June 2019

Vol.LVII No. 4



INSPIRE



# Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019 2.30pm — 4.30pm Hazlehead Park Music with 'Ranan', Storytelling, Face Painting, Magician, Balloon-Modelling Closing Praise at 4pm — All Welcomet

Organised by congregations of Crargebackler Cults. Holburn West Knownenn Mannaded And Chrargeback

MANNOFIELD CHURCH of SCOTLAND Scottish registered charity SC 001680 www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk Tel 01224 310087

		CHURCH CA	LEND	AR				
	JUN		JULY continued					
Sun 2	10am	Morning Worship Communion	Sun 28	10am	Morning Worship			
Wed 5	10.30am	Midweek Service		3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service -			
Sun 9	10am	Morning Worship			Led by Chrissie Smith			
	2.30pm	PRAISE IN THE PARK	Wed 31	10.30am	Midweek Service			
Wed 12	10.30am	Midweek Service	Elow					
Sun 16	10am	Morning Worship	FIOV	ver Ca	alendar			
Wed 19	10.30am	Midweek Service	<b>JUNE</b> 9 Miss C 16 Mr. G.	. Smith & Mrs. M. Fa	Iconer			
Sun 23	10am	Morning Worship	23 Flower 30 Flower		Rose June's birth flower			
Wed 26	10.30am	Midweek Service	7 Mrs. B 14 Mrs. E					
Sun 30	10am	Morning Worship	21 Mrs. S		Larkspur			
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service	20 10113. 0		July's birth flower			
		Rev Blackwood - Communion	TA	BLE TO	P SALES no Hall			
	JUL	/	S	aturday	15 June			
Wed 3	10.30am	Midweek Service	S	aturday				
Sun 7	10am	Morning Worship		10am - 1	2 noon ON FREE			
Wed 10	10.30am	Midweek Service						
Sun 14	10am	Morning Worship		Contact 01224 3				
Wed 17	10.30am	Midweek Service			SALE			
Sun 21	10am	Morning Worship	NOTE		orning services will			
Wed 24	10.30am	Midweek Service	continue services a		and Wednesday over the summer.			

#### **Rev. Keith Blackwood**

## THE MANSE

Email kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear Friends

Last year the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland closed with a slightly pessimistic and depressed air about the future of the Church. In the face of declining numbers, challenging economics and



questions about the diminishing connection the Church had within the current Scottish context, the solutions offered by the Councils of the Church in 2018 were seen to be far short of what is needed. The General Assembly told the officials of the Church that 'Radical Reform' was the only solution. Effectively the Assembly said – 'Come back next year with something better'.

As the 2019 Assembly comes to an end, we might say 'What a difference a year makes'. It's not that the challenge facing the Church has been eradicated or the concerns any less worrying. The reality the Church faces as a denomination is stark! However, what has changed is that this year's Assembly has been much more bullish and radical in what it has agreed, as we begin to reshape and reform the Church. Rather than a spirit of pessimism I am pleased to say that I sense optimism and confidence. The changes that will come are not just the defensive reactions of a Church seeing to stave off the end, but a Church recognising that change is not just necessary but appropriate and God directed. It will release the Church to do the work of God more efficiently and effectively for today's society under the direction of God's Spirit.

Locally, I am excited too about the prospects that I see for us in Mannofield as we plan some changes of focus in the coming year. One of the things I see as crucial just now is that we provide multiple ways for the members of our church, and others, to build a relationship with what we offer.

The updated database and changes to membership visiting, in conjunction with new ways of communicating 'the message', will allow people to connect in ways that suit them. For instance we are now podcasting. So if you miss Church Services I encourage you to try listening to the Sunday Sermon Podcast. We will issue instructions in due course but for now I suggest you follow the links posted weekly on the Mannofield Church Facebook page – or just search 'Mannofield Church Sermons' on Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor etc.

I think the future is exciting. Yes, we cannot deny the times are challenging, but the solutions to the challenges we face will see us move the Church in the direction God intends for us. It's all about making the message of God accessible to all people and we can take heart that God will direct our paths as we stay faithful to Him.

Kind Regards

Keith

**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who've been out pounding streets and doors for Christian Aid.

A big **Thanks** also to all those who contributed generously to the collection. We have raised over **£3000** at the date of *InSpire's* publication.



This will make a difference to people's lives.





## starting Thursday 29th August at 7pm (Vestry)

## Joining the Church is a big decision.

Come along over the course of 3 Thursday Evenings, and explore the basic Christian Beliefs and the traditions of the Church of Scotland.

This isn't a pass or fail test but an opportunity to share ideas about what these things mean to us.

After the course you would then decide whether you wanted to make a 'profession of faith' before the congregation during Sunday worship and so become a member of the Church of Scotland and Mannofield Parish Church.

## TRAIDCRAFT

Every day we are made aware that somewhere in the world millions still live in absolute poverty. They need the help Traidcraft can offer.



On the first Sunday of every month Mannofield Church has a Traidcraft **TRAIDCRAF** Stall in the Balmanno Hall after the morning service.

It stocks a variety of goods and other items can be ordered from the catalogues available.

Every purchase helps farmers and crafts people all over the world to trade their way out of poverty.

## **Boys' Brigade News**

Another fun filled year for boys in Anchor, Junior Section and Company Section is almost over.

On 17 May Company Section parents enjoyed a display of vaulting

horse and bar skills along with the table tennis competition final. A very close game this year. Our trophies and awards were presented by Battalion President Albert Smith and we'd like to congratulate all the award and trophy winners.

This year we were delighted to award Queens Badges to Owen Likely and Luke Machoille the top award in the Boys' Brigade and the culmination of two years of work. The boys received their badges at the Open Night and will be presented with certificates again at a special ceremony at BB HQ in front of parents and friends at the end of May.

We now start some outdoor summer activities. This year we are planning to climb Clachnaben and visit the zipwire park at Kincraig.

There is an evening at Codona's with laser tag, crazy golf and burgers on offer as well as the now traditional beach cookout in August.

We also have a group of boys going to the Braemar Gathering in September as stewards with Aberdeen Battalion.

With the warmer weather both Anchors and Juniors have enjoyed time at the local park along from the church. Swings and climbing structures are fun but the trees are even better. We can't

keep the boys off one tree in particular but they are kept from climbing too high and swinging on low branches is great fun - no trees were harmed during this activity!!

We restart in August so do get in touch if you know anyone who would enjoy BBs.

Anchor Boys for boys in P1 - P3 meets on Thursdays 6 - 7pm starting 5 September.

Junior Section for boys in P4 - P6 meets on

Thursdays 7 - 8.15pm starting 29 August.

Company Section for boys in P7 - S6 meets on

Fridays 7.45 - 10pm starting 30 August.

For more information.

- email info@40four.co.uk

- visit our website at www.40four.co.uk

- visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/44thaberdeenbb

- visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwDbZ4jgVYI3OLnQSn8ghw

## or search for '44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade'.

The adventure starts here - come and join in. Dave Tait, Captain,44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade







## Major reforms approved by General Assembly 20 May 2019

Major reforms to the governing structures of the Church of Scotland have been approved by the General Assembly.



Commissioners voted in favour of replacing the Council of Assembly with a new 12-person body called the Assembly Trustees from early June.

A chief officer, who will have oversight of budgets and staff, and other office bearers will be appointed by the body which will articulate strategic priorities.

Professor David Fergusson, convener of the Special Commission, said: "Our recommendations respond to a growing sense of urgency and attempt to kick start the process of radical reform. Doing nothing and continuing as we are is not an option."

The General Assembly also voted in favour of reducing administration costs within the central organisation of the Church by 20%-30% within two years.

The number of presbyteries will potentially be reduced from 45 to 12 in the coming years and better resourced with decision making powers devolved to them.

Professor Fergusson said: "The strategy is one of devolution – empowering the local church, support for its forms of ministry, stimulating mission in our parishes and beyond, planting new churches and a regional reorganisation that will better facilitate these processes."

Plans were approved to ensure Kirk Sessions are able to operate more efficiently.

Commissioners agreed to merge the Church and Society Council with the World Mission Council and the Ministries Council with the Mission and Discipleship Council by January 1, 2020.

CrossReach, the operating arm of the Social Care Council, will become a more self-sustaining and financially viable arms-length organisation but will retain close links with the Kirk.

Professor Fergusson said: "It is a programme of establishing a strong trustee body at the centre of the Church but also devolving power and resources to the regions and parishes. The Council of Assembly found it difficult to function as a trustee body because council conveners were voting members and they experienced a conflict of interest."

Professor Fergusson said some tough decisions to reduce staffing levels will have to be taken because they are at the same level as 20 years ago when the Church was much bigger.

"We have to act responsibly in relation to the money that people give very generously," he added.

"The Trustees will be a more powerful body than the Council of Assembly, there will be greater transparency and accountability and it will answer to the General Assembly."

Professor Fergusson described the mood among commissioners as generally positive.

"One former Moderator told me that he had been waiting for 50 years for this report," he said.

"There was urgency expressed at the General Assembly last year for radical reform and I hope it is a step in the right direction.

"We have taken some very necessary steps that I hope will encourage people to feel that their concerns are being heard and we are committed to regenerating local congregations around the country."

Professor Fergusson said the new trustee body had its work cut out to reform presbyteries and deal with new church plants and a surplus of buildings.

## Word Finder

Each of these letter triangles represents a four-letter word from which one letter has been removed. In all six cases the missing letter is the same. Can you work out what it is and restore it, to correct each word.





1		2		3		4		5		6
				7.						
8						9				
			50	10					-	
11	12		13		1	4.8	14		15	
2			10							
17		18	Γ				19	20		21
				22		23				
24						25	Γ			
				26						
27					No.	28	Γ		Г	

#### ACROSS

- During this the disciples feared they would drown (5)
- 4 An 8th century BC prophet (5)
- 7 The father of Geber (3) 1 Kings 4:19
- 8 The father of 3 wise sons (5) 1 Kings 4:31
- 9 In the 4th year of Solomon's he began to build the temple (5) 1 Kings 6:1
- 10 A serpent deceived her (3)
- Here Jesus raised a widow's son from death (4)
- 14 It's good from a distant land (4) Prev. 25:25
- 16 A tree bearing oily fruit (5)
- 17 Some fell on rocky places (4) Mark 45
- 19 Prepared for the Passover feast (4)
- 22 A vase (3)
- 24 Job sat among these (5) Job 28
- 25 Where sacrifices were offered (5)
- 26 He accused Hannah of getting drunk (3) 1 Samuel 1:14
- 27 Finished (5)
- 28 A friend of the apostle Paul (5) 2 Timothy 421

#### DOWN

- 1 A son of Jonah (5) Matthew 16:17
- 2 A capable son of Shemaiah (5) 1 Chron. 267
- 3 An animal Absalom was riding during a serious accident (4) 2 Sam 189
- 4 To engage for wages (4)
- 5 David's plea to God 'let your face \_\_\_\_\_ on your servant' (5) Psalm 31:16
- 6 High priest before Caiaphas (5)
- 12 A period of time (3)
- 13 A land east of Eden (3) Gen #16
- 14 King Saul's uncle (3) 1 Sam 14:50
- 15 'Lord, \_\_\_\_ is it?' (3) John 13:25
- 17 Divide (5)
- 18 A priestly garment (5) Ex 28-4
- 20 Frequently (5)
- 21 Paul bore these on his body (5) Gal. 6:17
- 22 To be put to some purpose (4)
- 23 At your finger end (4)

Find the answers to the clues and fit them in place. If your answers are correct, the central down column should give you another well-known Bible character.



Jesus often walked the shores of this sea

The title given to Jesus

The home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus

Jesus spoke mainly in this language

Known especially for cedar trees

The wife of Isaac

A learned Jew and great preacher (Acts 18).



"Phew! That was close — I just saw the Vicar on the street, but I managed to give him the slip ...."

"I'd like to say a few words about the roof fund ...."

## Solve and Search

Pick what you think is the correct answer to each question, then find it in the letter grid. Words may read either vertically or horizontally.

M	н	c	в	0	s	E	G	¥	P	т	P
В	A	0	I	R	T	N	м	A	R	¥	A
₽	W	М	J	т	Ε	N	I	L	E	E	U
H	J	м	A	R	P	F	J	H	Α	G	L
I	Е	A	C	A	H	I	A	I	0	Y	P
в	R	N	0	v	Е	s	C	s	L	N	0
0	υ	D	в	E	N	J	A	м	I	N	J
s	s	м	R	N	۷	0	L	0	۷	s	0
н	A	в	D	s	I	N	F	T	Е	т	s
Е	L	N	H	A	N	N	A	H	s	A	I
т	E	т	s	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	A
H	м	s	м	A	H	A	s	R	U	т	H

- 1 Who loved her mother-in-law? RUTH/RACHEL/RAHAB
- 2 A preacher who made tents PETER/THOMAS/PAUL
- 3 Who nursed the baby Moses? HIS MOTHER/AUNT/COUSIN
- 4 Which one was Joseph's brother? BENJAMIN/AARON/CAIN
- 5 Who was Joseph's father? ABRAHAM/ISAAC/JACOB
- 6 The lame son of Jonathan MAHALI/MEPHIBOSHETH/ MALACHI
- 7 The boy Samuel's mother HANNAH/LOIS/ELIZABETH
- 8 Joseph became ruler in which land? EGYPT/ASSYRIA/PALESTINE
- 9 Who was the first Christian martyr? BARNABUS/SILAS/STEPHEN

- 10 Ten were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai COMMANDMENTS/WARNINGS/ MESSAGES
- 11 Where is the Via Dolorosa? NAZARETH/JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM
- 12 David's work as a boy FARMER/FISHERMAN/SHEPHERD
- 13 Which birds fed Elijah during a famine? VULTURES/HAWKS/RAVENS
- 14 Who became king when 8 years old JOSIAH/JOASH/JEHU
- 15 Aaron made one of gold CALF/SHEEP/GOAT
- 16 Who was visited by the angel Gabriel? SARAH/MARY/HAGAR
- 17 Jesus ascended to heaven from this mountain OLIVES/MORIA/HERMON
- 18 Which of these was a river? ELIM/NILE/GILEAD

**February 2019 answer:** The farmer's wife had three baskets which each contained 33 eggs. These three baskets were then carried in a fourth larger basket, which thus contained 99 eggs.

### Liam Kerr MSP for North East Scotland

Recently I have been doing "street surgeries" around our area, in which I chap on people's doors in a set of streets and ask them what is not good in their world, or could be better. Then I go away and try to fix whatever they've raised. I enjoy these sessions immensely as it is important I do it without "colours", but simply with a view to meeting people and trying to make people's lives and communities better.



I am pleased to report that our area generally has a high level of satisfaction – but most of you will know that already. We seem to have a good community spirit, good amenities and are generally low on crime and anti-social behaviour.

However there are some matters which come up again and again on the doors: potholes of course (Cranford Road, Wellbrae Terrace take a bow!), speeding traffic and difficulties crossing (Great Western Road I'm looking at you!), and parking issues (hello Deeside Gardens!)

Many of you will have observed that these are matters, not for a local MSP, but for the Council. The poor Council officers have been deluged with letters from me asking for resurfacing, double yellows, traffic calming measures, new footpaths etc. Sometimes they agree to take action, sometimes they don't.

It is important to note I have a great deal of sympathy for the council as they are having to cope with some severe real-terms budget cuts again this year: £22million cut from their general revenue budget compared to last year. I understand that just over half of their budget goes on services that they must provide by law, meaning that it's the other services that bear the brunt of the cuts. Trying to reduce the shortfall in other ways than cuts are often unpopular, like introducing a charge for garden waste and increasing council tax by 4.5%. Unfortunately that can't cover everything and that means we won't get our roads done whenever I demand it!

That is disappointing and shows why I argue that local authorities need more autonomy to grow their economy and improve the lives of their residents. And if they do collect more from the eye-watering business rates they're forced to levy, surely we should be allowed to keep that extra amount in, and use it for, Aberdeen. So I'll keep fighting to improve our community where I can, and to improve our local Council's ability to do it.

Meanwhile, if you would like me to help out with anything or simply wish to contribute your ideas to what I'm doing in Holyrood, my details are below. Or grab me on a Sunday after the service to pass on your details and I'll be in touch!

#### Liam Kerr

MSP for North East Scotland Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Justice The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP Office: 0131 348 6973 www.liamkerr.org.uk



😏 Follow @liamkerrmsp



Ron Ferguson reflects on the season of Pentecost Life and Work June 2019 THE Christian church is not mad enough. That is one obvious 'take away' from the story of Pentecost.

It's a tale of a day of madness and mayhem; it also, though, points forward to what was destined to become a story of betrayal. So, fasten your seat belts for what will be a rollercoaster of gigantic proportions.



Like so many good stories, it begins with a birth. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church. It is the time when an exclusive little Jewish sect was transformed into an inclusive international movement of the spirit. It is therefore one of the greatest days in the Christian calendar.

That first Pentecost was, by all accounts, a strange, bewildering, experience – tongues of fire, speaking in strange languages and all the rest: so much so that bystanders said the disciples of **Jesus were drunk. It was all very confusing. We don't really know exactly what happened; but we** do know that it was interpreted within the framework of a famous prophecy from the book of Joel:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says the Lord, That I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy; your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; and on my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my spirit in those days.

Three features stand out for me: (1) right at the beginning of the Christian church, dreams and visions are regarded as important – (2)The Christian church is meant to be a community of men and women in equality: (3) The Christian church is to be a community of young and old: Your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams.

The birthday of the Christian church represents a very liberating vision. So where did it all go wrong?

Somewhere along the line the Church has surrendered what Paul calls "the glorious liberty of the children of God" surrendered its birthright for a mess of respectability and conformity and rectitude. What happened to the beautiful Pentecostal vision of the equality of men and women? Well, the men took over – the celibates, the priests, the ministers and the bishops. It was the old men who laid down the law. And how did a religion of radical undeserved grace morph into a community gripped by a profoundly heretical, antigospel workaholism?

THERE NEEDS TO BE A REBIRTHING OF OUR DREAMS. THERE'S SOMETHING VERY RADICAL AND DANGEROUS ABOUT PENTECOST.

That great dreamer of last century, Martin Luther King, who not long before he was assassinated expressed his dream of a nation of equality, men and women, black and white, old and young: *I* have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight – and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. The promise of the renewal of the church of Jesus Christ lies right back in that glorious madness, in that wonder-full mayhem.

Happy Birthday Church!

## MANNOFIELD CHURCH ECO CONGREGATION

#### WATCH THE BIRDIE - PART 2

Alistair Stark, Convenor, Eco Congregation Committee

In the Easter edition of InSpire, I talked about how few wee birdies frequent our new garden. That's slowly beginning to improve, with regular visits from a pair of bluetits and some sparrows and dunnocks. The robin is no longer around. Has that made a difference?

By the time you read this, the BBC Springwatch series may already have been broadcast, but you **may find it on iPlayer. It's based in the Cairngorms again this year and they're bound to find the** area teeming with wildlife. Of course the hills are not completely natural, having been long managed for grouse, sheep, forestry and skiing. Yet there are bugs, birds and beasts galore. **With spring at full tilt, I learn a bit more every day about what's in my garden. As I suspected,** there are quite a few showy exotic shrubs, but mostly weeds in other corners. The weeds get in **the way of the herbs we like to grow, so I've done quite a lot of digging. Guess what –** no worms, no grubs, almost dead soil. Another explanation for the paucity of birds.

So what am I going to do about it?

Well, the first thing is to start a woodpile with all the stray branches and twigs lopped off overgrown shrubs. Then there's an area which I'll sow with some wildflower seeds and otherwise leave to the Almighty to look after. Meantime, I'll compost as much as I can, for use next year. Eventually, that should please me, wildlife, the planet and the Almighty.

In short, work with nature, not against it.





## Happy News from across the Atlantic Alex Evangelista

We were delighted to recently learn that Alex has graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary.

God's Blessings Alex - you have a wonderful future ahead of you.

## **Congratulations to Holly**

There was a 100% approval for her Call to Mid Deeside Congregation in Torphins.

We're sorry she will be leaving us in a few months time.

Yet, we always knew that this would be the situation.

We're so glad she has found a wonderful Call to a congregation not so far from Aberdeen. We are also so grateful for her time with us.







## **CHURCH CONTACTS**

#### Minister

Associate Minister Children & Family Worker

Secretary

Church Officer

Session Clerk

Holly Smith Dörte Griesse Jean Sharman Nick Youngson Bob Anderson

Rev Keith Blackwood

kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk holly.smith@churchofscotland.org.uk DGriesse@churchofscotland.org.uk office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk nick.voungson@gmail.com

Nnikibob@aol.com

#### **Evening Prayer**

Loving and wise God, in my shadowy and dark 🔰 moments. come to me. make me to know Your presence, to listen and hear Your love in such inner experience and reveal to me what I need.

Enable me to be alongside others in their times of shade. not trying to fix or sort or make them better, accepting them as they are, trusting in Your grace for them, willing to sit with them and their shadow. AMEN

Acknowledgement : This extract is taken from "Stories of Encounter : Pray Now " and is used with permission. "Word of Life" publications are available from www.standrewpress.com

## WANTED

Can YOU deliver InSpire Magazines to the following streets ?



District 40 - Broomhill Road - 5 homes

District 45 - Abergeldie Terrace/ Braemar Place - 8 homes

District 62 - Wellbrae Terrace - 7 homes

District 66A - Woodend Place/ Crescent/ Terrace - 13 homes. If you can assist, please contact Church office.





#### RESUMES on

**Thursday 19 September Balmanno Hall** 

We hope to see you over the summer in Cafe Connect.



A cup of coffee shared with a friend is happiness tasted and time well spent.





Open Mon - Sat 9am - 4pm Closed Sun Tel 01224 318962

**VOLUNTEERS** REQUIRED

The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is 22 August Material for InSpire should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to: roddy@mccollassociates.com office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Enjoy the Summer - if we have one!!





#### WHEN?

#### Wednesdays during school holidays from 5.30 – 7pm 17, 24 and 31 July 7 August

#### WHERE?

Café Connect @ Mannofield Parish Church

### WHAT?

Board games, crafts night, quiz, treasure hunt.. ... hanging out and having fun!

> COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR SUMMER SHENANIGANS

All- family tea-time food & drinks will be provided

Please let us know which dates you'd like to come and send an email to:

dgriesse@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Mannofield team look forward to seeing you

We are looking for volunteers to help Keith and Dorte run the Summer Holiday Activities on 17July, 24 July, 31 July and 7 August.

We're going to have board games, arts & crafts, quiz and treasure hunt. If any of you would like to be part of it, please let Dorte know – pop in to the Church Office or send her an email <u>dqriesse@churchofscotland.org.uk</u>

All help will be more than appreciated!