



INSPIRE



SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE ISSUE



Easter at Mannofield

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

Sun 1	10am	Morning Worship for Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 4	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 5	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
Fri 6	7.30pm	West End Churches: Good Friday Service (Mannofield)
Sun 8	8.30am	Easter Sunrise Service with Communion followed by breakfast
	10am	Easter Morning Family Service
	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 Worship

Flower Calendar

APRIL

- 1 Mrs R Wallace
- 8 Mrs E Argo
- 15 Miss C Robertson
- 22 Mrs A Milne



The Daisy
April's flower

Keith's Study Leave

The Church of Scotland, over a long number of years, has encouraged its ministers to take a period of study leave. A maximum of 14 weeks can be taken and a sum of money accrued according to years of service can be applied for by ministers to use in a period of study or to allow them to attend a course or conference.

In 2006 before I came to Aberdeen I took 10 days to attend a conference in North Carolina but other than that I have not used any of my study leave allocation.

The Kirk Session, Presbytery and the committee in Edinburgh have agreed that I may take four weeks of study leave in 2012. I intend taking this leave in two blocks with the first fortnight beginning at the end of morning worship on Easter Sunday and the second fortnight beginning in late October.

The topic I intend to study is particularly relevant to Mannofield as we fundraise and realise our objective of playing a more significant role in the community.

In my study and discussion with others I will be asking the questions-

'What opinion does the business world have of the Church and its significance in society? What is the potential value to a business in forming a partnership with the Church in the same way as it is very common today for businesses to forge partnerships with other national and local charities?'

Dear Friends

It is said that *'Learning to love takes practice; it is the work of a lifetime'*.

We talk a lot. about Love The word slips off the tongue easily. It forms the central storyline or plot in millions of books, films and musicals. We all claim to experience it and share it and yet if we are honest we might recognise that the sentiment expressed in the opening line of my letter is very true. Love can sometimes be harder to do than we think.

It takes practice and to do it well is the work of a lifetime!

This applies to Christian Love as an expression of our faith as much as it does in the context of the love we have for a special person and our family. It is easy to say and very common to hear expressions of Love made in the following terms within the context of church and faith:-

God is Love: the Love of God: God loves us: share the Love of God: love others as God loves us.

As Christians such phrases and sentiments are integral to our faith and yet maybe we agree that understanding 'why' and 'how' God loves us is sometimes harder than we might think. In addition learning how to 'love others and the world with God's Love' isn't easy. It takes practice and it is (and should be) the work of a lifetime.

Thank goodness then for Easter.

As Easter unfolded then and unfolds now we are presented with a window that allows us to have as clear a view of God's Love as it is possible to have.

If we want to know about God's Love then consider what happened at Easter. Consider the sacrifice and the glory of the Cross and God's Love is fully explained. If we want to know how to love, then Easter again provides the answer. Jesus loved God and He loved God's people. He went to His death to prove just how much and in loving us so supremely the impact His love makes in our lives is revealed time and time again when we consider what He was prepared to do for us.

As we celebrate Easter this year consider the Love of God as revealed in the Cross and in the light of Jesus' love for us, let us learn how to love like that and practise such a love over a lifetime of living as God's people.

Happy Easter *Keith*

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Associate Minister	Rev Alisa McDonald	alisa.ferlicca@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

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



THE VISION

At the outset, the Mannofield Kirk Session enthusiastically endorsed a Vision. Building on from the success of this congregation over many years it was recognised that to be as successful a church in the years to come, a shift of emphasis in our outlook was necessary. No longer is it the case that churches can presume loyalty from individuals and families. There is no longer an expectation that people would and should join or attend a church.



In today's 'society of choice' many make the choice not to come to church and not to see the church and what it offers as a useful contributor to community and individual life.

The Churches that are successful today, and that importantly will be successful in the future, are those whose reputation is built on a number of things: inspirational worship, a warm and friendly welcome, life-enhancing activities and provision of events for all generations, leading individuals and families to make the choice that they want to be part of this good thing.

The Vision for our congregation is in part building related, but the biggest part of it is shaped by how we worship and function as a family of God's people. This second part is by far the most important. The Kirk Session recognises that not only are our buildings looking a little shabby by current standards and in need of extensive repairs, but in their current arrangement they are not ideal for allowing us to fulfil the wider vision.

To meet the needs of our community and provide an inspiring and multi-purpose environment fit for the 21st century and to leave a lasting legacy for future generations we aim to provide:

- ◆ Improved and more flexible hall accommodation providing the opportunity for additional smaller recreational groups.
- ◆ Re-positioning of the kitchen to better serve all areas of the accommodation.
- ◆ An annexe to house a cafe that would become a preferred meeting place for members of the public particularly the elderly, youth and young families.
- ◆ An area for Fair Trade sales. (The outlet recently closed in Aberdeen.)
- ◆ A centre for the elderly which is easily accessed and which provides a meeting place for fellowship and supportive contact with others.
- ◆ A venue for use by partner providers who provide care and provision to clients locally. (Health Services, Social Services, Community Police)
- ◆ An exhibition area for music, art and drama.
- ◆ Improved and modern facilities to benefit the established Youth Drama Group.
- ◆ Creation of a hub for young people to use as a meeting place that allows them to feel safe and valued and provide an after school drop in centre for teenage school children.
- ◆ A facility for parents/carers with young children to benefit from the opportunity to meet together and which is open during working hours.
- ◆ Modern facilities for Mother and Toddler groups.



THE VISION CONTINUED

The re-development of the sanctuary would provide an inspiring and multi-purpose environment fit for the 21st century.

The funding is required for:

- ◆ A more transparent and welcoming frontage
- ◆ Improved sound system for the hard of hearing
- ◆ The removal of steps and the installation of wheelchair access from the sanctuary to the hall accommodation and toilets
- ◆ the removal of pews and the purchase of comfortable seating with flexible use

In relation to the removal of pews the Development Committee is looking at options for the ethical disposal of these special items. These options include allowing members of the congregation to take away a pew, using the wood within newly constructed areas of the developed building and gifting the wood to charities who give employment to craftsmen who produce bespoke furnishings.

(<http://www.growgreyfriars.com/news>)

Sometimes it is hard for us to envisage a transformed sanctuary and how it can both be modernised yet at the same time retain its special spiritual atmosphere.



If you have not visited or been part of a church where this has been achieved it is undoubtedly difficult to imagine fully but this computer generated image gives you an impression of what it would look like.

The Committee feels that in our city there are many places where this has been successfully achieved e.g. Queens Cross Church, Holburn West Church and Cults Church but perhaps the most recent is the sanctuary at Torry St Fitticks Church.

This is a church where serious dry rot was discovered in the last few years. Ultimately the work was deemed essential for the survival of the Church in Torry and in 2011 work was started. The sanctuary was stripped back and the floor lifted to deal with the rot and the congregation worshiped in the Hall for 12 months. Having dealt with the rot the woodwork was replaced and a new floor put in. The sanctuary has been carpeted and painted. Flexible seating has been ordered along with new furnishings and the congregation is in the final stages of making the sanctuary ready for its first worship service sometime in April 2012.

If you want a peek at the improvements to the sanctuary we are sure the folks at Torry would be delighted to see you. A new community café is open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 2.30 which offers an extensive menu.



DRY ROT - What is it and what do we need to do?

Dry rot is the term given to [brown rot decay](#) caused by certain [fungi](#) that deteriorate timber in buildings and other wooden constructions without an apparent source of moisture. In certain buildings, such as church buildings, dry rot has been known to travel through and along the wall surface behind plaster and render. Many churches suffer from dry rot and it is clear that if left untreated for too long the damage caused can be extensive.

There are epoxy treatments available however that kill rot by filling in the channels of the damaged wood, killing the rot and restoring structural integrity.

The bad news is, as many of you know, we have detected dry rot within certain areas of our church building. Evidence of this has been detected in the wall and floor between the kitchen and large hall and spreading into the sanctuary, most notably in the wall between the kitchen and the sanctuary in the area of the North transept. If we don't tackle this rot then extensive damage would result to our building.

The good news is that the Fabric Committee and the Development Committee are well aware of the dry rot. In the last year temporary fixes and decoration have been made in the large hall and north transept. Clearly these fixes are temporary but they have been handled in that way for a very simple reason namely, that the areas of the building where we have detected dry rot are precisely in the areas of the building that we plan extensive work. This work would fix the dry rot problem and allow us to modernise at the same time. You will also see from the article entitled "The Process" that this work is planned as part of Phase 1.

It seems rather obvious to say but it is clear that the sooner we can undertake this work the better. In removing the old kitchen this opens up the wall space and floor where we know there is dry rot.

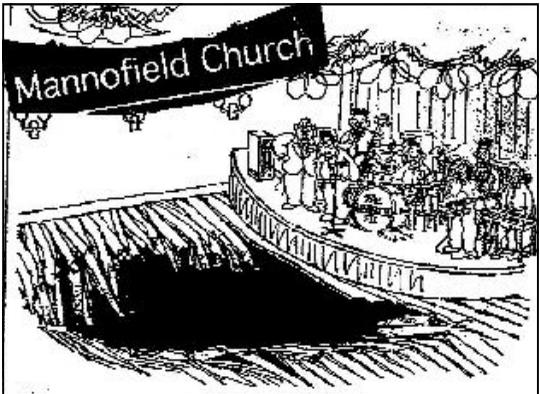
In constructing a new access door from the new welcome area (where the current kitchen is situated) into the north transept we tackle the dry rot that is spreading from that area into the sanctuary.

It goes without saying that the sooner we begin Phase 1, Stage 2 the better, in order to protect against dry rot spreading through the sanctuary.

This then is a story of bad news and good news but ultimately it is a matter we can handle as long as we can finance it.

The development project aside, the business of fixing the dry rot problem would mean substantial work of stripping back walls and floor and would mean the raising of significant funds. The Committee feels the prudent way to undertake this work is not just to fix the problem but to improve the building at the same time.

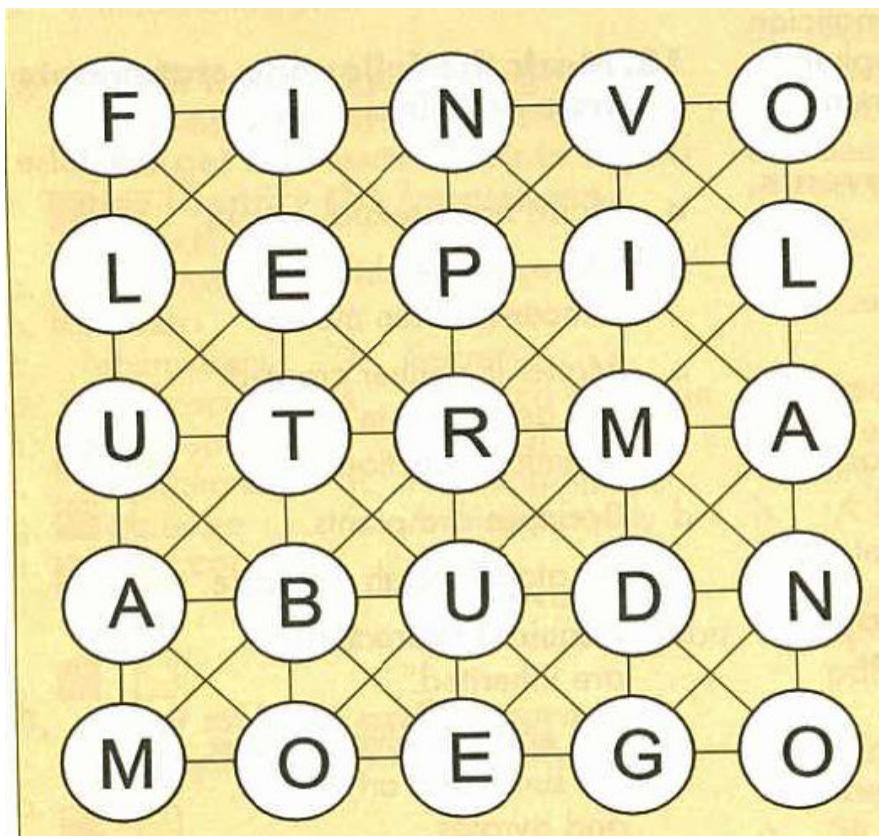
Of course it all comes down to money! The sooner we can raise the money the sooner we can begin the work of eradicating the dry rot.



I told you not to play the Hokey Cokey!!

Musical Spell

Can you find the names of 14 musical instruments in this network? You may start from any cell, and the consecutive letters of the word will be in adjacent cells connected horizontally, vertically or diagonally.



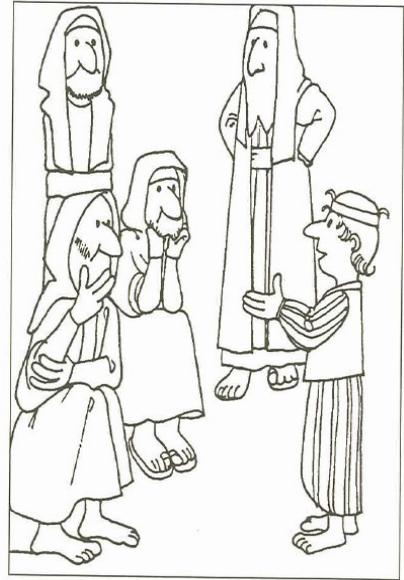
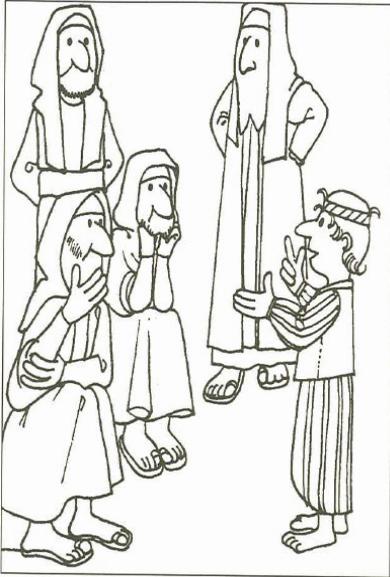
All Things Bright And Beautiful Word Search

This is a bit of a challenge but get Mum and Dad to help!

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

ALL	THINGS	BRIGHT	BEAUTIFUL
CREATURES	GREAT	SMALL	WISE
WONDERFUL	LORD	GOD	MADE
THEM	PURPLE	HEADED	MOUNTAIN
RIVER	SUNSET	MORNING	SKY
EYES	LIPS	ALMIGHTY	WELL
AND	COLD	WIND	SUN
RIPE			

Read Luke 2:41-52



Can you find 10 differences?



the mouths of babes



What did Jesus say to the money changers in the temple?

"My is a of .

have it a .

of .

thieves

made

prayer

house

you

den

March's Solution: Answers to March's question, to come in May's magazine!



The Development Committee – Who we are and what we do



Projects like the one we are working on don't move forward without a great deal of planning, commitment and the enthusiasm of people employing their skills. Although we have appointed an architect, along with a Design Team that includes chartered surveyors and a team of engineers, to create a building plan and add detail to the technical plans as we go along, it is the committee that is responsible for driving the project forward. The congregation should be indebted to the team for their hard work over the last couple of years. It is estimated that perhaps as many as 20 full committee meetings have been held and a significant number of hours invested alongside these meetings as sub groups meet or individuals busy themselves with the task required.

On the congregation's behalf the following have worked tirelessly to further this project:- Bob Anderson, Niki Anderson, James Barrack, Keith Blackwood, Jim Cruickshank, Alan Harper, Jane Harper, Iain Hunter, Roger Imrie, Roddy McColl (Convener), Pamela Macrae, Brenda McGovern, Joe Mackie, Doug Marnoch, Mairi Marr and John Mowat. We have structured our work into various sub groups and recruited additional helpers:

Project management: Doug Marnoch and Alan Harper liaise with Architects Mackie Ramsay & Taylor assisted by Keith Blackwood and Roddy McColl.

Finance: Roger Imrie and Sandy McKenzie.

Trusts: Roddy McColl, Brenda McGovern, Jacquie Jamieson, Pamela Macrae and Mairi Marr are responsible for identifying and then applying to appropriate trusts.

Publicity: Niki Anderson assisted by Alison Farquhar and Roddy McColl.

None of those mentioned above look for recognition and praise for their work. They give of their time and skill because they believe in the project and recognise that such a project does not happen without real commitment. Nevertheless it's important that the congregation acknowledges that this Vision and the Project is driven forward by a team.

The Process

Conditional Planning Permission for the development was granted by Aberdeen City Council on 28 July 2011. In December 2011 a feasibility cost was obtained from the Design Team. In early 2012 a meeting was held with the Design Team and they were asked to continue the process with the aim of producing 'robust' costs for the different areas of the project, based on the detail required to allow the project to go to tendering stage. There is still a considerable amount of detail to incorporate in the drawings to bring them up to building warrant and tender stage.

This process will probably take about 6-8 weeks, followed by a billing period (where the quantity surveyor creates the pricing documents) which could be 3-4 weeks. A pre-tender cost check will be required at this stage, followed by a 3-5 week tender period to 5 or 6 contractors. We will then receive a report on the tender returns followed by agreement on appointment.

The Kirk Session at its February meeting discussed progress and agreed a plan for the advancement of the Project and phased approach to the building work in the following terms and timescale.

The Design Team has been asked to have robust costs ready before the summer.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE CONTINUED



The Process continued

The construction work will be phased to enable the congregation and the various groups using the halls to remain in the church premises as long as possible. This would also allow us to begin work on each particular phase of the work as the money required for that phase has been raised.

Phase 1: - Area 1 - New Kitchen and Meeting Room behind existing Stage and required improvements to Centenary Hall
Area 2 - Large Hall, removal of existing Kitchen and new access to Sanctuary and Entrance Way

Phase 2: Area 3 - Sanctuary

Phase 3: Area 4 - Annexe

See Phasing Plan on Back Page

The congregation will recognise that the plan for the first phase of work will address the areas of our building where dry rot has been found (Please see the article that addresses this particular point on Page 6.)

INCOME TO DATE

Since January 2011 **£366,000** has been raised/pledged to 31 December 2012. This has been



achieved by various means - direct giving (£260k), fund raising (£19k), transfer from existing church funds (£50k) and awards from trust funds (£37k).

A wide range of innovative fundraising activities raised almost £19,000 in 2011 and £6,300 has already been raised this year to date. These activities will continue throughout 2012 and 2013.

Further applications have been made to a number of trusts and we await responses. Applications to trusts for funding will continue during 2012 and 2013.

Trust Applications since August 2011

12 Applications have been submitted

3 have been unsuccessful

4 have been successful

5 are awaiting the outcome of the trusts' decisions

Total awarded /pledged-- £37k of which £17,000 has been paid.

20 further trusts have been identified and applications are in draft awaiting detailed costs for the development; once these costs have been secured the applications will be submitted (hopefully by summer 2012). The Trust Team will continue to identify trusts where the Project meets some aspect of their 'terms and conditions'.

At times this work can be painstakingly slow. However we continue to believe that, as our Vision for the Church Building improvements are very much geared towards community outreach and inclusion, this Project does meet the criteria of many trusts. It remains our hope that external funding will play a significant part of raising the money we require to make the much needed improvements to the building.

Contact has also been made with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland ('121').

After preliminary discussions with the Trustees it has been agreed that an amount of money from '121' would be offered to the congregation by way of a mix of grant/ loan.

'121' is very keen to support this project as they feel it is exactly the right sort of Vision that we need to protect and develop the Church's position moving forward.

Details of this offer will be worked out when specific costs are submitted by the Design Team as the planning progresses.

The congregation will be kept abreast of this as and when we have more news.



What can I do? How can I give?



One day Jesus was in the temple talking to the disciples and others who were gathered round in rapt attention hoping to learn from his wisdom.

In those days, as now, Jewish people were expected to give to the temple and to the poor as part of their service to God. Jesus told his followers to observe how people were putting money into the offering box.

As they looked they noticed the different amounts which were being put in the box and the manner in which it was given. They observed how some people gave their money in a flamboyant manner, so that those around would register their generosity, whilst others appeared more reluctant and resentful at having to part with their cash.

As they watched, an old widow woman dressed in black ragged clothing hobbled into the temple. She looked completely out of place amongst the rich merchants. Indifferent to their snobbish gazes, she emptied out her money bag and put the entire contents into the offering box – just two of the smallest coins of all (which in those days were called ‘mites’).

*Jesus' disciples were not impressed but when they commented on the insignificance of her contribution Jesus told them that she had given **far** more generously than **all** the other people that morning.*

This is a familiar story the moral of which is that ‘every penny counts’. It comes down to what we are able to afford.

In 2011 members of the congregation have already raised a significant amount of money. From what you read elsewhere in this special edition of InSpire, we hope you recognise that we anticipate 2012 being similarly successful. Even although we will continue to endeavour to bring money in to the Fund through external initiatives, we need as a congregation to do our best and give what we can afford. Whether that is a few pounds or a larger amount, the significance of our gift both in terms of our own sacrifice and in terms of its value to the project is the same. The committee is indebted to you for your generosity.

If you are giving individually there are a number of ways of doing this:-

Standing Order with monthly bank payments. Forms can be obtained from Roger Imrie or Sandy McKenzie. As with all givings confidentiality is absolutely guaranteed.

Orange Envelopes are conveniently arranged throughout the church. It's as simple as putting your donation in the envelope and placing it in the offering plate any Sunday.

One-off gifts can be made at any time by just addressing a letter to the ‘Development Committee’ and dropping it off or sending it to the office with your donation.

Of course donating our money is not the only way we can give to this project.

Sometimes we don't have a lot of money yet we can use the gift of our time and talent to help raise funds. This has been demonstrated so vividly in the last 15 months by the range of innovative fund raising ideas that have not only helped to raise over £25,000 but has brought the congregation closer together in fellowship. Have a look at this website for ideas <http://www.better-fundraising-ideas.com/index.html>

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Church Lunch Club

19 April 2012

The last lunch club before the summer break will be on 17 May

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3pm

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: **Mhairi Clark tel. 317982**

Instant Neighbour

Thank you to all who have donated food to our monthly collection for the above local charity.



A special thank you to the Guild ladies for their magnificent efforts at their meetings. Their donations are an enormous boost to our Sunday collections.

In spite of all our efforts we still found during a recent visit to their depot a severe shortage of almost all foodstuff. Our contributions are really appreciated and vital, so please remember collection day at the church on the last Sunday of every month.

The charity also recycles household furniture and electrical goods. To get your unwanted items collected give Instant Neighbour a ring on Tel 489955.

Meg and Bob Littlejohn

Mannofield Guild

April

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Tues 3 | Easter Service |
| Thurs 5 | Monthly Coffee Morning
All welcome |
| Tues 17 | AGM and update on Projects |



S.O.S

STOCK OUR SHOP

We have the use of the charity shop in George Street for the week beginning Monday 17th September and need good quality second hand goods - lots of them!

Unwanted gifts, DVDs, Toys, Clothes [on hangers, if possible], CDs, Books [and book shelves]
Household goods..... etc. etc. etc.

Unfortunately we cannot accept electrical goods or large items

Have a clear out and call us to arrange for your goods to be delivered or uplifted

Tel 01224 313144

H.O.W

HELP OTHER WAYS

We will need:

- *Cars and helpers to transport goods
- * Help in the shop * Strong black bags
- * Carrier bags

All proceeds will go to improve our church premises.

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is Thursday 19 APRIL

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

26 Feb Georgina Anne Deans
Amy Grace Robertson
Isla Zara Robertson

Change of Address

Miss Lindsey Petrie
Mrs Elizabeth Laing
Mr Robert Meff

Mrs Nancy Innes

Disjunctions

Miss Sheila Murray
Mrs Winifred Calder
Mrs Carol MacGregor

Deaths

22 Feb Miss Wilma Milne

Development Events NEWS



Ceilidh

This was a great success and raised £976 for the Development fund. The excellent music was provided by the Jim Ruxton band. Right from the first dance the floor was never empty.

All the dancers from primary school age upwards thoroughly enjoyed themselves while a few older folk sat and enjoyed the music. Plenty of orange juice was available for thirsty dancers and halfway during the evening very tasty stovies, chocolate and shortbread were served.

The abiding memory of the evening was seeing the 17 youngsters having a great time. They seemed to be continually on the floor and knew all the dances. The hall has never been so crowded with people having a most enjoyable evening.



Jim Cardno wins whisky

YOUNG CHURCH SPONSORED BIKE/ SCOOTER/WALK!!



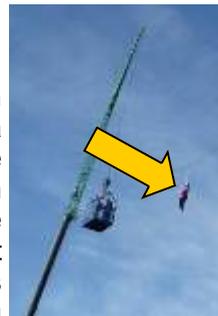
Young Church are holding a sponsored event on Sunday 29 April in aid of the Development Fund.

YC will be riding, scooting or walking from Auchinyell Bridge to the Duthie Park and back. Please pray for good weather for us!

If you wish to support YC in this venture please fill in the sponsor sheets in the vestibule and Large Hall after Church services. Thank you
Lesley Taylor

Zipwire Challenge

Ellen Smith soared down a zipwire in Duthie Park on 11 March in aid of the Development Fund and Citizens Advice Bureau



raising over £600 to date for the Fund — but more to collect!

"It was a brilliant day --- thank you to all who sponsored me!"

Ellen

Crossing Over

*A concert combination of
spirituals, mystical and
folk songs with a sense of
travel and journeying*

7:30 Saturday 21st April 2012
in Mannofield Church

Tickets £5
From Church Office

Northern VOICES

In aid of Mannofield Church Community Development Fund

GIFT AID : Thank you

Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convener, wishes to thank all who have forwarded Gift Aid payments in the current tax year. He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, either sent directly to him at 27 Norfolk Road, Aberdeen, AB10 6JR or deposited in the Church plate, in a clearly marked envelope, by April 2012.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



- PHASE 1 - AREA 1**
New Kitchen and Meeting Room
behind Existing Stage and required
improvements to Centenary Hall
- PHASE 1 - AREA 2**
Large Hall, removal of Existing Kitchen
and new access to sanctuary and
Entrance Way
- PHASE 2 - AREA 3**
Sanctuary
- PHASE 3 - AREA 4**
Annexe

