



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST

Sun 26	10am	Morning Worship <i>Young Church resumes</i>
--------	------	--

Wed 29	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

SEPTEMBER

Sun 2	10am	Morning Worship
-------	------	-----------------

Wed 5	10.30am	Midweek Service
-------	---------	-----------------

Sun 9	10am	Morning Worship <i>Young Church Powerzone</i>
-------	------	--

Wed 12	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Sun 16	10am	Morning Worship
--------	------	-----------------

Wed 19	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Sun 23	10am	Morning Worship
--------	------	-----------------

Wed 26	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Sun 30	10am	Harvest Sunday
--------	------	----------------



3.15pm	Craigielea Service <i>led by Margaret Stewart</i>
--------	--

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Many, many thanks for all your contributions over the summer.

The clients at Instant Neighbour don't go away on holiday!

There have been times when your delivery was all that was on the shelves.

So again a big *Thank You* and keep the contributions coming!



Flower Calendar

August

5	Mrs S. Brown
12	Mrs E. Cromarty
19	Mrs D. Brass
26	Mrs L. Reid



Aster
September's
flower

September

2	Mrs M. McLeod
9	Flower Fund
16	Ms. L. Howie
23	Mrs C. Black
30	Mrs J. Rennie

October

7	Mrs P. Stalker
14	Mrs R. Wright
21	Mrs S. Towns
28	Mrs S. Taylor

Prayer:



With the Creator's eye,
may I see the beauty
before me.

As the mirror and light
highlight,

let me see the potential

not the imperfection;

the unique feature,

not the blemish.

In the eye of my Redeemer,

help me remember

that I am loved.

Amen.

Acknowledgement :This extract is taken from "Word of Life : Pray Now " and is used with permission.

"Word of Life" publications are available from www.standrewpress.com

Dear Friends

Where has the summer gone? Where has the year gone? Before we know it, we shall be hurtling towards 2019 and then on to a new decade.

I remember sometime at the turn of the millennium hearing people talk about 2020 and thinking why bother about giving it any thought as it's too far off. Now it's not and the frequently heard phrase 'having 20/20 vision', is very pertinent and useful as a tool for reflection and planning.



'20/20 vision' in optometry (mainly a scale used in USA) is a term used to judge the sharpness and clarity of our sight. Across 20 feet if someone sees letters clearly then they might have what is described as 20/20 vision. Someone with 20/40 vision can see clearly at 20 feet what a person with better clarity of vision may be able to see at 40 feet. Of course, with the addition of lenses, we can improve our vision.

When it comes to the saying 'seeing with 20/20 vision' we often use that to describe how well we can envisage the future and importantly how well we can plan, adapt and create a strategy for being successful both in the present and the future.

Over the summer I started thinking about our own 2020 future for Mannofield. What vision do we continue to follow? How well are we doing with our aim to be a 'Church with a heart for the Community' and a 'Church at the heart of the Community'? What are our strengths, weaknesses and objectives? What community are we talking about if plans for Union are fulfilled and the Community we serve expands and becomes very different even though the core missional objective remains the same?

I am sure in the coming months I will reflect more on a '20/20 vision', talk it through with others and share thoughts from the chancel. It's important to take an objective look at this as I believe a Church that doesn't operate with a continuing model of reflection is one that can too easily become out of touch and ultimately fail in what God wants for the Church in a particular generation.

The good news is we have been given a lens to help us with our vision - in fact more than one. The Bible, as the Word of God, is the vision aid that God has given us to help us make sense of purpose and evaluate the appropriateness of our work and focus. The Holy Spirit is a second lens that God makes available to us to use for determining our patterns of work and energising it as we follow God's will.

I always like to look to the future and see potential. The future looks good and I am excited about it – no matter the challenges.

It was Paul who explained to us that we might in the present see the future only dimly, but he promised that with God's help the future (and what He wants us to do) will become clearer (1 Cor 13:12). I trust God and trust us as a congregation to fulfil God's plan for us.

God Bless

Keith

A radical new Church of Scotland?



As we have heard the General Assembly in May adopted a very different spirit from that which has been known at the Assembly for quite a while. It is almost as if the Assembly finally woke up to the fact that the Church of Scotland faces a challenge of 'changing society' and 'declining National Church'. The fact of the matter is these issues are not new! This has been the case I would say since the 1980s but the Church persevered with old models, traditional practises and with an existing bias towards Church Courts, Regulations and Legislation as the framework on what we do and are allowed to awakened to the fact that some things need to change. In particular I think the movement towards a recognition that local Churches and Presbyteries should have more autonomy and freedom in pursuing local initiatives that are appropriate. The shape of change, though broadly similarly radical in nature, can never be prescriptive as what works in one place may not work in another. In a forum for Church of Scotland Ministers, a colleague shared a wonderful open letter to his congregation upon return from the General Assembly. With his permission I include it below as it perfectly summarises the current position in the Church and the sense of the spirit of the need for change that I, and the majority of my colleagues, have at this time.

"Dear friends, What a privilege it is to minister alongside you!

I have great news to share with you! There are some 2.2 billion Christians in the world, roughly about a third of the world's population. And in a country like China, where there were only 4 million Christians 80 years ago, there are now 67 million, and growing at a rate of about 7% per annum! So the worldwide Church is, as we say in Church circles, "in good heart!"

Now the bad news! In the Church of Scotland we have been in constant decline numerically for the last 60 years. In the last 10 years our membership has gone from half a million down to 336,000, losing on average about 15,000 members per annum. And you and I both know that not all members come along regularly and get actively involved in the life of the Church, so cut to the chase, we are in a spot of bother! To be honest, we are facing the final demise of the Church of Scotland as we presently know it. One of our elderly members said to me recently, "The young folk of today don't come to Church anymore, so it'll be the end when we go!" The number of ministers will also fall in the next 5 years from 932 to 611. In the sunny worldwide picture, that is the dark cloud that now hangs over us. We now live in a secular Scotland and, like much of Europe, we have seen the decline of Christianity in our land. It is easy to say that folk are not interested anymore in the Christian faith and that is partly true, even though there is some evidence to suggest that many are interested in the Christian faith, just not in the way we serve it in the institution we know as the Church of Scotland. Is it not our task to make people interested in the Gospel again?

A radical new Church of Scotland?



We have two choices. We can ignore this picture and continue decline until we fade away, or we can try, with God's help, to do something about it. I'm going for the latter option and I challenge you to choose it too!

I am not telling you something that you don't already know, deep in your heart. Look around you at Church, in worship and at various meetings, and we know that grey is the predominant colour. We cannot keep the show, as we know it, on the road for much longer. Can life come back to these dry bones? Yes it can! Not by a resurgence of the old ways, but by letting God's Spirit breathe new life in new ways through his Church. What does that mean for us? It means radical change – if you thought a few new hymns was troubling, then you ain't seen nothing yet! To our joint shame, the Church has been too slow to change these last 60 years – WE have been slow to change these last 60 years – this is our last wake up call before the snooze button gives up on us!

Radical change, what does that look like? In some places it is already starting, with new ways of Church emerging. It could mean some give up their Church building and join with other Churches nearby to share resources; it will mean looking at new ways in which the Church can connect with community, an outward looking Church; it will mean letting go of old ways that are now out-dated. To date, many Churches have stubbornly refused to change, but they will have to. May God grant us all the courage to follow Jesus anew into the unknown. Whilst there is inevitably a measure of sadness at letting go of the past, there is a greater measure of excitement as we seek to meet God's challenge to us today!

What now? The General Assembly has asked it's Council of Assembly to produce a three year radical plan that will hopefully strike at the heart of our structures to make them lean and fit for purpose; our Presbytery is tasked to be robust and imaginative in planning with Churches for the road ahead and this inevitably will lead to bold decisions being taken.

It will be a different Church but the question is, 'are you willing to help re-build it?'

Your friend and fellow minister,"

In Mannofield we took bold steps (some would say radical) when we planned, raised money and developed our buildings. However, the challenge facing the whole Church of Scotland is one that we face along with our neighbouring congregations in Aberdeen Presbytery. Over the coming months and years we will need to sit down, reflect, pray and see what vision God has for us for the next three years and more!

Jesus gives us hope. He said 'Follow me...make disciples...do not be afraid...I will be with you!' With that assurance we seek God as we travel this journey of change together.

Keith

WELCOME Holly, Matt and family

Greetings Mannofield Church

I want to take a moment to say thank you and introduce the parish to my family! First, we are so very thankful for all the kindness and generosity bestowed upon our family before we arrived and then when we arrived in Aberdeen. We pulled up to the Midstocket manse as strangers in a strange land and walked in to a shining example of radical hospitality. The words “thank you” hardly seem adequate, but from the bottom of our hearts, Thank You!

So, who are these Texans among you? Well, I am a mother of four amazing kiddos, Sarah (12), Gideon (9), Micah (9), and Ezekiel (4). I am also the wife of Matthew, a drama teacher, starting his fifteenth year of teaching and first year at St. Machar's Academy. Matt and I met in university and have been married for almost fifteen years.

After getting an undergraduate degree in English, I went to seminary to get my Master of Divinity and then eventually a Master of Counselling. I have spent the last ten years serving as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA and working as a school counsellor.

Matt and I were ready for a change and after lots of prayer and encouragement decided to follow God's call to serve the Church of Scotland. I am delighted that I get to serve the congregation for nine months as I complete my familiarization placement.

A familiarization placement sounds fancy, but simply means that I need to spend time getting to know Scottish Culture and understanding the inner and outer working of the Church of Scotland. I hope to meet each of you and learn about your families. I also hope to help the Mannofield Church reach some of its dreams and become a small piece of the fabric. I have no doubt that God has placed me with you for this season, and I am delighted to see what is around the corner.

If you have some time, I hope you will join me for a cup of tea and some storytelling.

Shalom,

Holly Smith



To attend an international summit, a businessman has to catch a flight at 5.00am.

He has already packed his case, and is getting dressed in the dark to avoid disturbing his wife.

His main concern is his socks, which are clean, but not in pairs. He has 16 black socks and 18 white socks.

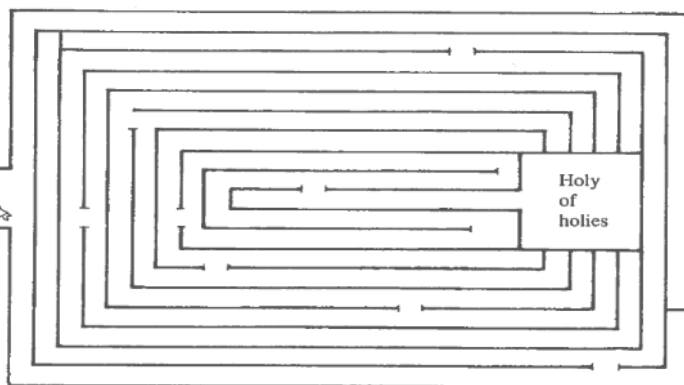
How many does he need to be certain of having a matching pair?



BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS (ACTS 16:31)

- | | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| 1 In which city did the crowd attack Paul and Silas? | ----- | v. 12 |
| 2 Paul prayed for an evil spirit to leave a fortune- | ----- | v. 18 |
| 3 After being beaten Paul and Silas were put in | ----- | v. 23 |
| 4 Who was ordered to guard them? | ----- | v. 23 |
| 5 Their feet were also fastened in | ----- | v. 24 |
| 6 When were Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns? | ----- | v. 25 |
| 7 What were the other prisoners doing? | ----- | v. 25 |
| 8 What caused the foundations of the prison to shake? | ----- | v. 26 |
| 9 At once all the prison doors flew | ----- | v. 26 |
| 10 And whose chains came loose? | ----- | v. 26 |
| 11 When he awoke, the jailer thought the prisoners had | ----- | v. 27 |
| 12 What did he threaten to do to himself? | ----- | v. 27 |
| 13 Paul shouted 'Don't harm | -----' | v. 28 |
| 14 The jailer, trembling, asked 'What must I do to be | -----' | v. 30 |
| 15 Paul answered 'Believe in the Lord | -----' | v. 31 |
| 16 The jailer's first act was to wash their | ----- | v. 33 |
| 17 He afterwards prepared a meal for them at his | ----- | v. 34 |

Get the box
into the
holy of holies.



Trees and Shrubs of the Bible

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

ACACIA
ALMOND
CEDAR
FIG
FIR
MYRTLE
OAK
OLIVE
PALM
PINE
POMEGRANATE
POPLAR
VINE
WILLOW



Fix the words given into their right places in the grid. A word has been inserted to start you off.

3 Letters

LOT

INN

4 Letters

EVE

URI

AMEN

BOAT

TENT

ADAM

GLOW

ATAD

WASH

BIRD

5 Letters

TRUST

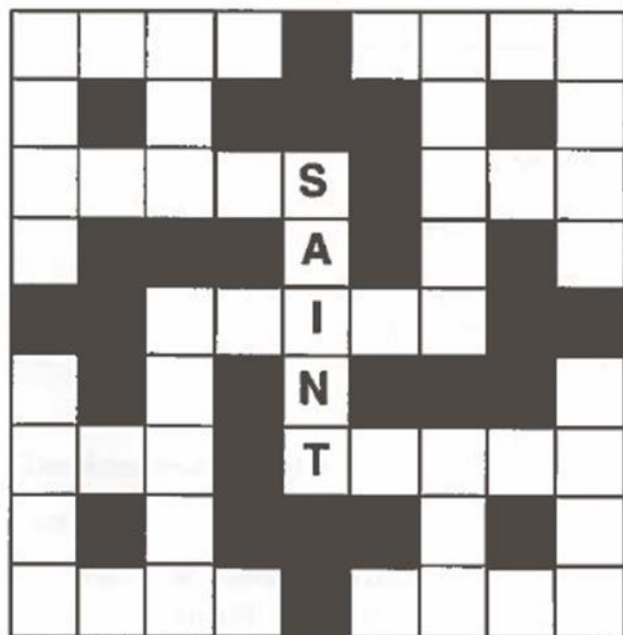
TRIBE

AREAS

TITUS

SAINT

OLIVE



Summer answer: There were 15 bees in the hive!

SUNNY WEATHER ENCOURAGES MORE TO WALK TO CHURCH

Sunday 22 July's travel survey at the Church door repeated a similar exercise in January.



At 155, overall attendance saw a modest increase. There was no real change in the number choosing to drive to church (60 as against 63), but another 60 walked, almost twice as many as in January. It's not possible to be certain, but as car passengers fell from 45 to 30, it also looks likely that fewer people accepted lifts.

So what have we learned? There's no doubt that the weather played a significant part in the increase it being warm and sunny in July, a world away from the miserable January conditions. Obviously, there are some who don't believe that there's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes!!

But there's another, subtler, message. The number of cars brought to church barely changed between January and July.

Looking more closely, the average journey time for car drivers was only seven minutes, meaning that by any standard a significant number of trips were just a few minutes long.

Now I'm by no means anti-car, but I'm strongly pro-walking. If you are fit enough, could you join me in wearing out shoe leather instead of your car's engine?

Alistair Stark, Convenor, Eco Congregation Committee

Mannofield Church: an Eco- Congregation in action !



THANK YOU to all who recently donated furniture and household goods to help set up Midstocket manse for Holly and Matt Smith and their family - see the Article by Holly on page 6



InSpire dates 2018/19

2018	Copy deadline	2019	Copy deadline
October	20 September	February	18 January Mini InSpire
November	25 October Mini InSpire	Easter Community edition (March/April)	14 February for March issue (as Good Friday is 19 April)
December Community edition	8 November for 2 December distribution	May	25 April Mini InSpire
		June	21 May

Moves and Changes



** Can you spot the 3 Abba songs scattered about this piece? **

I've not quite left you all in Mannofield yet, but here is a summary of my highlights before I go permanently to Inverness at the end of September to be with my husband, David.

We have just completed (survived, no enjoyed!) Professor Potty Holiday Club (see back page). One of my prayers when coming here was that God would add to our number of children and young families. He has wonderfully answered that prayer.

Prayer, as you know, is not an ADD ON to being a Church; it is her fuel. I do hope I have modelled this conviction by joining in online and on Wednesday mornings for group prayer for the needs of the community as well as pastoral needs within hospitals and homes.

Teamwork is the Name of the Game and I have been blessed to work with many of you in prayer, Holiday Club, Spill the Beans Sunday Worship, (Catriona, Thank you for the Music!) and daily with Administrator par excellence, Jean, as well as Church officer Nick.

Sifting through my resources, I found a Pastoral Care Discussion Paper for the team and I hope I have been a resource myself for this group and others - just a go-to person for ideas or to talk something through. I enjoyed working with the Guild in Northcote Lodge and Craigielea.

Of course, Keith and I have had our Team Times too. It has been a joy to share the workload with your Minister of Word and Sacrament.

As you know, a Deacon is often described as a Minister of Word and Service. I must not forget Café Connect, where coffees and iced water have made refreshments so easy. My almost year and a half is nearly up, but I have a wedding to conduct on 14 September and a sermon on 16 September. I will enjoy a crossover period with Rev Holly Smith.

I Have a Dream job to work Presbytery-wide within Inverness Church of Scotland. Please pray the Lord will make my dreams and prayers come true! Let me leave you with the chorus of CH4 Hymn 532 *"O Lord, with Your eyes set upon me,*

Gently smiling, you have spoken my name.

All I longed for, I have found by this water,

At Your side, I will seek other shores."

With thanks to you all for your friendship and fellowship.

Deacon Dot

Mannofield Church Book Club

5 September "Stoner"

by John Williams

"William Stoner enters the University of Missouri at nineteen to study agriculture. A seminar on English literature changes his life, and he never returns to work on his father's farm. Stoner becomes a teacher.

He marries the wrong woman. His life is quiet, and after his death his colleagues remember him rarely. Yet with truthfulness, compassion and intense power, this novel uncovers a story of universal value. Stoner tells of the conflicts, defeats and victories of the human race that pass unrecorded by history, and reclaims the significance of an individual life. A reading experience like no other, itself a paean to the power of literature, it is a novel to be savoured."

For more information about Mannofield Book Group contact Niki Anderson on 01224 743484 or nnikibob@aol.com.



TABLE TOP SALES



Mannofield Church Balmanno Hall

Saturday 20 October

Saturday 24 November

10am - 12 noon

Admission Free

Contact: Sandy 01224 311261

THURSDAY FLY CUP RETURNS!

If you would like to have an afternoon out to meet with friendly folks and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a fine piece then *please* come and join us.



**Mannofield Church
2.00pm – 3.30pm**

Costing only £2.50

Put the dates in your diary

Second Thursday every month.....

11 October, 8 November, 13 December
10 January and so on until May 2019.

There will be different fun activities to enjoy before the fly cup, perhaps a quiz (not too difficult!), table games, demonstrations etc.

COME ALONG,

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

We look forward to seeing you,
THURSDAY, 11 October at 2.00pm.

Need transport?

Call the church office 01224 310087 to arrange.



**CRAFT FAIR
Mannofield Church
Great Western Road
Saturday 3 November
10.00am – 4.00pm**

A feast for the eye & gifts to buy

Come along with friends

ADMISSION FREE

Glass, Textiles, Baking, Jewellery,
Cards & More

Finish the outing in our lovely café
for coffee, tea or lunch

PUT THE DATE in your DIARY!

MANNOFIELD CHURCH BOWLING CLUB



The indoor session starts on Friday 28 September.

The club meets on Friday afternoons in the Balmanno Hall from 2– 4pm.

New members will be made very welcome.

Flat shoes should be worn and bowls could be supplied for beginners.

For further information contact:

Yvonne Allan – ☎ 01224 326840

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



20 September

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3pm

Come and join us

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £5

Need transport?

Contact: Lynn Allan

☎ 01224 323206

We look forward to welcoming our regular friends and meeting new ones.

MANNOFIELD GUILD



A NEW SESSION A NEW THEME 6 NEW PROJECTS

to support, to find out about and to raise money for!

The Monthly Coffee Mornings start on

THURSDAY

6 September

10.00 - 11.30am

Balmanno Hall



FIRST Guild Meeting

Tuesday 11 September

Balmanno Hall at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

SOMETHING DIFFERENT



Last year we “yarn bombed” trees at Crathes.

This year we are going to decorate the railings in front of the church for the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WW1.

Want to be involved?

Pop in on a Thursday morning and find out how. (Knit, crochet, make poppies or “scarves” for the metal handrails).

Add a name to a cross for a family member.

Bring any memorabilia from WW1 for a display.

CHURCH CONTACTS



Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk	01224315748
Parish Assistant	Dot Getliffe	dgetliffe@churchofscotland.org.uk	07766910171
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	01224310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@gmail.com	01224322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	01224743484

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER



Disjunctions:

Margaret Davidson
Karen Powrie

Deaths:

Mrs Ethel Harvey, 18 June
Miss Iris Gordon, 30 June

CYRENIANS - 50 years of service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service takes place on Sunday 30 September.



For those facing homelessness or extreme hardship, finding even the most basic of foodstuffs can be an extreme challenge.

The Cyrenians who work with some of the North East's most vulnerable people are marking 50 years of service this year. Accordingly with your support and generosity we would like to support their work through collecting the appropriate foodstuffs at our Harvest Celebration.

The Charity will accept: tinned foods, dried items (with a long shelf life), fruit and vegetables, supermarket gift cards (to restock various foods when the charity's stocks run low later in the winter). It is also looking for toiletries including men's and women's disposable razors, deodorants, gloves, socks and underwear.

Please help by supporting our collection on 30 September.

Harvest Friendship Lunch

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service takes place on Sunday 30 September.



Following the Service, a lunch is planned either in Café Connect or the Balmanno Hall (depending on numbers).

This lunch provides the perfect opportunity for enjoying fellowship within our 'Church Family'.

The cost of the 2 course Lunch will be £5 per person.

During September sign-up sheets will be placed around the church and available for people to add their names.

Please sign-up at the earliest possible opportunity !

Professor Potty and the Holiday Club Team

had a great few days exploring Bible Stories through crafts, drama, parachute games, singing up beat songs and so much more!

We had on average 17/18 youngsters of Primary age joining the fun from 13 and 15 August. There will be photos on the church website very soon so that we can relive the action and everyone can see how God answered our prayers!

Thanks to all the team members who worked hard.

The snacks and crafts were especially well received!

Deacon Dot Getliffe, Coordinator Holiday Club



Mary's Meal Backpacks

Since The Backpack Project began in 2005, it has captured the imagination of thousands of people. More than 500,000 filled backpacks have been sent from supporters across the UK and Ireland to children receiving Mary's Meals.

The Guild once again rose to the occasion this year and collected numerous filled backpacks for this most deserving of charities. The photo shows a small sample.

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/the-backpack-project>

