Vol. XLVIII No.3







April 2009

Holy Friendships



Happy Easter to One and All

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SCO 01680

CHURCH CALENDAR

Flower Calendar

APRIL			
Sun 5	10 am	Palm Sunday with Sacrament of Baptism	APRIL 5 Mrs R Wallace
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship followed by Sacrament of Communion	12 Mrs R Wallace 12 Mrs Crawford 19 Mrs R Muir 26 Mrs C Robertson
Wed 8	10.30 am	Midweek Easter Service	
Thurs 9	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Service in Church	Easter Sunday Services and Events Jesus Christ is Risen Today,
Fri 10	t ^{7 pm}	United Service for Good Friday at Mannofield	Alleluia! Come and Join the Mannofield Family by Celebrating Easter Sunday.
Sun 12	8.30 am	Sunrise Service followed by breakfast	All are Welcome! 8:00 Sunrise Worship
	10 am	Easter Worship with Sacrament of Baptism	8:30 Easter Breakfast 9:15 Children's Easter
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Egg Hunt
Wed 15	10.30 am	Midweek Service	9:30 Easter Egg Decorating
Sun 19	10 am	Morning Worship	10:00 Morning Worship Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	18:30 Evening Worship
Wed 22	10.30 am	Midweek Service	PLEASE NOTE The deadline for the next issue of
Sun 26	10 am	Morning Worship	InSpire is
	3.15 pm	Craigielea	THURSDAY 16 APRIL
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Material for <i>InSpire</i> should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to:
Wed 29	10.30 am	Midweek Service	roddy@mccollassociates.com office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

THE MANSE



ear Friends

Rev George Turner of St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Peterborough, Ontario, preaching on Palm Sunday 2001, suggested that Jesus was a very angry man as he went into Jerusalem. In many ways he said. what happened on that Palm Sunday was in fact a 'protest march or demonstration' – a demonstration of anger that would of course, ultimately bring him into conflict with the religious authorities of the day.

So, was the first Palm Sunday parade a celebration or protest?

Popular imagination clearly attaches a great deal of significance to the protest viewpoint. Although in our own country we usually concentrate on 'joy' of Jesus entering the Jerusalem as King, in Australia many and other nations thousands annually march on Palm Sunday in support of causes they deem important.

The central theme of Easter is 'new life'.

Jesus dying on the cross sacrificing himself for the World heralds the activation of God's plan to restore the human life to its intended glory. As we look about our world we surely must see the logic in people marching

Rev. Keith Blackwood

for peace, and justice, and an end to all forms of violence during the Easter season or any other season; we must surely recognize the relationship between the Christian faith and the campaign for better justice and sharing of the worlds resources

It must be our prayer that all people find new life and new peace in their lives.

The Easter message fills our soul with such promise; our Christian action, our living and indeed our protests will fulfill that promise for the people of the World and make the Easter glory a reality in creation and life today.

Happy Easter to one and all! Keith

A little boy was overheard praying:

'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.

I'm having a real good time like I am.'

May the Season of Easter bring you Joy and Hope and Peace.

May it be a time for family and for contemplating how generous God has been in providing us with endless opportunity to experience the blessing of life.

Alisa's letter Holy Friendships

Dear Friends,

From the very beginning of the church, Christians have joined together for worship, prayer, fellowship, study and mission. Jesus did not call us to be solitary disciples, but members together of the body of Christ. It is an exciting



and thrilling gift from God to gather together, as brothers and sisters, on Easter morning to sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," but it is also equally transforming to be with a small group of Christians who are mutually supportive and committed to spiritual growth and service. In a healthy congregation there are both large and small opportunities to experience Christian community.

In the New Testament the gospel was proclaimed in large public gatherings, but often lived out in small house churches. In a number of the New Testament letters we hear how Christians joined with others in circles of prayer, worship, communion, study, mission efforts, spiritual fellowship and service to those in need.

In a large congregation it is important for our growth as Christians that we find an opportunity to participate in a small group. Small groups provide a safe environment for us to explore our faith, give and receive caring support and join together in service to others.

I want to encourage you to find such a small group for you. Here at Mannofield Church there is a Bible study group, the choir, the Guild, ALMA (Ageless Ladies of Mannofield), Massage and Meditation group, the Alpha Course, and many more opportunities that offer us ways to live out our faith together and to develop what Dr. Greg Jones, the Dean of Duke Divinity School, calls *"holy friendships"*.

As a church we are called to be in holy friendships with each other, to reach out our hands in love and fellowship to those with whom we worship. Easter reminds us that in Christ all is made new, that the love of God conquers even death itself. In holy friendship we come to experience more powerfully the presence of the One who said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Let us live as a people full of the love of the resurrection and fulfill our calling to live in holy friendships.

Grace and Peace,

Alisa Ferlicca

MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS 2009

The total general income of congregations in 2007 was $\pounds 80,342,000$, an increase of 3.3% on the total for 2006.

In 2009 congregations are being asked to contribute £43,370,000 (plus Stipend Endowment Income) in MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS,(MMC) an increase of less than 1% on the total for 2008.



BELONGING TO A

SHARING CHURCH

The total income is £106 million. So less than half comes from Congregations MMC. A large part comes from payments for CrossReach services (Social Care Council)

87% of each congregation's MMC (including Stipend Endowment Income) goes to the Parish Ministries Fund. The remaining 13% goes to the Mission and Renewal Fund.

In 2009 the cost of a parish minister with at least ten years' service (stipend, employer's national insurance and pension contribution) is £39,100. If the MMC for a congregation (or linked congregations if a church is part of a linked charge) is £45,300 (87% is £39,400) or more, then it is contributing the full cost of its minister. If it is less than £45,300, the congregation (or linked charge) is receiving financial support from other congregations.

MANNOFIELD'S CONTRIBUTION	£ <u>103,070</u>	
Parish Ministries (87%)		
Cost of Ministry in the Parish (Minister and Associate)£72,000Contribution to cost of ministries in other parishes and training for ministries17,671	89,671	
Mission & Renewal (5.5%)Supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with the Church in some of the poorest parts of the world and providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.5,669		
Support & Services for Councils and Congregations (7.5%) Provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other services and meets the cost of the General Assembly and Moderator	<u>7,730</u>	
TOTAL	£103,070	

What our Minister Does? A couple of Days in the Working Life of a Minister.

The Magazine Editor approached me recently suggesting the congregation might be interested in a 'blow-by-blow' description of a typical day in my working life. In taking up the challenge I note first of all that there is no such thing as a 'typical day'. The beauty of my work is that although there are elements of routine I can honestly say that each day is different from the next and the one gone before. Experience also tells me that whatever plans I have for a particular day in terms of what I will get done in between the fixed appointments or meetings, are unlikely to be fulfilled in the way I imagine. There are always other aspects of work to attend to that crop up and divert me off course. So adaptability and patience are key requirements to my work.

I describe a reasonably typical day below and next month I will endeavour to give an account of a second day in my working life.

Day 1.

7.00am Before Breakfast I sneakily check out my e-mails. I really shouldn't have bothered as having read them I feel called upon to reply by answering the questions and replying to the points made. But the tiny patter of children's feet mean I should have breakfast.

7.45 I reply to two e-mails before having shower. **8.30** I take car to Arnold Car for Service and run home.

9.00 I am at desk working on a Reflection and Prayers for a Midweek Service which I will leave for in 1 hour. Phone rings at 9.15am! It's the National Press Agency who would like to follow up the article and picture in today's Press and Journal about the start of 5-a-side football. The journalist says the story is of interest and he would like to send it out to National Papers. I spend 20 minutes talking to him. We chat about the football but also about the need for outreach within the church today as it seeks to present itself in such a way that new generations of people will see it as being relevant to their lifestyle preferences and of value in the establishment of



moral and religious belief. The journalist was certainly taken with this fresh take on what a church needs to be and I feel that if any of that message can be put across to others it will be good press for both our congregation and the church in general. A 20 minute chat on the phone but excellent outreach and witness.

9.30 I only have 30 minutes to write from scratch a reflection for the Midweek Service. Phone rings again! It's not Jimmy Calderwood or George Burley unfortunately but a colleague with a question about attending a Church Legal Hearing later this month. I answer the question and say I would speak to him later and it's back to the Reflection.

10.10 I leave for Church and conduct the Midweek Service at 10.30am. My efforts were very worthwhile. A record attendance for the midweek service - 26 people! Over the last weeks the attendances have been rising. This number of people coming on a Wednesday is a sign of the potential success of this change we made last summer. This intimate and informal worship is for me personally a great source of inspiration and encouragement.

11. 05 No time to stay for tea as I am due at Hazlehead Academy at 11.15am. I spend one hour with a Third Year Class talking about the Christian perspective of looking after our bodies and our emotions as life should be thought of as the gift of God. *Continued on Page 12*

At midnight it is Raining heavily. How probable is it That it will be

Raining in 72 hours

Time?







This is a question Jesus was asked:



This is what Jesus replied:



STORY CROSSWORD

Read this exciting spy story and try to find the missing words (replaced by a reference in brackets), then enter them in the grid. Finally, place the circled letters in the right order to give you the name of the character.



Many who knew this young woman denounced her as an undesirable person. Men, especially, were (6D) (3D) in her home, where talk was mostly about the threatened invasion of their land by the Israelites. It was feared the old city of Jericho, in which she lived, (5A) shortly be attacked.

Joshua, a man appointed to (7D) the Hebrew people in battle, sent two (18A) to 'look over the land, especially Jericho.' On their arrival in the city, they lodged with the woman of ill-repute. And as she talked (16A) with them, she made known her faith in the one true God. She chose to (14D) herself from those in her own (19D) society; a (24A) act in their eyes.

When the (23A) heard (10A) the two visitors were spies, he sent officers to the woman's house, with an order to arrest the men. But she had (13D) decided that loyalty to her new-found God came first. Before the (2D) arrived, she hid the spies under stalks of flax on the roof of her house. And when questioned as to their whereabouts, she was able to (1A) herself, and found (25A) to the officers most convenient.

'Yes, the men came to me,' she said, 'but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the (21D) gate, the men left.' The pursuers believed her story, for she (11A) her part well. She knew, beyond doubt, that such treachery, if discovered, would mean death to the (9A). Yet this (17D) in her life was to be (22D) by God.

Before nightfall, she drew the spies to one (4D) and told of her fears during the coming attack on Jericho. But the men assured her she would be treated kindly 'when the Lord (20A) us the land.'

She later lowered them by a rope through the window and they escaped over the city wall. But not before they had promised that if a (8D) cord was hung in her window, she and her family living in the house would be saved when Jericho fell.

After the Israelites had crossed the river Jordan, they were soon outside the city. And as they marched around the wall, at first silently, then to the sound of trumpets and shouting, the wall collapsed and Jericho was invaded. The only survivors (12A) the city's inhabitants, following the (15A) attack, were the woman and her family. Having (26A) to the conditions set down by the two spies, they were rescued and taken to a place of safety. This young woman, through a change of heart, had become a new person who later figured in God's plan of salvation for mankind.

March solution: The traveller held up the sign and pointed the name of the place he had come from in the right direction, therefore he knew the rest would be pointing in the correct direction.

ASPIRE

(AS-PIRE) N. 1. TO HAVE A GREAT AMBITION; DESIRE STRONGLY, 2. TO STRIVE TOWARD AN END; AIM AT, 3. TO SOAR.

What is Aspire?

Aspire is a New Programme at Mannofield, which includes many new exciting events for all those interested. It is for young adults and those who feel young at heart. It is for those in whom these events spark an interest and for those who are interested in meeting new people. ASPIRE is for you!

CALENDAR

Book Club	1 st & 3 rd Wed. of Month 7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall Reading: Barbra Kingsolver's <u>The Poisonwood Bible</u> (Apr 4: Book 1-3, Apr 18: Book 4-6)	
Young Women's Group	2 nd Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:30 In Centenary Hall A social and spiritual group for the women of Mannofield Church. EVENTS: March- Take-out meal and social; April- Rock-Climbing; May- Wine Tasting; June- Walk and Meal Out	
Massage and Meditation	4 th Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall An event for women of all ages to come together and learn meditative practices for the body and the soul.	
Theology on Tap	4th Friday of the Month 8:00 Come together for a social gathering at a local pub, grab a pint, food and spend the evening musing over theology and getting to know people.	

For more information please contact

The Church Office at office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk or 310087

Alisa Ferlicca at alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com or 07838835778

What our Minister Does?

continued

The class entertain my thoughts, enter the debate that is wide ranging and I feel it a worthwhile visit in that at the end of the class the pupils were asked, 'put your hand up if you believe there is no such being or presence as God'. A good sign – only one boy thinks that way. This is where I feel that despite the church in many ways losing its appeal to new generations today there remains an inherit belief in most young people that the beauty and variety of life indicate the presence of a Creator God. I remind myself as I return home that the most crucial element in the Church's work today must surely be to



find ways to present itself in a more appealing way to those who at core foundation have a belief in God but not necessarily a confidence in the Church to meet their needs or aspirations.

12.15 Home for lunch (30 minutes) **12.45 – 1.15** I complete an appraisal form for a member of the Ministry Team and send it off for checking.

1.15pm to 2 pm I meet with an Elder at the Manse.2-2.15 I prepare for a school visit.

2.30 - 3pm I visit Airyhall Primary School P4 Class to talk about Christian Symbols and the Bible. Every Wednesday at 2.30 I visit a class in the school to speak on a topic of the class teacher's choosing. The children are great and the opportunity to get to know them, to support the teachers and management staff of the school is invaluable to our desire to use this school contact as a means by which to promote not only Christian teaching through the school but also Mannofield Church as a clear presence in the community. I reflect on the fact that in my time here I feel we are more and more achieving the required relationship with the school and with the families of our Parish.

3.15pm I speak to a colleague again about the judicial hearing to take place in Edinburgh on 25 March at which I have been asked to speak on behalf of Presbytery. I was asked because of some apparently well received words I used in the Presbytery debate in January.

4pm I run back to Arnold Clark to pick up car and get held up in traffic!

5pm - 7.30pm Family Time.

7.45-9.30 Katrina is at the church tonight so I planned to enjoy a work-free evening. However I checked my e-mails and decided to make replies. I did manage a short while playing a computer game but as Katrina arrived home I realised that for most of the time she was away I was at my desk with my head on church affairs. As she returned home we spoke of church matters for a further 40 minutes, then I reply further to a church e-mail......**The end of Day 1**!

Looking back on my day you will see I was unable to fit in any Home Visits on account of the other work. For me it was a satisfying day as I think I achieved a lot in the name of the Church and the fulfilment of my ministry. Total time given to Church matters: 9 hours 30 minutes.

What I have not been able to itemise is the time that my brain has been functioning away in the background today (when I was running, in the shower, driving in the car) on a particular area of forthcoming work. A Committee is being established to review and plan for a potential re-development of our church halls. In summary this relates to the need for Mannofield Church to provide more suitable accommodation for the needs and requirement of the church in the decades to come – as it seeks to strengthen its appeal and broaden its contact with the generation of people who see the church (its work and its buildings) of no consequence to them. Having led two similar projects in my years in Bearsden I know that a project this exciting will inevitably become something that will become a constant area of thought that cannot ever be shaken.

WHO, WHY, WHAT HOW?!"

THE ALPHA COURSE

WHAT IS ALPHA?

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

It is relaxed, low key, friendly and fun.

There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other.

Listen, learn, discuss and discover. And ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

And it's supported by all the main Christian denominations.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

The Alpha course consists of a series of talks. After each talk, we divide into small groups for a time of discussion.

WHEN: Monday 20th April 2009 7pm-9pm for 10 weeks.

WHERE: Centenary Hall

HOW: Pick up a registration form from the Church Office.

COST: No Charge

The Alpha Course registration forms are to be returned to the Church Office before Monday 13th April 2009.



NOTES & NEWS

Hill Walking Club CHURCH OUTING



Following last year's successful outing, there will be another trip this year, this time to Glen Tanar on Saturday 9th May.

It is planned to travel in private cars, arrive at the car park (£2 charge) around noon, have a picnic and then go for one of the many walks available on the estate.

There are walks to suit people of all ages and levels of fitness. Children could take bicycles to Glen Tanar.

If you intend to come please inform Peter Stewart(313721) p.stewart1@btinternet.com).

Scottish Country Dancing



Mannofield SCD Class

is holding a Homecoming evening on Tuesday April 27th

(7.30 – 10.30pm)

Anyone who has danced with them over the last 45 years is warmly invited to the evening.

Please join them — no need to dance!

Please contact Maureen Allan on 319043 by 7th April.

I wish to thank Keith and Alisa and all my friends at Mannofield for their love and support following my mother's death. God bless you all,

Edna Cromarty

Gift Aid

Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convenor wishes to thank all



who have made Gift Aid payments in the current tax year.

He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, either sent directly to him at 27 Norfolk Road, Aberdeen AB10 6JR or deposited in the church plate in a clearly marked envelope, by April 5th

Retiring Collection- 1 March

As a result of the Retiring Collections on 1st March, a cheque for £586.07 has been sent to Aberdeen Presbytery to help fund its work in Malawi.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

15 March Kyle Gordon Hunter

Deaths

18 Dec	Mrs Christeen Thomson
4 Feb	Mr Alan Bone
9 March	Mr Alister Stephen
14 March	Mrs Junora Port

Disjunctions

Miss Thirza Paterson Mrs Begbie Mr Ken Ellington Mrs Ruth Muir Mr Frank & Mrs Moira Beattie

Change of Address Mrs Barbara McKenzie Mr Colin McColl Balmoral 10K Run for Christian Aid 25 April 2009



Last year Keith, together with Scott and Pam Gourlay ran the 10K at Balmoral and the sponsorship raised within the congregation resulted in a staggering total of £900 (approx.) collected for Christian Aid.

Undoubtedly such a one-off contribution to Christian Aid is a great source of funds to the Charity and the people it helps, so this year despite the protests of the 'body', Keith has been persuaded to run again.

Keith, Alisa and others from the congregation will be taking part and from Sunday 29th March the congregation will be invited to sponsor and make a contribution to the effort. Each Sunday forms will be available and individuals will be collecting the contributions in the large hall.

A number of children are also running in the school races taking place at Balmoral on 25 April, so all those taking part in the event (adults and children) are asked to let Keith know so the joint efforts of the congregation can be recognised in a "Team Photograph" to

be taken on the day.



Craft Fair

On Saturday 22nd March a successful Craft Fair was held in the church halls. As InSpire went to press, a total of approximately £1,700 had been raised for Church Funds. A big thank you to Gwen Sutherland who co-ordinated the event, the Social Committee, the volunteers who helped on the day, and not least all the folks who supported the event with their donations and generous spending.

In Session.....with Scribe

Looking to and planning for the future of Mannofield Church occupied an important place in the February meeting of the Kirk Session.

The outcome was that a Development Committee will be established to assess the needs on a long-term future basis and put forward proposals to meet accommodation requirements and ensure that the halls will be fit for purpose in the years to come. The establishment of a Development Fund is also proposed.

Session also agreed to enter a eco-congregation scheme, a church-based programme looking to the congregation becoming involved in a series of modules, hopefully leading to accreditation as an eco-congregation.

Congregational involvement was also touched upon in other items in the Session meeting's agenda when volunteers were asked for in a wide variety of our activities, including youth work, the church choir, the Holiday Club, and organisation visitors.

On a more positive note, however, several of the committee reports indicated that the recent Stewardship Campaign had brought in new recruits to assist in the running of some of the various groups currently operating within our church.

Session also heard a tribute paid to the late lan Davidson, who throughout the years played a notable role in many aspects of our Church life.

Looking ahead, the next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28 (7.30p.m.) and the date of the subsequent meeting has been changed to June 16.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748	
Associate Minister	Rev. Alisa Ferlicca	alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com	M 07838 835778	
Youth Worker	Mr Stiubhart MacChoille	stiubhart@fsmail.net	481359	
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087	
Church Officer	Mr. Nick Youngson	nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402	
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484	
Website	www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk			

Where are they now?

Iain & Fiona Craighead, Kirkwall, Orkney

After 4 years living and working at INF's Green Pastures Hospital we made the decision to return to the UK. The last 9 months have been a testing time. We left Kathmandu in June 2008 not knowing where we would finally settle but now 9 months on we can testify to God's faithfulness in providing all that we required. We now live in Kirkwall on Orkney. The children are happily settled in their new schools, Fiona is studying with the OU and I've been fortunate to find a good job. However, Green Pastures and the friends we left behind are never far from our thoughts.

The news from Nepal since we left has been mixed. Nepal continues to struggle with strikes, shortages of fuel and over the winter crippling load shedding with the power off for 16 hours each day. The hospital has struggled to find sufficient diesel to run the generator. Fortunately we installed a battery back-up system in 2006, but 8 hours of electricity per day is barely enough to recharge the batteries and the generator has to run for the operating theatre to function. My successor as superintendent, Sandra Boone, has had big financial headaches. The devaluation of sterling against the Indian rupee has reduced the value of donations and the worldwide financial turmoil has impacted on the flow of money to the hospital. In October, Samsher Magar my hospital manager for 3 of my 4 years committed suicide. This was a dreadful time for all. None of the staff had seen this coming and he leaves a wife and 2 young boys aged 7 and 10. It was a difficult time for Sandra as she had to deal with her own grief at the same time as continuing to run the hospital.

More recently the news has been good. Manoj the head of occupational therapy married Vijieta a staff nurse. A second staff nurse Shrijana also married and the hospital staff were very involved in both weddings. USAID have provided a grant to help provide wheelchairs for paraplegic patient. Carol Scovil, a Canadian biomechanical engineer, has been improving the provision of wheelchairs during the last 12months and this grant helps to secure what she has been able to set up, at least in the medium term.

So what next for Mannofield Church? You have been large donors to Green Pastures during the last 4years and your giving has made an impact. One way to stay in touch with the work of the hospital would be to ask Sandra to add you to her mailing list – simply e-mail <u>gphrc.superintendent@kaski.nepal.inf.org</u>. A second way would be to check out the INF website <u>www.inf.org</u> or make contact with the INF UK office. A final way might be to go to Nepal yourself!? The list of professionals required is long and is much wider than simply health and education. Have a look at the INF website and you never know....