



MINI INSPIRE



christian
aid
week
12-18 MAY



Photo credit: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Jebbeh Konneh is heavily pregnant. Her sister recently died in childbirth and Jebbeh fears she may be next: 'I'm afraid. I pray, when that day comes, God will help me to deliver safely, so that I can have a bouncing baby and I'll be healthy.'

MANNOFIELD CHURCH of SCOTLAND

Scottish registered charity SC 001680
www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk
Tel 01224 310087

Dear Friends

kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk



April saw tragedy with the victimisation of Christians attending Easter Sunday Services in Sri Lanka. Hotels were also targeted perhaps as an attempt to kill international visitors to the country. The perpetrators say this act of violence is 'done in the name of their religion' and 'by the command of God' against the followers of a 'false religion'.

The truth is, whether such attacks are against Christians or, as in Christchurch, New Zealand, an attack against the followers of Islamic faith, there is absolutely nothing that could possibly be 'religious' in the reason or 'the act' itself about such actions. 'Religious' means something coming from God. These acts and others like them are just pure evil. No matter the source, or target, these are the actions of depraved and evil human beings. There is no honour – no faithfulness to God – in such atrocity.

In the face of such evil we often are asked to consider how we might respond as a Church. Sometimes we might question the worth of all that we do to influence and direct our world, for we recognise ourselves part of a world that is so far removed from God's 'peaceable, just and rights-respecting Kingdom'.

We will always be called to pray for the victims of tragedy and the perpetrators. We will always be called to pray for God's spirit to influence people's lives and the world we live in. We might ask the point of what we do in terms of the 'bread and butter' of church life – the endless committee meetings, the events that only a handful of people in the scale of things attend, the worship that is - on a given-Sunday - not our cup of tea.

I think the truth of the matter is, that in the face of such horrific evil as witnessed in Sri Lanka, the shootings in Northern Ireland, knife attacks in London, the violence on our own city's streets, we the Church need to just keep 'doing our thing'.

We must continue to speak the words of peace, reconciliation, comfort and hope and seek to influence our cities and world .

God Bless

Keith

Blessing



The sheltering wings of the
Father be your refuge,
The encompassing love of the
Son be your strength,
The upholding of the Holy Spirit be your
peace.
Each night and each day, each day and
each night.

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

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May

Stand together with mums this Christian Aid Week 12-18th May

This year Christian Aid is focusing on the stories of women in Sierra Leone like Jebbeh, pictured.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant, her sister just died giving birth, and now she fears she could be next.

In Sierra Leone, Christian Aid is dedicated to working alongside local communities, through partner RADA to build bigger, better health clinics and improve hygiene practices so that mums and babies can survive and thrive.

RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency) is a local NGO based in Bo and works towards securing livelihoods of marginalised people in Sierra Leone.

If you can help Mannofield's effort for Christian Aid please contact Ann Kindness on 01224 39336 or ann@aohs.uk.com



From 12-18 May, our church will join with more than 20,000 others across the country for the sake of people like Jebbeh.

Christian Aid will deliver 7 million envelopes to local neighbours across the UK and Ireland, to raise money for our global neighbours in need. It's an opportunity to reach out to our community and to make sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and a safe place to live.

By helping to collect you are contacting people in the parish who may not normally come to church. More importantly you are also helping to save millions of lives.

Can you deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes to your neighbours to help our church raise money this Christian Aid Week? Contact Ann Kindness at ann@aohs.uk.com or on 01224 319336 if you can get involved.



Children and Family Worker - Mannofield Parish Church

Hello everyone, I'm Dörte (that's the "official" German spelling) and I am the new *Children and Family Worker at Mannofield Parish Church*. Quite a few of you will have seen me in the Church Office or Café Connect by now, but I didn't want to miss out on the chance to introduce myself properly.

I moved back to Aberdeen in January 2019 after having spent a year here doing my Master's Degree in English Literature at the University of Aberdeen back in 2011. In the meantime, I studied a bit more back home in Bonn, Germany, and then decided I had better earn some money at some point, so started working as an employment officer at the Job Centre. I stayed there for almost four years before deciding to move on and work as a PR executive for a Bonn-based foundation.

Now I'm living in beautiful Rosemount with my boyfriend John, who was quite an influence on the decision to go back to Aberdeen. In my free time, I enjoy reading, board games, photography, playing the piano, going to the theatre, the occasional pub quiz, trying out new (cake) recipes and seeing, or respectively, staying in touch with, friends and family all over Europe.

Dörte Griesse



Time flies when you are having fun

Well, that has certainly been true for me over the past nine months as your associate minister.



I have laughed along with the Guild, told a joke or two in worship, sat with the lonely and heartbroken, officiated a dozen or so funerals, made friends with the café ladies, schemed with Jean in the office, played with the primary school children, dreamed out loud with Keith and eaten way too many scones.

You taught me how to understand some Doric, recognize distinct American words, speak slower, listen longer and breathe when I get a bit overwhelmed by this immigrant experience.

Learning how to navigate a new culture when your home culture overpowers, challenges even the strongest people; thankfully, I've had you to walk beside me.

My time with you is quickly coming to an end, but I still have a couple of months. I hope we can make the best of it.

God Bless
Holly

Church Flowers

Many thanks to all who deliver and arrange the church flowers and also to those who write suggestions for recipients.



Easter Sunday's Heart of Love

Members who receive the flowers are always delighted and most appreciative.

We would welcome members who have never used the flower book to note down anyone who they think would be pleased to receive flowers. The flower book is located on the table as you enter the Sanctuary from the side door.

We are delighted to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, house moves, new grandchildren all of which can be shared in the flower book. If the reason for suggesting a recipient is of a more sensitive nature, we would ask that this be communicated instead to either Keith or the church office.

With your continuing support, the flowers which enhance our Sanctuary every Sunday can be enjoyed by our wider Church community.

Maureen Drummond - 01224 315972

Alison Lobban - 01224 317609

e-mail: info@nearestanddearest.co.uk

Garden Chat 2

I hope that some of you will have taken up my earlier suggestion (in the Easter InSpire) to have a go at potatoes in containers. There is still time to plant them and you may even be able to get a bargain from reduced prices for seed potatoes in some of the garden centres. In my first edition of Garden Chat I mentioned the white carpet of snow which at that time covered most of our gardens. Today brings a different colour as we welcome spring with a yellow carpet of daffodils. On several of the approach roads into Aberdeen we see many large mass plantings of these bulbs which give a wonderful display and there can't be many gardens without a clump or two of these most popular flowers. South of Stonehaven you will see fields of yellow which belong to the Grampian Bulb Growers Association and these bulbs are grown for marketing. The daffodils (or *narcissus* which is the family name) come in a wide range of colours and forms from the small multiheaded variety 'tête a tête' to the large single headed white flowers of 'mount hood'. A large double which is reliable to give a good show year after year is called 'ice follies' and you can see a display at its best on the left hand side of the road just west of the entrance to Aberdeen Crematorium. Specialist growers offer a wide choice of varieties and often they introduce a few new ones which can cost up to £25 per bulb.



The Aberdeen Royal Horticultural Society mounts a spring flower show in the Winter Gardens (29 April National Gardening week at Duthie Park) and there you will see a wide range of daffodils grown to perfection – well worth a visit.



Once the flowers have withered it is best to pick off the seed heads before they begin to swell and please be patient and allow time for the leaves to die back. I know they look untidy and you want to get ready planting out bedding plants but it is important to allow the goodness in the leaves to die back into the bulbs which builds them up for next year. The message is don't cut off the leaves and stalks, let them die back and this will ensure the bulbs will benefit. Sometimes daffodils fail to flower known as 'coming blind' i.e. all leaves and no flowers. If this happens it is worth lifting and replanting with a sprinkling of a basic fertiliser mixed into some compost under the bulbs. Failure to flower can happen in a clump and this is usually a sign that the bulbs need dividing and given more space.

If you have been growing seeds inside on a window ledge it is important to transplant them so that they don't become leggy and drawn from overcrowding. Transferring from a seed tray into pots or plastic trays needs careful handling. Using a dibber, or just a pencil, loosen the seedling and gently ease it from the adjacent seedlings. Do not grip it by the stem but by the leaves as stem damage can cause the plant to rot. Make a hole in the new compost and gently drop in the seedling. Gently firm it into its new home and water it in. If you were using seed compost this does not contain the essential elements to encourage healthy growth so the potting compost should be one that does e.g. John Innes no.2 or a general potting compost.

This time of the year brings rapid growth so keep an eye on any cuttings you have taken as these may need re-potting and if they have established a good root run you could start giving a weekly liquid feed. Most folk by now will have given their grass its first cut and raking out the moss and dead grass will help. Remember if you have used a spring feed on your lawn be sure to read the instructions with reference to disposal of the grass cuttings to see what is said about them on the compost heap.

With fine mild weather enjoy the fresh air and the exercise you can get from being active in your garden; keep the hoe going on the weeds!



John R. Little

Congregational Register



Disjunctions:

Mrs. L. Butler
Mr. A. Anderson
Mrs. P. Middleton
Miss C. Robertson

New Members:

Mr. Edward and Ms. Aileen Angus

Deaths:

28 March Mrs. Betty McNaughton
29 March Mrs. Valerie McKenzie
10th April Mr. Michael Robertson
14th April Mrs. Lindsay Ellington

Short Mat Bowling Club

Our Bowling Club has 21 members at the moment and is a friendly happy group. We have been struggling this year with rolling out and putting away the mats, as our membership is very mature! We were wondering if there are any stronger, younger people in the congregation or organisations that could help us with this task. The club starts at 1.45pm and finishes at 3.45pm every Friday from the end of September to the end of April.

Indoor bowling is great fun and we have a lot of laughs at our skills (or lack of them). There's tea and biscuits at half time!!

If you can help us in any way we would be delighted to hear from you. You do not need to join the club, but of course you would be most welcome to do so.

Pat Richardson, President.

Email: tomandpatrich@gmail.com

TABLE TOP SALES Balmanno Hall



Saturdays
25 May
15 June
13 July

10am - 12noon
ADMISSION FREE

To book a table to sell your own items contact

Sandy ☎01224 311261

I wish to thank everyone for their cards, good wishes and visits while I am in hospital.

Thank You

They are very much appreciated.

Audrey Milne

Mannofield Church Book Club

We continue to have interesting discussions about the books that we read and, as with previous years, we have included a mixture of fiction, non fiction and autobiographical books in our reading list.

The May Book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. It focuses on 29 year old Eleanor Oliphant, a social misfit who becomes enamoured of a singer she sees performing named Johnnie Lomond who she believes she is destined to be with. It deals with themes of isolation and loneliness.

We are always happy to welcome new members so if you are interested in joining us please contact Niki Anderson at nikima62@gmail.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

Wed 8	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 12	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 15	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 19	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 22	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 26	10am 3.15pm	Morning Worship Craigielea Service Rev Holly Smith
Wed 29	10.30am	Morning Worship



THANK YOU to all who helped and supported the recent JUMBLE SALE.
£879 was raised for the Development Fund.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Pentecost in the Park

Sunday 9 June

2.30 – 4pm Hazlehead

Rock Band - Magician

Storytelling - Face Painting

Balloon Modelling

Fun for all!

More information in June InSpire

NOTE

Deadline for June InSpire is

21 May

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

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

FLOWER CALENDAR

MAY

5 Miss J. May
12 Mrs. K. Martin
29 Mrs. M. Bonner
26 Mrs. S. McAdam



Lily of the Valley
May's Flower

An Evening with



Granite City Brass

SCOTTISH FIRST SECTION CHAMPIONS 2014

Est. 1850

Granite City Brass is returning once again to **Mannofield Church** to give a concert on:

Sunday 19 May at 7pm

Please come along and enjoy an evening of music in beautiful surroundings.

Tickets cost £10 (child £5) and will include ice cream!

MANNOFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Thursday 16 May

Balmanno Hall

Lunch served 1pm

Entertainment 2-3pm

Cuppa at 2.30pm

Cost: £5

All welcome

Need transport?

Contact: Lynn Allan

☎ 01224 323206





MUSICAL MEMORIES

SING ALONG

AT

**MANNOFIELD
CHURCH**



YOU are invited

EVERYONE is welcome

THURSDAY 9TH MAY

2.00 – 3.30PM

TICKETS ONLY £2.50

AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDED



Call 01224 867028 to reserve your tickets

OR

Collect from the church office

Countesswells Road

Monday – Thursday mornings