



INSPIRE



Everything you need to know about life can be learned from Noah's Ark

Don't miss the boat.

Remember we are all in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.

Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Build your future on high ground.

For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

When you're stressed float a while.

Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.

No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

Sun 7	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>The Church as a partner</i>
Wed 10	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 14	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Led by Audrey Milne
Wed 17	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 21	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 24	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 28	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship

Flower Calendar

APRIL

7	Mrs R Wallace
14	Miss C Robertson
21	Mrs J R Hamilton
28	Mrs Audrey Milne



YOUNG CHURCH — Palm Sunday

The Easter Story told by the youngsters in young church on Palm Sunday evening was moving and wonderful. Thank you to the leaders and teachers.

An even bigger thank you to the young people who performed, sang, wrote the prayers, chose the pictures for the screen and worked the projector. The congregation thank you for all your hard work. It was amazing. Lynn Allan

Extract from Sermon 10 March Jesus and Bartimaeus An example of Stewardship

Mark chapter 10 verse 26 describes the story of Bartimaeus the blind beggar who heard Jesus preaching and went up to Him.

Jesus didn't ask if he wanted his blindness cured. He asked "What do you want?"

When asked, Bartimaeus could have replied "I want to see so that I can carry on with the life I know, the existence I have experience of and become a better beggar. To be able to see would make me better as a beggar. I might earn more money."

But he didn't say that. He said :

"I want to see again **so that I can follow you!**"

He wasn't content just to see in order to make more money as a beggar; he wanted to see in order to serve God. No easy life, service to God. He would have to learn about Christianity, discuss it with others, debate and argue for Christianity against those who sought to discredit it, maybe even give presentations to groups of followers – like our equivalent of leading Bible Studies, Alpha or even preaching on a Sunday.

One or two of us here may have had some sympathy for him if he chose an option of seeing but remaining as he was. We know how hard it might have been for him to take a risky step – step outside the familiar and the comfortable. Because he didn't have the debating skills, presentation skills, working in a role within the new church, experience of leading others to faith, he would have to learn them – and still the question would remain, 'Would he ever be good enough anyway?'

I am reminded of part of Nelson Mandela's speech where he says :

'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond means. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us.'

Continued on page 13

Dear Friends

As the years go by, I recognise how Easter is becoming much more significant to me.

I suspect that as a child, Easter was up there, coming in behind only Christmas and my Birthday as a wonderful day, or weekend in the year. Not only was it a chocolate fest, it was also a break from school and maybe a memorable picnic in the countryside on Easter Monday.

As a youth and a young man I recognised that Easter somehow was more run-of-the-mill. It was a break from the normal but then again so was every weekend.

As a young minister I led and participated in many Easter services; it was a busy and draining time of year. At the end of Easter Sunday there was not much left in the tank and though a spiritually uplifting time, it could be said that much of this was lost in the general business of a church at Easter. It was a little like Christmas but didn't leave me feeling the spirit of the season in the same way.

Over recent years however I detect a change in my own mindset and ability to grasp the sheer wonderful spirit of the Easter message and season. As a family we make much more effort to celebrate Easter Sunday with a special meal and general holiday-like activities and most definitely the special quality of Easter is captured within my own heart.

Spiritually, I find that the message (however familiar) ignites a surge in my personal faithfulness, confidence in God, clarity of thought and general sense of well-being and joy.

Why shouldn't it?

After all, Easter provides us with a 'resurrection story'; a story of new life, new hope, new dawn and new love.

It reminds us whatever death-like challenging circumstances we can find ourselves in from time to time, the darkness of our situation is not the final outcome. For God loves us so much that He acted, and acts, to make sure that light will always defeat darkness; His love and the provision of His goodness, like the rolling of the stone away from the entrance to the tomb, opens up all sorts of possibilities for finding our way back to quality life.

I can't see why Easter has become more of a big deal for me but I hope and pray that, like me, you will celebrate Easter in style; and I hope you find in its message, and spirit, a catalyst that fuels a reaction in you that leads to deeper faith and confidence in the God who brings life from death and light from darkness.

God Bless
Keith

CELTIC BLESSING

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.

Celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE and EVENTS



LATEST NEWS — YOUNG FOLK RAISE £800 FOR THEIR CHURCH!

What a great group of young folk we are blessed to have in Mannofield.

So much gloom is written about the church and we have kids who are proud to raise money for our development fund by bag packing.

It was a great effort. It also shows the generosity of ordinary folk doing their shopping.

I would like to thank you kids for bringing encouragement to all of us in the church by your commitment.

Margaret Stewart



This is what £800 in loose change looks like :)

**Keith's
Silent Auction
20th April 2013
6.30 to 8.00pm
Large Hall**



**Entry £3 including
tea / coffee/ home baking**

You are invited to donate good quality items for sale at the auction.

Typically items might be paintings, crockery sets, decorative plates, bicycles, etc. Please, however, **Remember that this is an Auction, not a jumble or second-hand book sale.**

You also have a chance to use your talents to offer a service.

For example, perhaps you can cut someone's grass or hedge, valet a car, cook a meal for somebody, or act as chauffeur for a night out. Be inventive – everybody has talent!

You can bring items on the day from 13.00 to the Large Hall.

**If you can offer a service
please contact**

Alan Thompson 01224 681384

or alan@thompsonaberdeen.com



**Raised to date
£504,000
Well done everyone**

HAMESPUN

Variety Concert

Barbershop, Jim Ruxton & Co,
Poetry and Dancers



**Saturday 27 April 2013
7- 9pm**

Mannofield Church Large Hall

**Tickets: £5 Adult, £3 child
Refreshments available**

Contact the Church office Tel 310087
or Cathie Young Tel 789674

**ALL PROCEEDS
TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Communion in Mannofield

We thought it appropriate to give a brief explanation of the opportunities we create for sharing the Sacrament of Communion together in Mannofield.



For many years the tradition has been that on the Sunday after Communion, the opportunity was given for people to gather at the end of the service and stay for what was advertised as an 'informal communion'. Over the last few years the numbers remaining for this communion have reduced to the extent that very few people were waiting behind and so it was not offered in March on the Sunday after Communion.

We expect the reason to be there are many more opportunities for sharing the Sacrament together than previously.

We have four main communion services on Sunday Mornings - in March, June, October and Advent Sunday. During the year communion is also offered on the first Sunday of the month as part of the evening service. The Wednesday morning service (10.30am) has become very popular since it was established and on the immediate Wednesday after the Communion services in March, June and October the sacrament is celebrated within the service.

There are other Communion services celebrated throughout the year and the minister is always happy to be invited to conduct Home Communion where this is more suitable for people.

The Sacrament is an important part of worship in the Presbyterian tradition of our Church and Mannofield offers a variety of opportunities and styles for gathering together in fellowship round the Lord's Table.

Statement from Church Leaders on Livingstone Bicentenary 20 March 2013

We remember with gratitude the life and witness of David Livingstone who campaigned vigorously against the slave trade during his life time.

We acknowledge that many Christians were slow to speak out against the evils of the Slave Trade and that many were actively involved in it and profited from it. We express our deep sorrow for this.

The legacies of the Slave Trade still continue to be active in the world today and we recognise that women, children and men are trafficked between and within countries and suffer labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

We welcome the initiatives taken by the Scottish Government and others to address human trafficking within our society and applaud the work of many agencies who care for the victims of trafficking.

The Bible places a strong emphasis on 'welcoming the stranger' and we encourage all the people of Scotland to make our nation a place of safety, welcome and hospitality for all.





The big challenges for Mannofield Church in 2012 were to –

- ◆ Maintain or increase regular income
- ◆ Maintain or reduce expenditure
- ◆ Continue fundraising for redevelopment of the church building



Compared to 2011, Mannofield achieved –

- ◆ An increase in regular income (offerings) from £131,497 to £132,577
- ◆ A decrease on regular outgoings from £202,268 to £191,022
- ◆ In addition £112,857, including Gift Aid tax recovered, was raised by gifts and contributions of members of the congregation and the local community and also generated through contributions from Trust Funds

At a time of recession and general economic gloom, this has been a magnificent response by the congregation. Mannofield members have continued their commitment to the fundraising efforts in aid of the development project and continued their financial support for the work of the Church in the community, across Scotland and further afield.

In terms of day to day Income and Expenditure i.e. excluding Development, Mannofield's total income in 2012 was £197,730 and total expenditure was £191,022, giving a surplus of £6,717.

In terms of income, it is worth noting the value of tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme at £27,034. This is a major contribution to Church funds and, through the efforts of our Free Will Offering and Gift Aid Treasurers, Mannofield continues to try and maximise Gift Aid as a major source of income.

Of the other sources of income, mention must be made of the income through Hall Lets. Income in 2012 stood at £13,493 which is marginally down on 2011, although considerably more than a few years ago. This income comes from non Church organisations and is a demonstration of Mannofield's growing engagement with the wider community.

In 2012, income from Legacies stood at £10,500. This figure is much reduced compared with 2011 and it is pleasing to report that efforts to maintain/increase income and reduce expenditure have offset reliance on this type of income. Mannofield is making considerable efforts to ensure that income and expenditure do not rely on this 'one-off' type of income.

The average age of the 11 members of a football team was 19. However, the youngest player, who was 16, failed to turn up for one match, and his place was taken by the team coach. This raised the average age of the team that day to 22.

How old was the coach?



THE FIRST EASTER MORNING

Read the story in John 20. Then tick which you think is the right answer in each section below. The bible references given in brackets will help.

When Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb of Jesus, she saw: (John 20:1)

- 1 A Roman centurion guarding the tomb
- 2 The stone had been removed from the entrance
- 3 Crowds were gathered round the tomb

After she had told Peter and John that the tomb was empty, she: (John 20:12)

- 4 Decided to go home
- 5 Remained outside the tomb and spoke to two angels
- 6 Went inside the empty tomb

What happened when she thought she met the gardener? (John 20:16)

- 7 She asked him who he was
- 8 As he spoke her name, she knew he was Jesus
- 9 When he spoke she thought he was a stranger

What message did Jesus give to Mary? (John 20:17)

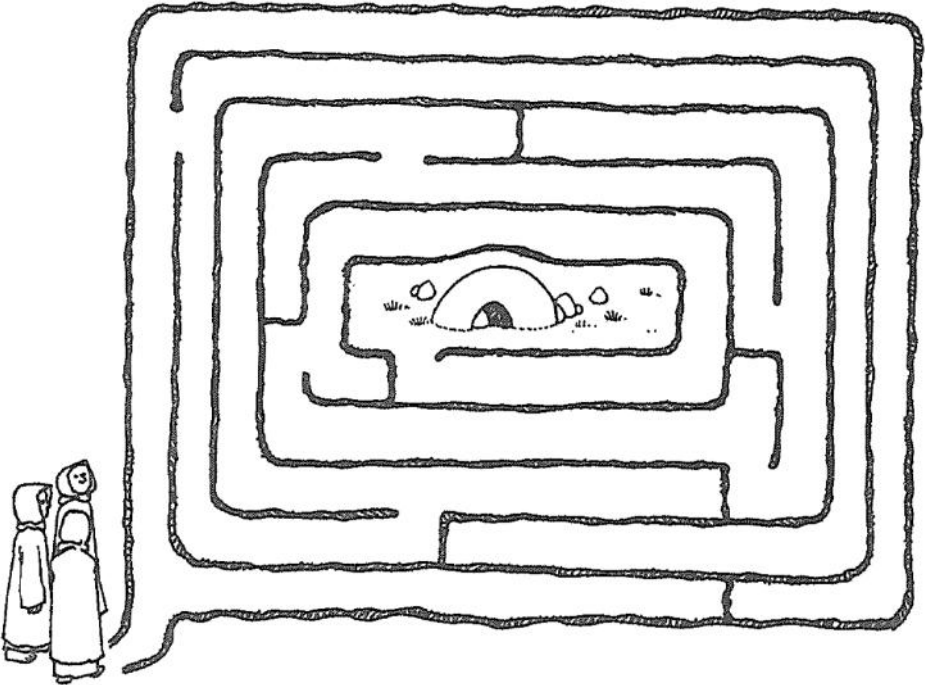
- 10 That she should go and tell the disciples the news
- 11 That she must say nothing to anyone
- 12 That she should wait a while before saying anything

What did Mary of Magdala do next? (John 20:18)

- 13 She stayed behind to talk with Jesus
- 14 She decided to tell the disciples the news
- 15 She preferred to keep silent



Help the women find the tomb.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE





DRAW LINES FROM EACH
EVENT TO THE PLACE
WHERE IT HAPPENED...

- ① Jesus was baptised
- ② Jesus was born
- ③ Jesus turned water into wine
- ④ Jesus ate the Last Supper
- ⑤ Jesus calmed a storm

Cana

River Jordan

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Galilee

Find the clues in:

1. Matthew 3:13-16
2. Luke 2:1-7
3. John 2:1-12
4. Matthew 26:26-30
5. Mark 4:35-41

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

Find the words in **bold**:

Early on **Sunday morn-**
ing the **women** went to
the **tomb**. They found the
stone had been **rolled**
away. An **angel** told
them that **Jesus** was **alive**
again, just as he had
promised!

Mark 16: 1-8.

March's answer: 975310

Personal InsightDavid Clayton

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

A. I am 15, I go to school and I live with my mum, dad and brother.

Q. Who is your favourite character from the Bible and why?

A. Jesus, because he cures people.

Q. What motivates you spiritually?

A. Music.

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

A. Technology!

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

A. Keep working hard, it will pay off.

Q. Who is your favourite fictional character?

A. James Bond.

Q. What are you afraid of?

A. Insects.

Q. Did you have a nickname growing up?

A. Chuckles.

Q. What situations make you lose your temper?

A. Getting shouted at.

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

A. Director, because I could tell people what to do!

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

A. My laugh.

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

A. To see the first mammals.

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

A. The main thing would probably be make everything cheaper.

Q. On what purchase have you spent most ?

A. My Laptop.

Q. Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A. Ms Saunders as she let us make schmores on our last day.

Editor: schmores are melted marshmallows between 2 biscuits.

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

A. Food!

Q. What is your most treasured possession?

A. Phone probably.

Q. What has been your greatest achievement?

A. Getting bronze in Duke of Edinburgh.



David is a member of the BBs and Youth Club.

Editor: Thanks, David, for this contribution.

**The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is
18 APRIL 2013**

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

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

Moving to the development project, it is extremely encouraging to see the commitment made by members to that initiative. Individual financial contributions and fundraising initiatives make up the bulk of the income to the development project. In late 2012, the efforts of a number of dedicated members of the Development Committee were beginning to bear fruit as income from Trust Funds, both actual (£29,000 and included in the 2012 Accounts) and pledged for the future (£42,000 and hence not included in the Accounts), was being realised or promised. These efforts will continue through 2013.

Tight control continues to be exercised on expenditure and this has resulted in a reduction in regular outgoings as described above. The reduction in expenditure was helped by the decision not to replace our Youth Worker when he resigned. Youth Work continues to be an important element of church activity and is being supported and enhanced by a band of willing volunteers.

Reviewing the level of reserves, the Finance Committee felt it appropriate that we allocate an additional £50,000 from church funds towards the Development Fund. This still leaves Mannofield Church with reserves equivalent to six months of average expenditure which is a position many churches would be delighted to have.

In summary, 2012 was a very good year in financial terms for Mannofield Church. The response from the congregation has been fantastic and demonstrates a commitment to the work of the Church locally, nationally and internationally. The challenge will continue through 2013 and beyond. As a congregation we are not complacent and will continue to seek creative ways of increasing income and reducing costs.

Recognising that there are serious constraints on personal budgets in the current financial climate, the Trustees took a decision in 2011 to limit the number of Retiring Collections whilst fundraising was underway for our re-development. Two retiring collections were made in 2012 and Members may wish to know that we were pleased to send cheques for £607 to Poppy Scotland and £728 to the work of Somebody Cares in support of the marginalised and vulnerable people of Aberdeen.

Iain Hunter
Treasurer

Editor: Thank you Iain for your 11 years of loyal service.



The meeting of Session on 19 February 2013 heard the annual report from the Record Keeper Jim Cardno on the church records. At the end of 2012 our Roll stood at 1220. It was pleasing to hear of the number of children and young people involved in the activities at the church which gives hope for our future .

Continuing on that topic, Session heard that the Development Fund had now passed the £500,000 mark. Support is now being secured from trusts and a fundraiser engaged to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, would provide a significant proportion of the development funding. Session members decided to note that the Church of Scotland, in addition to providing a grant, were also prepared to offer us a loan to assist with the development. Whilst this support was welcomed any decision regarding the loan was deferred until the position with overall fundraising was clarified.

Also with an eye to the future, Robin Bowden's report, **Mannofield Church – the future**, had been circulated and it was agreed that the next step was for the Session committees to consider steps to be taken and report back to Session. We await these developments with interest!

The Trustees meeting on 19 March heard from Iain Hunter that targets set for 2012 had been met. Regular giving had improved slightly, costs had been reduced and Development funds had been increased.

However other income was down, meaning income overall had reduced and although the accounts had come out on the "right side", this was a small figure of £6,717. Accordingly we must ensure that regular income is maintained or, even better, increased to ensure ongoing costs are met. Iain was thanked for his many years of work as he finally signed off as Treasurer. Having given notice of his intention to stand down some time ago, no new volunteer had been found and he had stayed on. He felt the time had now been reached where he could not continue and a new Treasurer should be found. If you are reading this and can help, please let us know!!

Extract from Sermon 10 March 2013 continued

Nelson Mandela is saying that deep down, we know that we all have abilities, but our present life is comfortable and we are frightened of the implications of using our ability to the full - or if not to the full - scared of the consequences of using our ability in a more resourceful and courageous way than we do just now. Sometimes we are actually scared of success, and what it would mean for our daily lives.

The fundamental message is that we are not inadequate; we all have gifts and talents. Aren't we lucky to have all these gifts given to us by God? At this time I think again of the phrase "God gives us all gifts, our gift in return back to God is to use these gifts". God offers each one of

us - as he offered Bartimaeus - the chance to get involved. God allows us to have sight of those aspects of Church life that if we were to get involved in, or offer our gifts towards, would unlock, and throw open, the same kind of opportunities for fresh experience and fulfilment and the sense of satisfaction we can have in playing our part in the workings of our Church. There are lots of ways to help. There are lots of things needing the help of volunteers.

What fulfilment and satisfaction there is in giving of yourself and having the courage to be all you can be! Just ask Bartimaeus! Or think of the sentiment behind Nelson Mandela's words ... and be inspired to give your best to the Church of which you are part!!

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Church Lunch Club 18 APRIL 2013



16 May will be our last Lunch Club before summer

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3pm

COME AND JOIN US

A cup of tea before you leave

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark Tel. 317982

Church Book Club May 2013 The Red Tent by Anita Diamant



Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that are about her father, Jacob, and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent.

The Guild APRIL



- 2 Tai Chi
- 4 Monthly Coffee Morning
Church Hall
10-11.30am
Also filling Back Packs for Mary's Meals
- 16 AGM followed by talk -
Somebody Cares Trust

building a strong family life



**The parenting children course
0-10 years**

**The parenting teenagers course
11-18 years**

Starting 30 April –28 May

Every Tuesday 7.15 to 9.15pm

Mannofield Church Centenary Hall

Both free courses are on offer for 5 weeks - any donations will go towards the Mannofield Church "Heart of the Community" Appeal.

Spaces are limited so please call to secure your place on 01224 310087 (Mon-Thurs 9.00 am - 12.00 noon) or email:

office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

You can read more about these courses at:

www.relationshipcentral.org

CHRISTIAN AID

RUN FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Are you running or planning to run in a marathon or 10k in the next 2 months?

Christian Aid has several projects running in Zimbabwe, Ghana & Bolivia aimed at alleviating hunger in these countries.

You could run on behalf of Christian Aid and help raise money towards these worthy causes.

If you would like to run for Christian Aid then we can help to support you.

Please contact Bill Manson (Tel.07758862794) for further details or contact the office.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Secretary	Jean Sharman	mannofieldchurch@gmail.com	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@o2.co.uk	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

24 Feb Brodie Lawson Keay
10 Mar Oliver Alexander Liddle

New Members

Mrs Hilda Black

Disjunctions

Mrs Margaret Alexander
Mrs J Macintosh
Mrs Nancy Mackinnon

Deaths

12 Feb Mrs Pat Summers
14 Feb Mrs Helen Burns
3 Mar Ian Clark

Change of Address

Mrs Rita Donald
Mrs May Gordon

Church responds to Referendum date announcement

21 March 2013

The Church of Scotland has welcomed today's announcement of the date of the referendum on the future of Scotland as 18 September 2014.

Commenting, Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council said: "I welcome the clarity given on the date of the referendum, but what really matters now is how we use the time between now and then.

"The Church of Scotland is working with local congregations, planning and holding community meetings where individuals can consider the sort of Scotland they would like to take shape. I am excited about participating in them over the next year and a half. These are discussions and decisions that can frame the future vision - independence or not!"

The Referendum is an historic event and in the run up to it there should be opportunities for our church to play its part in its *Ministry to the Community* by stimulating and encouraging discussion as we seek to ensure that Scotland's future role is what the people of Scotland desire. Editor



Planters

The Council no longer supplies and plants our external planters. This is done twice annually by volunteers.

I have on several occasions been offered monies towards plants and recently received £10. Because of this it has been decided to establish a 'Planters Fund' which will also cover planting of the wooden tubs at each side of the front door.

Please hand in donations to the church office for the attention of the Treasurer marked Planters Fund.

Doug Marnoch, Fabric Convener





Mannofield Gospel Choir



Spread the word!

We have something **new** going on after the summer.

Did you enjoy the BBC's "The Choir" programme?

Did you download the Military Wives 2011 Christmas Number 1?

Have you ever fancied singing in a 'fun' choir?

Well now is your chance to do so!

We intend to form a Community Gospel Choir to occasionally support our worship. The choir will meet for rehearsals in the church on Mondays from 6.45 until 7.30. As people are busy these days we have kept the practice slot short. So come along for a short, sharp and fun time of singing.

We are looking for both males and females aged 15 and over who would enjoy singing with others. Neither previous choir experience nor an ability to read music is necessary.

The Choir needs a minimum of 15 members to get started. It will be directed by an experienced Choir Director with the emphasis on enjoyment and quality!

To register your interest or to enquire further, please email Rhonda at r.mccolgan57@gmail.com or speak to Keith for further information.



ATTENTION!

You DON'T HAVE TO register with Facebook to view our page!

Find us at:

www.facebook.com/mannofield.church

Or just **google** 'Mannofield Church' and the page should be second on the list.

NB: If you are on Facebook remember to click

