Vol.LIV No. 4



INSPIRE



June 2016



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN Scottish registered charity SC 001680

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

| | NDAR | Flower Calendar | |
|---|--|--|--|
| JUNE | | | |
| 10am | Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion | 5 Mrs. M. Allan 12 Miss C. Smith 19 Mr. G & Mrs. M Falconer 26 Rev. G. Goldie | |
| 7.30pm | Session Meeting | JULY | |
| 10.30am | Midweek Service | 3 Mrs. B. Milne 10 Mrs. S. Hunter | |
| 10am 4.30pm | Morning Worship Cafe Church Circles @ | 17 Mrs. E. Smith 24 Mrs. S. Taylor 31 Mrs. C. Bridgeford | |
| 10.30am 10am | Midweek Service | AUGUST 7 Mrs. E. Cromarty 14 Donor required 21 Donor required | |
| 10.30am | | 28 Donor required | |
| | | August's birth flower | |
| 3.15pm | Craigielea Gardens Service Rev K Blackwood Sacrament of Communion | NOTE If anyone wishes to donate flowers for 14, 21 and 28 August please contact Sheila Taylor ☎01224 319289 The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is 18 August 2016 Material for InSpire should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to: roddy@mccollassociates.com office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk | |
| 6.30pm | Traditional Evening Worship Last Evening Service until after the Summer | | |
| 10.30am | Midweek Service | | |
| NOTE Sunday morning services will continue at 10am and Wednesday services at 10.30am in July and August. EU Referendum 23rd June The large hall will be used as a polling station. No access for Church Groups on that | | Guild News8 JuneSummer Meeting, Kingswells7.30pm14 JuneVisit to Castleton, leaving church at 1.45pm – Tea & Strawberry Tarts12 JulyAfternoon Tea, Drum Castle, leaving church at 1.45pm16 AugInverurie Soaps | |
| | 10am 7.30pm 10.30am 10am 4.30pm 10.30am 6.30pm 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am | 10amMorning Worship Sacrament of Communion7.30pmSession Meeting10.30amMidweek Service10amMorning Worship4.30pmCafe Church Circles @ Mannofield10.30amMidweek Service10amMorning Worship10.30amMidweek Service10amMorning Worship10.30amMidweek Service10amMorning Worship10.30amMidweek Service10amMorning Worship3.15pmCraigielea Gardens Service Rev K Blackwood Sacrament of Communion6.30pmTraditional Evening Worship Last Evening Service until after the Summer10.30amMidweek Service10.30amMidweek Service | |

THE MANSE

Social media

Rev. Keith Blackwood

Dear Friends

Social media is a very big part of our world.

First came the Internet with masses of web pages that provided a source of information on all sorts of matters. E-mail allowed us to communicate quickly and effectively with each other. Since those days of the 90's, it is social media that has taken off as the 'go -to' machine for communicating with each other. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat along with Blogging and many other social media portals shape our culture into one big communication frenzy.



Pentecost Sunday 1st Live broadcast. 1355 people reached by 20 May

The rise of social media has provided churches with both challenges and opportunities. Much time is lost to social media, browsing and checking phones etc. When abused, such devotion to social media limits the time individuals have for other things. Health/ fitness pursuits, traditional family time, along with space in our week for church attendance and involvement in the activities of the church, are potentially disrupted as time is squeezed by the excesses of time spent in that other world of social media. Yet, individually and collectively, we recognise also the opportunities that social media provides for staying connected with each other, befriending each other and growing supportive communities that stem from shared interests. For the Church specifically, when used well and appropriately, we are recognising that social media is something that can be used to build both our outreach and the opportunities for engagement amongst those of us within. It provides us with the opportunity for spiritual growth and the spread of a collective focus on mission.

In the early Church that Paul describes in his Letters, we see clearly the emphasis in those days on bringing together people whose shared faith meant they had something in common. That commonality was strengthened as these people came together to meet, share fellowship, worship, pray and challenge each other in discussion on matters of faith. 2000 years ago these communities could only be created through meeting together in people's houses and the support offered in the writing of letters. The church has moved on from these times to church buildings traditionally housing the congregations of the church.

While today church buildings and meeting places such as halls and family homes remain key in the creation of communities of faith, we need to accept that the opportunities afforded by social media and the use of technology provide an additional mechanism for growing communities of faith that are engaged with each other in spiritual growth. Its increased use can help build a momentum towards mission and witness of the faith that holds us together.

THE MANSE continued

Social media is a tool for interaction and connection. It is not merely a digital notice board on which to announce the next church event. Social media opens doors and opportunities for the church to engage with people, including those who rarely find it easy to attend on a Sunday and it allows us to strengthen our individual faith as we engage in wider conversation with each other.

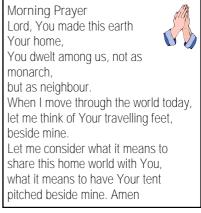
In Mannofield we have included 'digital or e-Inspire' as a way to receive the magazine for many years. As we move into a newly refurbished building we will be able to embrace the technology included to share the story of the heritage of the church through a digital exhibition and we will be able to use other technology to bring improvements in how we allow people to engage in worship and in the other activities of the church.

Paul in his letters invited his readers to engage with the Churches that they were part of, for he realised that this was the primary way for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to spread and influence individual lives.

At present we are running a social media campaign to do just that. We are using our Facebook page to establish 'conversations' that will allow as many as possible to engage in the themes of our worship over the weeks of summer. At present each week a 'Starter' is posted on the given week of the upcoming Sunday. Facebook users are then invited to

engage in conversation as the theme is discussed in advance of the Sunday service when the same theme is addressed within the service.

Later in the summer (August) we will be posting short 'Starter Videos', which follow the same idea of sparking conversation. We already post most of our Sermons on the Facebook page and in the near future, as we return to the Sanctuary, it is intended to allow people the chance to watch the sermon as a live broadcast (or at a later date) as a means for us to be



connected in worship whether we be present or elsewhere.

Elsewhere in the magazine, for those who are unsure of Facebook there is a brief 'Help Guide' with some suggestions of what we need to do to connect with the Mannofield Church Facebook page.

Here in Mannofield we are seeking to take all the opportunities that we have available to us in order to progress the mission of our Church.

I hope you will all join in. God Bless

Keith

REFLECTIONS of Phil Gunn, Parish Assistant

As I come to the end of my time at Mannofield as your Parish Assistant I have had the great privilege to meet and chat with so many of you. And yet it doesn't seem like yesterday that I walked through the doors of Mannofield Church for the first time and thought I would regularly get lost in the maze of corridors behind the sanctuary, wondering quite how I would cope in this new role. Thankfully I never did get lost and as time has passed I feel I have developed, becoming more confident in my abilities as I have taken on a whole new range of tasks that I never imagined myself doing.



There have been many challenges on the way. Challenges such as leading a morning service, of preparing a sermon. You see when I was a student the very thought of having to do a presentation to 20 of my peers terrified me, so you can imagine the very idea of leading worship on a Sunday the first time was a daunting prospect. So I must thank you for all the encouragement and guidance you have given me.

There have been other challenges such as preparing to move from our offices to the portacabin for the beginning of the development work on the church and learning how to keep warm in the portacabin over the winter months. On a more personal level, I have had the wonderful challenge of learning to be a Dad for a second time; who knew that there was so much more to learn second time around!

As we see almost daily changes to our church building it is wonderful to see the excitement levels rising around the parish as we wait to see the completed picture. And yet the completed brick work will not be the finish of this project. As I look forward with excitement at the path being laid out before me, I am regularly saddened that I will not get to be a part of the next stage of Mannofield's journey.

As many of you know, I am leaving to go and study to become a minister. I know that as I journey on the path that God has laid out for me, there will be many more challenges to face but my experiences here at Mannofield have taught me that if I continue to trust in God then I won't go wrong because as Jeremiah tells us:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11

This is still as true for us today here in Mannofield as it was to the Israelites in Jeremiah's day. I look forward to hearing how God uses you all in the coming years as you seek to share the love of Christ with all, not only in our community, but across Aberdeen and further afield.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome which you have all extended, not just to me but to my family as well. You have helped us all to feel settled, feel part of the Mannofield family and helped us grow. Watching my children, Anna and Ben, be welcomed in, talked to and talking back to you all so freely is a great delight to Clare and me and it is a great witness of Christ's love. We will all miss worshipping with you and your fellowship. As Anna says "When are we going to my church?"

Financial Review of 2015 by Iain Hunter: Finance Convener Since 2011, Mannofield Church has been fundraising for the major re-development of church premises. In that time, from a financial perspective, the church has faced two big challenges –



Balancing regular income and expenditure, ideally generating a surplus Continuing fundraising for re-development of the church building

In terms of financial highlights in 2015, Mannofield Church achieved -

An overall surplus of £2,198 in general income and expenditure

Total income of £317,268 to the Development Fund from the various sources described below plus congregational contributions

In 2015, we met our main financial objectives although there are concerns.

The overall result is more than satisfactory given that Mannofield is going through a significant redevelopment resulting in disruption to normal church activities. Further, as with many congregations, the congregation is ageing and we had 44 deaths in the congregation in 2015. Many of these were regular givers and this has had an impact on income. Against that background, it is encouraging to note that Mannofield members have continued their commitment to the fundraising efforts and continued their financial support for the work of the Church in the community, across Scotland and further afield.

In terms of the General Fund, income was down on 2014 by a total of £33,019. = Specifically

Offerings were down by £10,253 (to £121,393 from £131,646)

Tax Recovered on Gift Aid was down by £1,311 (to £27,489 from £28,800) Legacies were down by £9,000 (to £1,000 from £10,000)



Income from 'Use of Premises' down by £3,876 (to £7,189 from £11,065)

Other Income down by £4,446 (to £3,767 from £8,213)

Whilst accepting that 2015 was a year of transition, with church facilities unavailable from October onwards, it is important that we recognise this drop in income and take steps to correct the trend. The Kirk Session, as Trustees, recognises the potential financial risks and will be monitoring the financial position closely throughout 2016.

Whilst Income was down, Expenditure was also down – a reduction of £7,642 compared to 2014. By far **the biggest item of expenditure is Mannofield's contribution to Ministries and Mission. Regular** contributions to the national Church amounted to £93,326 in 2015 (57% of general fund expenditure). Mannofield has no control over Ministries and Mission contributions, but tight monitoring of other items has delivered the reduction in outgoings.

As for the Development Project, it is extremely encouraging to see the commitment made by members to that initiative. Individual financial contributions and fundraising initiatives, including Gift Aid, make up the major part of the income to the development project. In 2015, the Mannofield Development Project achieved a total of £313,949 from all sources of fundraising: £156,914 from individual contributions and fundraising events: £32,035 from tax recovered through Gift Aid: Income of £125,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and various Trust Funds. Construction work started in October and expenditure to end of December amounted to £197,216.

The Trustees took a decision in 2011 to limit the number of Retiring Collections whilst fundraising was underway for our re-development. A number of retiring collections were made in 2015 and a total of £1,034 was collected for various causes. If we are honest, this is a modest amount compared to Mannofield's total income and we need to guard against being too inward looking in the coming years.

By taking one letter from each of these animals in turn, see if you can spell the name of another five-letter animal.

> SLOTH HYENA CAMEL SKUNK ZEBRA







In this story of a well-known disciple of Jesus 19 words have been omitted, and the number of letters in the missing words is indicated by the figures in brackets. Decide what those words are, then find them in the grid (some letters are used more than once). When you have found the words, put the circled letters in their correct order to give you the character's name.

As an apostle he was swift to act and seldom (8) quiet when important matters were discussed. He was out (7) with his brother when Jesus first spoke to them. And afterwards the two at once left their nets to become the first (9).

A born leader, on one occasion he rashly (6) 'Even if all fall away, I will not'. He was to be reminded of those words later when he (6) even knowing Jesus.

Despite being (8) he was (6). When many followers deserted Jesus and the Lord asked the twelve if they wanted to leave, he answered, 'Lord, to whom shall we go?'

He remembered the time Jesus had (6) him 'the rock'. But the way ahead was often (7) and dangerous. When Jesus was

AFTECHCALL(E)DN LIMDSWORDURI R LSTATEDDOFES T HJS(E)ASHOREC A Ι EBRAVNLASI E NRDEVE ILEBP T GUTUFJLKFOLA NSUFFEREDMEL PARLIWYONYSE Ι EL(P)OEPABGDHN NTELWDEYEBOIT EAMID(T)THUMBLE DENIEDUVGREAD

arrested, this disciple drew his (5) cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant.

After Jesus's death, when the disciples heard that the (4) was no longer in the tomb, he and John ran to see for themselves. And seeing, they (8). Following the resurrection he shared the meal of cooked fish with the Lord on the (8). After they had (5) Jesus asked him:

'... Do you truly love me more than these?'

The disciple answered:

'Lord, you know (3) things; you know that I love you'

He afterwards (6) Jesus and went out to preach. On the day of Pentecost he addressed (6) in (9). He (8) as a Christian, believing it was right to put God first.





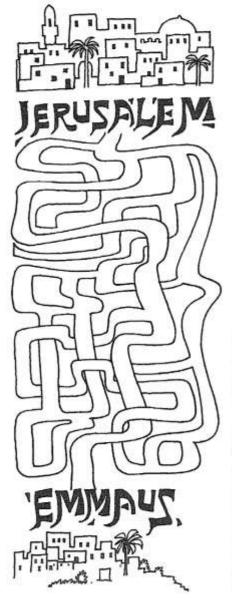
Across

- 3. Blind Bartimaeus was one
- 9. Peter stayed with one in Joppa called Simeon
- 10. Alexander's, who did much evil to Paul
- 13. Lydia's
- **14.** Bezaleel was anointed by God as both this and a stone cutter
- 16. One was in prison with Joseph and was executed
- 18. David's job before he fought Goliath
- 22. Hagar was Sarai's
- **23.** Because the Hebrews had none, Saul's army had no weapons
- 24. Peter's
- 25. Rebekah had one named Deborah
- **26.** The name of Israel's children were put on an onyx stone by this worker
- 27. Esther's
- 28. Aaron was the first high one of Israel
- 29. Nehemiah was one to Artaxerxes
- 30. Hiram sent these and carpenters to build David a house

1. Joshua's 2. He makes snares for the birds 4. David's occupation under Saul 5. Paul's 6. Nimrod was a mighty one 7. Jesus' trade 8. The task of an Israelite while a slave in Egypt **11.** To receive a prophecy, Jeremiah went to his house to watch him work 12. Demetrius, who enticed a riot in Ephesus, was one 15. Ishmael was one 16. One was in prison with Joseph, but released 17. Saul was the first one of Israel 19. Noah's occupation after the flood **20.** Herod was this in Judea 21. Mary mistook Jesus for one 24. Cain's

Down

Help the two disciples find their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus



Cross off the wrong words in the boxes to make the story right

It was 3/17 days since Jesus had died, and two of the disciples were going to Jerusalem/Emmaus. Jesus apppeared to them, but they hardly/did not recognise him.

Jesus told them how the prophets/angels in the Old Testament had said about what was going to happen to him.

The disciples/shepherds invited him in to their house, and they recognised him when he broke the chair/bread. Then they knew that Jesus really was alive.

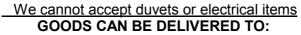


May's answer: 6 arrows will be required; 4 x 17 and 2 x 16

STOCK THE SHOP! A Chairity Event !

The Charities Shop at 346 George Street will be open for us from 13 - 18 June

WE NEED DONATIONS OF GOOD QUALITY, REUSABLE CLOTHES: BAGS: SHOES: CASES: ACCESSORIES: JEWELLERY: BRIC A BRAC: SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; TOYS; CDS: DVDS etc.



The Church on Saturday 11 or Sunday 12 June between 2.00 and 4.00pm **OR preferably directly to the shop in George Street on Sunday 12 June also between 2.00 and 4.00pm OR** if necessary, goods can be collected. To arrange this, call Ellen **201224** 867028

We also need cars to help transport the goods to the shop and, of course, we need your help at the shop during the week.

Call Ellen or sign up on the sheet in the church during May if you can help in any way.

Put the dates in your diary, save your goods for us and......don't forget to come along and bargain hunt! THANK YOU

For Whom the Bell Tolls

In the pithy words of John Donne (1572 - 1631), "No man is an island". The same thought applies to 21st century Mannofield Church. We are part of a much bigger eco-system. We consume natural resources and pollute our surroundings, just like everyone else, because that's how the modern world works.

The Christian attitude would be to recognise those traits and to work to reduce them. That's why Eco-Congregation Scotland was founded and why Mannofield Church is a member of that family. An ecumenical organisation with 358 member congregations, Eco-Congregation Scotland addresses climate change, conservation and related issues. It helps local churches of all kinds reduce their environmental impact while engaging with their local community. Find out more at www.ecocongregationscotland.org.

The local Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire network is a great way of meeting likeminded people and exchanging ideas. For example, one Aberdeen congregation runs a Sponsored Flush. Every time they flush the loo, use the washing machine or just run a tap, they put a few pence in the kitty for a good cause. Save the planet and raise funds while doing it – great!

The network meets every few months, with a variety of subjects and speakers. Meetings are open to all and make a good evening out.

Do you remember how the Donne poem finishes? "Because I am involved in mankind, And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee." *Alistair Stark, Convenor, Eco Congregation Committee*







On Sunday 15 May six partner congregations shared in a joint Pentecost Event. Part of a Presbytery Cluster Group, Mannofield, together with Cults, Kingswells, Peterculter, Holburn West and Cragiebuckler churches enjoyed a picnic (indoors!) then a contemporary service of praise and reflection.

It was a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others. Hopefully this is the start of a relationship of cooperation and collaboration as we work together in worship and mission opportunities that enable the Church to take the spirit of Pentecost forward in witness across our part of Aberdeen. *Keith*

Thank you to all who organised, participated and attended the joint Pentecost Service. It was joyful and uplifting and it was good to spend time and fellowship with members of other congregations. I hope that there will be more similar joint ventures. *Sandy McKenzie*

See photos on back page

Thanks to Bob Cooper of Craigiebuckler for the photos

Accessing Church Facebook Page

Do you have internet access at home or on your phone? If so you can engage with the Church through its Facebook Page which regularly features information, sermons, discussions etc.



To access the Facebook Page there are various options:

If you already have a Facebook account, then all you

need to do is search for 'Mannofield Church' and this will take you to the Mannofield Facebook Page. Then, within the picture at the top you will see a box with the option to 'Like'. Once you select 'Like' you will be connected and from then on when you visit your Facebook Page on your PC, tablet or phone you will see the posts of Mannofield Church in your Newsfeeds.

If you don't have a Facebook profile but use the Internet then you can visit the Home Page <u>www.facebook.com</u> and select 'Sign Up'. You will be asked to enter some information. Then click 'Sign Up'. As a security check you will be asked to enter a code of letters/ numbers, called a 'captcha' (this is to make sure you are a real person and not a computer program) and then select 'Sign Up' and that should be you. Then follow the suggestion above for connecting to Mannofield Church Facebook Page.

An easier way to do 'Sign Up' might be to ask your grandchildren to do this for you! They will have you signed up in minutes and will be delighted you are joining social media. But remember to tell them you want to 'Like' Mannofield Church Facebook Page.

If you would prefer not to have a Facebook profile you can still engage with what's happening by visiting the church web page www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Finally, Keith and Phil (before 30 June) would be delighted to 'Sign you up'. If all this is just too much for you – don't be put off. Keith and Phil can have you signed up in minutes. Just speak to them in the office, after a service, on the phone or e-mail them and they will arrange things.

Development Update Chairity events

Come Vinyl With Me



Thanks to all who supported this evening of fun, fellowship and music at the Cricket Club on 20 May.

Hopefully it will be repeated next year in our refurbished church premises.



The sum of £850 was raised for the Chair fund.

Morning Coffee Soup etc etc!!!

Rae Wallace and Frances Walker thank everyone who attended their morning coffee, soup and sweet lunch and afternoon tea events over the last few months. Everyone enjoyed the happy, sociable "get - togethers".

The very generous donations raised £641 for the Chair fund which now stands at £21.000.

Evening Prayer

Lord, as I fall asleep, I think of those for whom tented, travelling uncertainty is not a liberation. but an imprisonment. As Llie down to rest. I think of the tented cities of the world. where children are born, food is shared, and fears are real. I pray that You pitch Your tent among those people. O Lord of travellers and refugees. May they find comfort. and safety, and sleep. Amen Acknowledgement: This and the Morning Pray Now " and is used with permission.

Prayer were taken from "Living Stones : "Living Stones" publications are available from www.standrewpress.com

Celebrate the Queen's birthday



You are invited to Afternoon Tea Saturday 11th June In the Church Hall 2pm - "Carriages" at 4pm (Tiaras may be worn) Various stalls- in aid of Guild Projects £2.50

NOTES & NEWS

Dear Mannofield Church

Let me introduce myself. My name is Alex Gamaliel Evangelista and I am a M.Div. candidate at Princeton Theological Seminary.

I have completed two bachelor degrees (Biblical Studies & Theology) at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. I was raised not far away from my alma mater, in Tulare, California.



My parents, Melody and Alejandro Evangelista, were both born in San Salvador, El Salvador. During the civil war in the eighties, they sought refuge in Calgary, Alberta, Canada which is where my sister Melissa and I were born. I have five siblings of whom I am the eldest. Two of them are in college, while the other three are in middle school and high school.

Ever since this new journey began in November, I have been constantly praying for the time that awaits for me in Aberdeen. I want to thank you all for the invitation you have extended. I look forward to be a part of your community and to reflect how God is moving amongst and through you. I'm most excited for how much I will grow as a person while I am with you and how I will be able to contribute to what God is doing in Mannofield.

You all will continue to be in my prayers. May God bless you and I will see you all soon!

Blessings, Alex Evangelista

Be Inspired!!

The Pastoral Care Group has organised a talk by Sarah Geoghegan of Alzheimer Scotland on **Tuesday 14th June at 2.30pm** at Mannofield. This Dementia Friends Awareness training is designed to give us ideas of how to



continue meaningful communications at home and out in the community, as friends, family members or those in our congregation become increasingly affected by memory loss. There are resources out there which she will share. One example is Aberdeen Football Club's Community Trust which promotes "Dementia-Friendly Wellbeing". They offer amongst other activities, "Stable and Able" – a relaxed exercise class, Pittodrie Health Walks, Active Reminiscence sessions and a Dementia Café,

| CHURCH CONTACTS | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Minister | Rev Keith Blackwood | kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk | 01224315748 | |
| Parish Assistant | Phil Gunn | pgunn@churchofscotland.org.uk | 07763 135618 | |
| Secretary | Jean Sharman | office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk | 01224310087 | |
| Church Officer | Nick Youngson | nick.youngson@o2.co.uk | 01224322239 | |
| Session Clerk | Bob Anderson | Nnikibob@aol.com | 01224743484 | |

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Disjunctions:

Mr Fraser Beaton Mr Norman Burt Mrs Hazel Keenan

Change of address:

Mrs Jean Campbell Mrs Marion Milne Mrs Doris Murray Mrs Margaret Stewart Mrs Margaret & Dr Peter Stewart

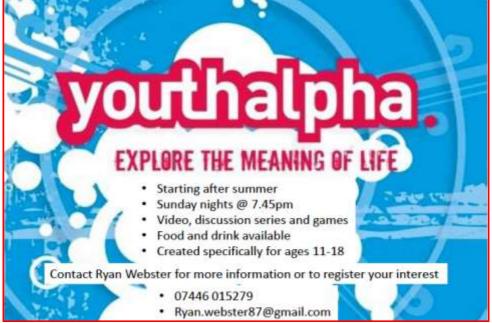
Death:

Mr William Fowler, 16 May

Time moves on!



Clock face being removed for cleaning



Pentecost Service Craigiebuckler 15 May



A selection of Mannofield Church posters with many thanks to Elizabeth and Neil Paterson

