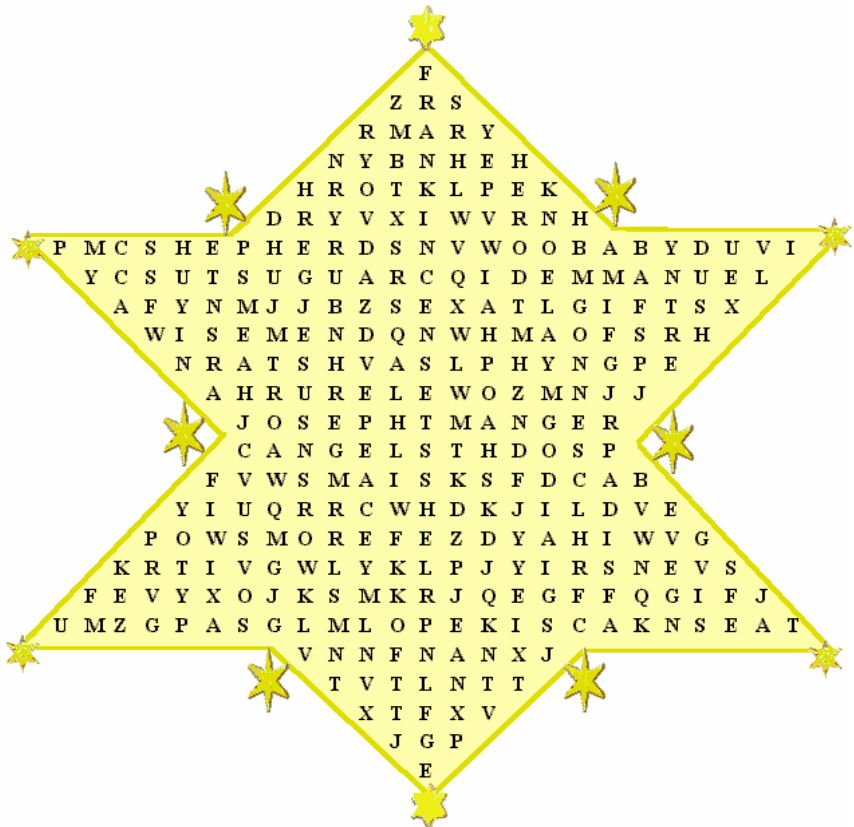


Can you help the Wise Man find his way through the maze to the manger?



Find the words in the star below:

His Birth



Angels
Augustus
Baby
Bethlehem
Elisabeth
Emmanuel
Frankincense
Gifts

Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Myrrh

Nativity
Noel
Peace
Promise
Savior
Shepherds
Star
Swaddling

Taxes
Virgin
Wisemen

©akidsheart.com

November's solutions: It will take 5 men to dig 100 holes in 100 hours.

40th Aberdeen Brownies



Back in June, Brownies took part in a Division Camp at Crathes. This was the first time the girls had slept in tents as Brownies and they had a great time. It is now the time of year to be thinking about next year's camp when we hope to go back to Templars Park. Last June, the Brownies participated in 'Celebrate Aberdeen Parade' down Union Street. Girl Guiding was one of the many organisations in Aberdeen that took part and the morning was a great success



Due to the success last year, we are holding our second Body Shop night in the run up to Christmas. The girls will learn how to give hand massages and it is a great opportunity for family and friends to get some nice Christmas presents.



We have been doing lots of exciting things this term such as a 'recycled materials fashion show' where the girls took lots of junk to Brownies and designed their own outfits.

We have also had a cake night where we decorated cupcakes with icing and various kinds of sweeties. This term we have also had a dancing night, fireworks night as well as a badge night.



In aid of 'Mannofield Church Development Fund', the Friday Brownies will be bag packing at ASDA Bridge of Dee next Spring where we hope to raise lots of money!

Active Kids - thanks for your fantastic support!

I would like to say a big "thank you" not only to the family and friends of Brownies but to Mannofield Church congregation who helped us to raise a fantastic 2677 vouchers, beating last year's total! Our order of new sports equipment has now arrived together with our 30 tree saplings from the Woodland Trust.

Jenny Imrie

The way it was- the way we were

I recently recorded in InSpire that my favourite books included “Just William” which I read with laughter and delight. Apparently I am in good company. In an article appearing about the same time author Shirley Hughes describes Richard Crompton’s books as “a triumphant survival” from her own childhood. She says, “He is the archetypal anti-hero, marauding his way with his gang of friends (the Outlaws) through the stultifying respectability of middle class British village life.”



She went on to say, “This was the enviable era when children could roam the countryside all day without their parents being in the least bit anxious as to their whereabouts.” And she asks, “Is this the lost freedom part of the huge appeal of fantasy fiction to the modern child?”

Well I relate to that description of my own childhood in the 1930s. Off we went on our bicycles with “remember to be back for tea.” Living in Corstorphine, Edinburgh, near the Zoo, my friends and I had fields around the house, Corstorphine Hill with its woods a few hundred yards up the hill which had open spaces we could sledge on in the winter, affording us (and our Scouts) the excitement of “wide games” and in later years comfortable walks with our girl friends! The freedom of the Pentland Hills beckoned too!

Are our memories worth sharing? And what will today’s young folk wish to recall? Goodness, this might be a series!

George Goldie

Editor

Thanks George the possibility of a series is a great idea. I hope that your memories article prompts others – young and old to email me (or put pen to paper) with their reminiscences.

As you remark in your PS to me: “Don’t we need to be recalling in these stressed days happy times and also perhaps present delights?”



A little Biblical Humour

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet

Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down!!

Tributes....Peter Shearer, Kynoch Caldwell and Sandy Brown

At the October meeting of Kirk Session tribute was paid to three Elders of the congregation who had died in recent months.

Peter Shearer and Kynoch Caldwell, both retired Elders, gave considerable time and work to the church for many years. As Elders both were known for their excellent pastoral care and enthusiasm for the role of Elder and membership of the Kirk Session.

Alexander (known as Sandy) Brown remained a serving Elder up until his death in October. Sandy spent his early working life in Malaysia, before and after marrying Aileen in Mannofield Church in 1961. Returning home he undertook a course in management at RGU, and after a stint with British Steel living and working in central Scotland, he returned to Aberdeen to take up a position with Brit Oil (latterly BP) from where he retired. Sandy was a terrific worker within the community as a member of the community council and the local health board among other areas.

He was President of the church Men's Club for a number of years and an Elder of long-standing. Like Peter and Kynoch, Sandy was a most diligent District Elder who was a friend to many.

Mannofield Church has been well served by these three men over many years. They leave a legacy of faithfulness and care that will burn on for a very long time. The thoughts and prayers of the whole congregation are with their families.

Why go to Church?

If you're **spiritually alive**, you're going to love this! If you're **spiritually dead**, you won't want to read it! If you're **spiritually curious**, there is still hope.



Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

All right, now that you're done reading, please pass it on!

NOTES & NEWS

Ceilidh Dance

Sat. 25th Feb 2012 @7.30pm

Music by Jim Ruxton's Band
In aid of Development Fund

**Tickets £15 incl. Stovies
and soft drinks**

Available in January
from Social Committee,
the Church Office and
Large Hall on Sunday mornings.

Blythswood Care Shoe box appeal

54 shoe boxes were collected by
Mannofield Church and have been sent
to Blythswood Care for delivery to
Eastern Europe and Asia. Well done!!



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
2012. If you cannot do it, please let me
know.

Leaders of groups holding a function at
which they use extra tea towels and/or
tablecloths, are requested to take away the
extra ones, launder them and return to the
kitchen as soon as possible.

Thank you

Norma Shearer



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

30 October Harry Gordon Aberdein

Disjunctions

Mrs Catherine Stephen

Remembrance Sunday Retiring Collection

The retiring collection on
Remembrance Sunday for
Poppyscotland raised £710.



Mannofield Guild DECEMBER

Tues 6 Christmas Party



JANUARY

Tues 10 Wedding Belles & Bacon
Butties – Ewen Gilchrist

Thurs 12 Coffee Morning in Large Hall

Tues 24 Alpha
Anne & Alan Thompson

Thank you for the music



I am certain I speak for everyone who
was at Mamma Mia on 17 November. It
was a wonderful evening with a lovely
atmosphere. Thank you Pat and Lynn
Chrissie Smith

Flower Calendar 2012

The Flower Committee would
like to thank all those who have
donated flowers and donated to
the Flower Fund during 2011.

The Flower Calendar will be in the
Vestibule from the end of November for
those wishing to place their names for
2012.

Sheila Taylor



CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Associate Minister	Rev Alisa McDonald	alisafmcdonald@gmail.com M 07838 835778	277428
Youth Ministries Worker	Tim Still	tj.still@btinternet.com M 07902811528	
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@o2.co.uk	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484

THE FUND RAISERS

Four ladies from their synagogue's fund raising committee are driving home one Sunday afternoon when they are involved in a terrible car crash. Unfortunately, none of them survive. When they arrive at the Pearly Gates, they are kept waiting to get into Heaven because the angel at the gates can't find them listed in the book of heavenly new arrivals. "I'm sorry," he says to them, "but I can't find you in the book."

So he has no choice but to send them down to Hell. A week later, God visits the Pearly Gates and says to the angel, "Where are those nice Jewish ladies who were supposed to be here by now?" "You mean the fund raisers? I didn't see them listed, so I sent them to Hell," replies the Angel

"You did what?" God says, "I wanted them here. If you don't want to join them, you'd better call Satan and get them transferred back here right away." So the angel phones Satan and says, "Satan, you know those Jewish ladies I sent you last week? Well we really need them up here. Could you please send them back?"

"Sorry, I can't oblige," Satan replies, "they've been down here only a week and already they've raised £100,000 for an air conditioning system."

Mannofield Church

Lunch Club

15 DECEMBER

19 JANUARY 2012

Thereafter 3rd Thursday
each month until May 2012

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark tel. 317982



Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!

(a night like Thursday night)

Lynn and Pat thank everyone who
supported this sociable, happy evening.

Please pass on our thanks to your
friends, family and neighbours.

A fantastic total of

£1840



LIFE IS WORTH EXPLORING

ALPHA.ORG
THE ALPHA COURSE 

Starting Monday 23rd January 2012

Mannofield Church Large Hall from 7pm-9pm for 10 weeks

WHAT IS ALPHA?

The Alpha course is an opportunity for everyone to explore the Christian faith.

It is relaxed, low key, friendly, fun and free.

There is a meal together at the beginning of the evening which gives everyone an opportunity to get to know each other. Then after supper we watch one of a series of talks where we listen, learn, discuss and discover. A place where you can ask anything.....

Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

