



# INSPIRE



O, my luv'e's like a red, red  
rose,

That's newly sprung in June.

O, my luv'e's like the melodie,

That's sweetly play'd in tune.

**ROBERT BURNS**  
1759 - 1796

**MANNOFIELD CHURCH**

Scottish registered charity SCO 01680

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

Sun 1	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship followed by Sacrament of Communion
Wed 4	10.30 am	Midweek Service with Sacrament of Communion
Sun 8	10 am	Morning Worship with Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 11	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 15	10 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Tues 17	7.30 pm	<b>Kirk Session</b>
Wed 18	10.30 am	Midweek Service
Sun 22	10 am	Morning Worship REJOICE
	3.15 pm	Craigielea
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed 25	10.30 am	Midweek Service

## MARCH

Sun 1	10 am	Sacrament of Communion
	6.30 pm	Sacrament of Communion
Wed 4	10.30 am	Midweek Service

## ENQUIRY CLASS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Keith is proposing to hold a series of meetings for those interested in joining the Church. These would begin towards the end of April. Any-one interested in joining the church at this time should contact Keith in order to indicate an interest.

## Church Hall Lets



The Congregational Board has decided that the Church Halls and rooms will be made available to the general public to book for children's parties, meetings and other events. A children's party for example would cost £40.00 for the use of the large hall and kitchen.

In this way, some welcome income can hopefully be raised while at the same time encouraging greater community use of the facilities we have. This will not affect activities run by the various Church groups, which will continue to book accommodation in the usual way.

In order to put this on a more professional footing, a booking form, rates and conditions of let have been drawn up and a Hall Letting Convenor appointed. The various forms can be viewed on the church website ([www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk)) or at the church office. There is also an e-mail address for enquiries [lets@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:lets@mannofieldchurch.org.uk).

Availability of a specific date can be checked by contacting Gill at the Church office.

Please spread the word!

*June Rae, Hall Letting Convenor*

**D**ear Friends

One of the most attention grabbing stories in scripture is the story of Jonah. I mean who isn't curious about a guy getting swallowed by a whale and living to tell the tale. But the true 'meat' of the story goes beyond it being an ancient version of the movie 'Jaws'.

Some scholars think it was written around five centuries before the birth of Jesus, during a time when two significant Jewish leaders (Ezra and Nehemiah) were singularly focused on the nation of Israel believing other peoples to be of lesser value to God. The community was apparently riddled with racial prejudice.

The message in the book of Jonah however is all about the sovereignty of God, extending through creation and across all nations. It portrays God as a God of love and mercy who would rather that those who were against Him be reconciled with His ways than be punished.

The Book reminds us that in God's eyes no one group of people is more important to God than another.

Quite clearly things haven't changed that much in the Middle East or elsewhere. Religious and racial prejudices still exist in almost all corners of our world.

Like me in the days before Christmas you might have been surprised to hear news concerning Israel's bombardment of Gaza and the subsequent loss of 300 people in the first waves of the attack.

Israel had not been in the news for a while and I had wrongly assumed that relations between the various groups in the Middle East were improving. How mistaken I was! The ongoing violence in Gaza is a sad symbol of just how bad the relations and prejudices actually are.

How important it is then, that we and others listen to stories such as that contained in the Book of Jonah.

How important it is to remind ourselves that God belongs to no single nation, group or person; instead all people belong to Him and as such are intended to be the recipients of an equal outpouring of His love.

God cares for us all! All people living under the one God - Christian, Jew or Muslim - are given the same message from the sacred writings of their particular faith; each one called to live without prejudice and with the same level of unconditional love that is revealed in the Father of all Creation. In our case Jesus Christ, both in words and by His actions, made the feelings of God very straightforward indeed. He calls us to 'love our neighbours as we love ourselves'.

Best wishes

*Keith*

## Letter from Alisa



Dear Friends,

It is now February. It is amazing how time flies. It seems as though time is conveniently placed on pause between Christmas and New Year. Then in order to bring us back to reality, time suddenly fast-forwards after the start of the New Year. We all remember the evening of Hogmanay like a dream. We might even remember what New Year's resolutions we committed ourselves to in the year of 2009. I wonder though how many of us are still holding to those resolutions. I wonder how many of us have already returned to our normal pattern of life: the running shoes effortlessly placed back in the closet, the biscuits sneak their way back into our tea breaks or the promises we made to stay better in touch with those we love just doesn't seem to fit into our daily schedule. Or maybe there are those of us who have stopped making New Year's resolutions for this very reason. We know that by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February the strong convictions we held on New Year's Eve, convictions for change and a better year are but a faint memory just like the holiday season itself.

One year, while working with youth at a church in New York City I set out to help them make New Year's resolutions. But, not just ones to stay fit, do better in school or make the basketball team. No, these were spiritual New Year's resolutions. Goals they had for their spiritual life in that year ranged from reading the Bible and daily prayer to not complaining when their parents dragged them to church on Sunday morning. What made these New Year's resolutions different from the silent ones we make, often for superficial reasons, was that these were not just resolutions and they were not just statements of intent. We turned our spiritual resolutions into a covenant. We vowed to hold each other accountable and we promised to help each other fulfil our spiritual promises. Together we created a poster in which each youth wrote their spiritual promise and signed it. In addition we placed our promises where we would daily be reminded of them: our mirrors, our car, our bed-stand, our book-bags or our wallets.

Ever since that year I have vowed to make New Year's spiritual promises for the next year. And even though I am not surrounded by youth creating a poster to remind me of that covenant this year, I do have the memory of the power of accountability in helping to sustain those promises. I encourage you to think of a spiritual resolution for this year. February is not too late to make one. I also encourage you to tell someone, to hold someone else accountable and maybe even to place reminders around your life. See what can happen in 2009. See what new direction a promised resolution brings to your life. They say it only takes 21 days to form a habit. I wonder what amazing spiritual habits we can cultivate in 365 days?

Grace and Peace,  
*Alisa Ferlicca*

# In Memoriam

## Robert Malcolm

Robert Malcolm long time member and Elder of Mannofield Church was born in 1928. He attended Powis School before taking up a position as Lab Technician at Robert Gordon's School.

After National Service in the RAF he returned home and was appointed as a Soil Chemist at the Macaulay Institute where he remained for his working life. While there he met his wife Jean and married in 1963. Leslie was born in 1965 and as a family they lived in Kinkell Road.

Robert enjoyed walking, was a keen photographer, reader and painter and he retained a love for classical music through his life.

Robert was a quiet man, dedicated to his family. Ordained to eldership in Mannofield in 1973, Robert played his part in the work of the Kirk Session and congregation.

## Walter Bick

At the last meeting of the Kirk Session mention was made of the late Walter Bick, long term member of the congregation, who served as Elder within the Kirk Session for many years. Thanks were given for his service to Mannofield Church.

## Review of Elders Districts

It has been some time since a review of Elders Districts has taken place in our congregation.

After the addition of 16 newly ordained Elders it has become possible to look at a more even distribution of households to Districts. We are also aware that some households have not received a visit from an Elder for quite a long period and we are delighted that with the changes this situation has been remedied.

Out of necessity it will mean that some households will receive a change of Elder at this time. We are sure that Elders will be well received and that new relationships of friendship and care will be established over time.

## Flower Calendar

### February

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | Mrs E Thain                                   |  |
| 8  | Miss M Barclay                                |   |
| 15 | Mrs C Strachan<br>Mrs L Anderson (Vestibule ) |   |
| 22 | Miss M & Miss R Archibald                     |   |

### Blessing

Of the Fullness of Being he emptied himself out.

For us and with us - and also before us

He came into the void, and allowed the void into him.

Crying out his dereliction, he overcame.

So he who is Way, Truth and Life

Will always be our road

From the Void back to the Fullness of Being.





be inspired

In October 2007 Kirk Session decide to form a working party to investigate what was required to conduct a Stewardship Campaign in 2008. The Church of Scotland's "Gifts for God" was adopted

as the programme to be followed and the Planning Group first met with John Gray, the adviser from 121 George Street, on 6th February 2008 to plan the campaign. A series of meetings followed throughout 2008 with a final assessment meeting on 27th November.

The agreed objective of the campaign was to increase involvement of members through better giving of time, talent and money, with "Be Inspired" as the theme.

A week of events was planned for the first week in September and an information booklet was designed for distribution to members, explaining the objectives of the campaign, Mannofield's aspirations for the future, Christian giving and spending, Mannofield's finances and descriptions of how members can give with an explanation of Gift Aid.

A response form was also devised for all members to complete and return indicating what organisations, committees and other roles in the church they would like to become involved in or find out more about; members also had the opportunity to express comments or concerns about Mannofield and provide details about how they can give financially to the church or request further information about the methods available for giving.

Elders distributed a card inviting members to participate in the week of events when visiting their districts in late May before the June communion. A team of about 100 (and thanks to them all) visited all members of the congregation during the last two weeks of August to distribute the booklet and the response forms.

Although less members participated in the social evening at the Tree Tops Hotel than had been hoped (200 attended), it was a great success as was the week of events which provided opportunities for members of all ages.



*Fun Day*

A Fair Trade Fashion Show on Tuesday 2nd September attended by 150 people was followed the next day by an Afternoon Tea with Music enjoyed by about 100 people. Then there was the Social Evening on the Thursday, a Treasure Hunt on the Friday and on the Saturday a Family Fun Day which was very visible to the passing public and raised awareness in the area.

The visitors paid a second visit to members in the two weeks beginning 15th September to collect the response forms. Generally, visitors were very well received by members and the visitors enjoyed the experience of visiting members, many of whom they did not know. 651 response forms were returned and about 400 members indicated that they either wanted more information about activities or wanted to become involved. Leaders of organisations and other relevant office bearers were informed of those interested in their respective activities and contacted these members. It is too early to say if overall givings have improved because of the campaign but there has been an increase in the number of Gift Aid declarations and Standing Orders, from 341 and 149 before the campaign to 387 and 180 after the campaign, respectively.

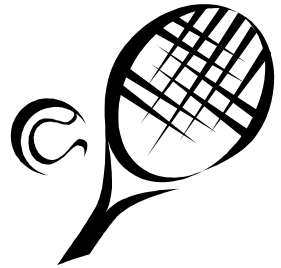
The campaign was a very worthwhile exercise for the congregation with a raised awareness among members about what goes on in the life of the congregation and already more involvement from some members. The momentum must be maintained and hopefully this increased involvement will be sustained or increased. Many thanks to all who willingly gave of their time to make the campaign a success and also to John Gray for his guidance throughout the planning stages.

*Derek Bain (on behalf of the Planning Group)*

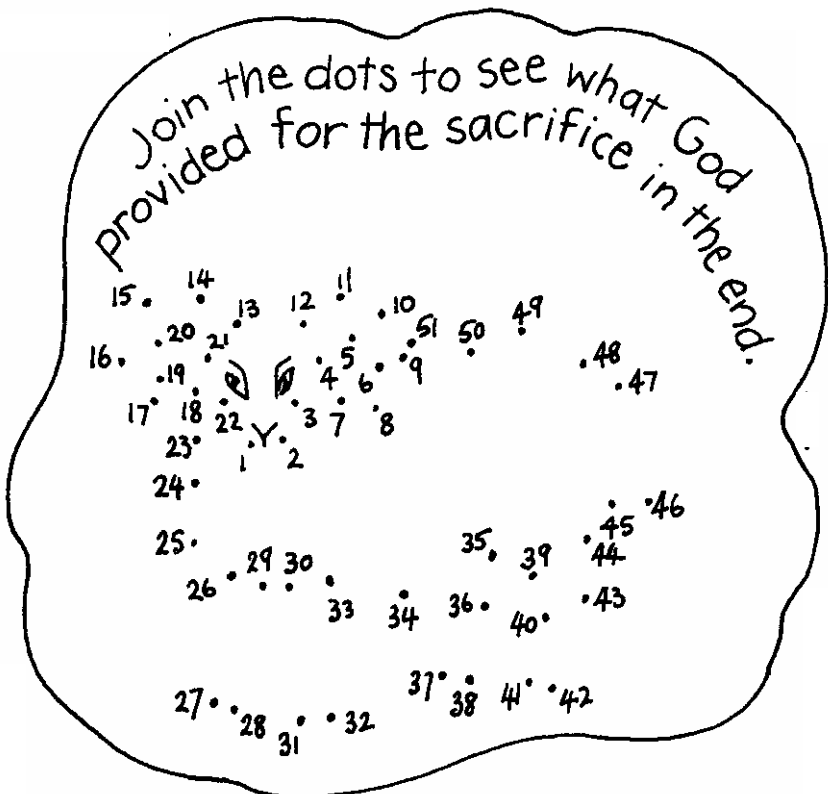
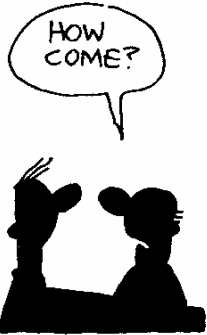


A sports club organises a knock-out  
Tournament and receives  
37 entrants.

How many matches will have  
To be played before the  
Winner is found?

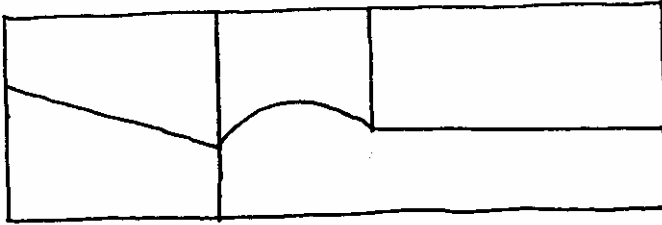


# LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR





# Jigsaw message



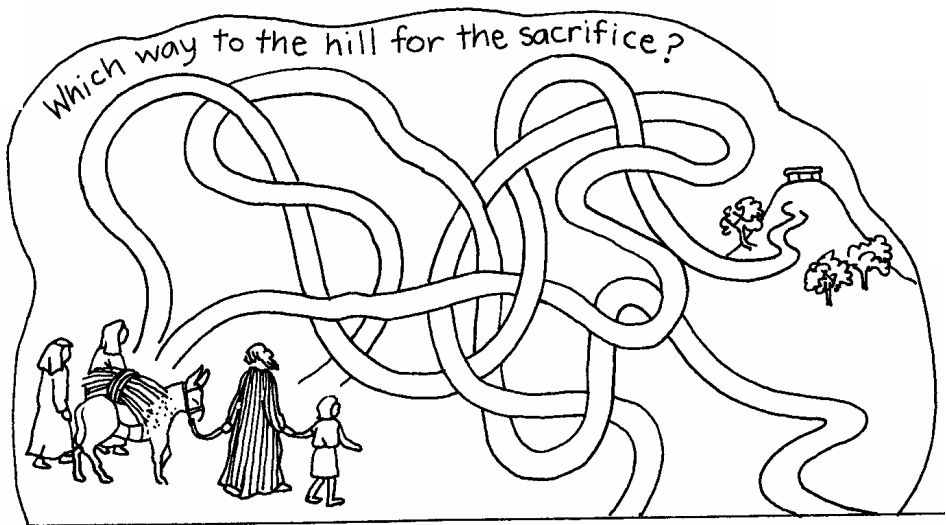
CAN

GOD

ALWAYS

TRUSTED

BE



## I DON'T KNOW THE MAN (MATTHEW 26:72)

- |   |        |       |
|---|--------|-------|
| 1 As Jesus was taken before the high priest<br>he was followed by | -----  | v. 58 |
| 2 Asked if he was the Son of God, Jesus answered                  | ---    | v. 64 |
| 3 Caiaphas, the high priest, accused Jesus of                     | -----  | v. 65 |
| 4 The other members of the ruling council                         | -----  | v. 66 |
| 5 What did they say Jesus was worthy of?                          | -----  | v. 66 |
| 6 Where was Peter seated during this time?                        | -----  | v. 69 |
| 7 Who came up to him and asked a question?                        | -----  | v. 69 |
| 8 Who did she say he was with?                                    | -----  | v. 69 |
| 9 What did Peter do when accused of being with Jesus?             | -----  | v. 70 |
| 10 He was accused by a second girl of being with Jesus of         | -----  | v. 71 |
| 11 And again he denied it saying 'I don't know the                | ---'   | v. 72 |
| 12 He had earlier sat down with the                               | -----  | v. 58 |
| 13 After a while he was again told 'you are one of                | -----' | v. 73 |
| 14 What did he call down on himself?                              | -----  | v. 74 |
| 15 Immediately a cock crowed, and Peter                           | -----  | v. 75 |
| 16 Earlier Jesus had told Peter, 'You will disown me three        | -----' | v. 75 |
| 17 And Peter went outside and wept                                | -----  | v. 75 |

December's solution: Santa had to take the cat down first, then return for the mouse. Then, taking the cat back up the chimney with him return to take the dog down. Once the dog and mouse are down he can go back and get the cat.

## **New Year - a time of new things in Mannofield**

Entering into 2009 is a good time to highlight a number of new and continuing events that feature in the programme of our Church.

### **Wednesday Service**

In September the midweek service was established and is proving very popular with a loyal band of attendees. The Sanctuary is open for quiet time from 9.30 am. The service of worship begins at 10.30 and is followed by tea/coffee and fellowship. A rota of pianists provide piano accompaniment for the singing of hymns and Alisa and I conduct the services.

For different reasons people find this service most suitable to their requirements. There are those who find bus transport to church on Sundays a problem and the Wednesday service in their words has been a 'truly great addition'. There are others who find the sanctuary too busy on Sundays and who prefer the quieter more informal feel to the Wednesday service. In addition there are those who attend our Sunday services but enjoy coming along on Wednesdays too.

This session we are using the Beatitudes as a theme for these services. I hope that during the months ahead we can perhaps encourage more of our members to come on a Wednesday and broaden the invitation to those who live or work in the area around the church. Please consider coming along and making this a part of your week.

### **Youth Event**

Changes to the provision of events in our Youth Programme will see a new-style event taking place on Sunday Evening at 7.30pm. Together with the continuing Pickled Cow Drama Group activities scheduled for Thursday nights I am sure the new event will be a welcome addition to our programme and I encourage you to pass the word. More information from Stiubhart MacChaille.

### **Younger Adults**

Elsewhere you will find news of a number of new events geared towards men and women looking to establish friendship within the church and be part of lively, interesting and relevant groups.

For women the re-launch of a group for younger women will provide interest I hope to many and a monthly Massage and Meditation group will provide relief from the hectic schedule of living in today's fast paced world.

Men and women will I am sure be interested in bi-monthly Book Club; a chance to explore and reflect on the pre-selected Book of the Month.

More Information from Alisa Ferlicca.

[Contd. p 12]

## Older People

We shouldn't really use this term, but it serves the purpose of reminding us that Mannofield Church seeks to provide well for the interests and needs of people on the older generations.

The Guild kindly agreed to be involved in the running of a 'Senior Members Fellowship'. Look out for details of when these daytime events will take place. The Kirk Session is exploring the possibility of launching a 'Lunch Club' which would provide the chance for older people to come together for fellowship perhaps once a week.

## Eco Congregation

The Stewardship campaign saw a number of people declare interest in being part of the work towards Mannofield's accreditation as an Eco Congregation. Ultimately this desire will require the involvement of the whole congregation and the groups associated with it. A steering group is being set up and anyone interested in being involved should get in touch with Ellen Smith.

As you can see there is a lot going on in Mannofield Church. That's the way it should be. We endeavour to provide 'something for everyone'. It can be hard work to achieve this but the rewards are great. We need the support of all!

## IN SESSION.....WITH SCRIBE

As you might imagine, a report of the 2008 "Belnspired" stewardship campaign took a prominent role in the agenda for the December meeting of the Kirk Session.

The response forms returned – 651 of them --- provided an indication that this was a worthwhile exercise, including as they did a good number of offers to help in a wide range of activities within the church.

All comments made are being reviewed and any areas of concern will be addressed as soon as possible.

Among reports from the various committees within Session, the Worship and Devotion Committee convener reported that the choir needs more recruits to remain viable and it was hoped that more volunteers would come forward. Session also agreed to lend support, financial and practical, to an Alpha course to be arranged in the Spring.

Under Minister's Matters, Keith reported that there appeared to be a need for the formation of a Lunch Club and further thought should be given to such a venture.

Tributes were paid following the deaths of former elders Robert Malcolm and Walter Bick. Also intimated was the resignation from Session of George Grieve.

Session also received reports of visits paid by elders to the Junior Section BB, the Ladies Badminton and both Wednesday and Friday Brownies.

The next Kirk Session meeting has been arranged for February 17.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor



We would like to congratulate all those who helped to make the December pantomime such a success – whether it was on the stage or behind the scenes. It was a good show with plenty of humour.

It is just a pity that it was not well supported by Mannofield members on the Saturday night.

*Jim and Jane Ruxton.*

# 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

### **Bible Study Book Club**

**First Monday of the Month 7-8:30**  
*At Alisa's Flat (49 Esslemont Avenue)*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of Month 7:45-9:00 in Centenary Hall**  
*Reading: Brother Andrews God's Smuggler until Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, then Shane Claiborne's The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical*

### **Young Women's Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Month 7:45-9:30 in Centenary Hall**  
*A social and spiritual group for the women of Mannofield Church.*

**EVENTS:** Feb.- Games Night! March- Take-out meal and social; April- Rock-Climbing; May- Wine Tasting; June- Walk and Meal Out.

### **Massage and Meditation**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk) or 310087

Alisa Ferlicca at [alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com](mailto:alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com) or 07838835778

# NOTES & NEWS



be inspired

## Response forms

A lot of people have been working hard to follow up all the responses which were made on the yellow forms from the BeInspired Stewardship campaign.

To avoid the possibility of any requests for information or offers of help from slipping through the net (we are not infallible and there were a lot of forms to process!) if anyone ticked item(s) on the form and has not yet been contacted about them, would they please contact the office. Many thanks.

*Pam Gourlay*

## Men Baking for SLA



Thanks to all those who bought copies of the cookbook.

After deducting the cost of printing, the sale of these raised a further £140!

That brings the total the Men [and boys] of Mannofield Church made for SLA [www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org) to **£588**.

Once again a big **Thank You** to Mannofield, on behalf of SLA, for that will go a long way in India.

*Alan Thompson*

## 5 A-Side Football with the Minister – Calling all Men!

The women of the congregation are getting their 'Group' for friendship and fellowship, so I thought it was about time to see who would like a regular game of football. Ability optional; fitness debateable; but willing to give it a try a necessity!

I thought we might look to see if we could get this up and running in the month of April and as a starter idea (based on my own diary) I thought about trying for a Thursday night at 'Goals' between 9pm and 10pm. We would need a pool of people interested so that given unavailability and injury we might still have 10 for a decent kick-a-boot. If you are interested then please give me a call or preferably an e-mail.

Nearer April I will be in touch with a suggestion of how we can work it.

*Keith Blackwood* – [minister@mannofield.org.uk](mailto:minister@mannofield.org.uk) or 01224 315748



## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Baptisms

7 Dec Hope Olivia Thomson  
4 Jan Daniel James Broadribb

### New Members

Ann Kindness (D12A)

### Deaths

22 Nov Mr Robert Malcolm (D49)  
1 Jan Dr Sheila Thomson (D43)  
2 Jan Mrs Margaret Mann (D17)  
14 Jan Mr Robert Simpson (D6A)  
Mrs Gladys McIlwain(D2A)  
15 Jan Ian Davidson (D45)

### Disjunctions

Mr Gordon & Mrs Alison Muirhead  
(D53)  
Mr David Gammie (D48A)  
Mr George & Mrs Sheila Grieve  
(D51)

### Change of Address

Mrs Sheila Clark (D51B)  
Mrs Gillian Whyte (D51B)

## Mannofield Coffee Club for visually impaired

Along with a social worker from Grampian Society for the Blind, Rhoda and Harry Cooke started a coffee club for blind people in 1989.

The club meets for coffee and entertainment in the Centenary Hall from 10 till 12 on the **third Tuesday of the month.**

This is a happy group who would love to welcome any blind, partially sighted or older people who would like to join their group for friendship, company, coffee and entertainment.

Contact Rhoda Cooke on 316199 for more details

### PLEASE NOTE

**The deadline for the next issue of  
*InSpire* is  
12 February**

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

[roddy@mccollassociates.com](mailto:roddy@mccollassociates.com)  
[office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk)

## 2009 GIFFORD LECTURES

These will take place at Kings College Centre, The University of Aberdeen, at 6pm on 10,12,17,19,24 and 26 February.  
A FINE-TUNED  
UNIVERSE:SCIENCE,THEOLOGY  
AND THE QUEST FOR MEANING.

Professor Alister McGrath  
To reserve your free place call  
01224 272084 or  
email [c.papiransky@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.papiransky@abdn.ac.uk)

## THE GUILD



### FEBRUARY

- 5 Coffee Morning  
10am-11.30am.  
Home Baking Stall & Book
- 10 Fruits of the Spirit – Which one are YOU?
- 21 **PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH**  
12 -2pm  
Adults £3 Children £2  
In aid of Guild Projects- Leprosy and Adivasi Tribe in Bangladesh
- 24 Rev E McKenna -"Blue Horizon"

# CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood 21 Forest Avenue k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Associate Minister	Rev Alisa Ferlicca <a href="mailto:alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com">alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com</a>	Mobile 07838 835778
Youth Worker	Stiubhart MacChoille stiubhart@fsmail.net	481359
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry <b><a href="mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk">office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk</a></b>	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson, nicholas.youngson@which.net	322239 M 07850 733402
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson <a href="mailto:Nnikibob@aol.com">Nnikibob@aol.com</a>	743484
Website	<a href="http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk">www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk</a>	

## Boys Brigade News

Dave Tait



We have started back after the Christmas break with 20 boys on the roll.

Since September the boys have been working on the new BB badge scheme called 'Discover'. This involves them in a variety of topics & activities including sports, health, origami, crime prevention, Bible study, politics, art & music. Three different groups of S3 boys recently produced a BB rap each based on the Run DMC song 'Its Like That'. They were brilliant.

We have six senior boys working towards Queens Badge. So far they have programmed and run a BB night, run tuck shop, the chess & table tennis competitions, refereed sports and have been helping out at both Anchor & Junior sections. Work continues through the year on this.

We had a Christmas party where the boys had a night of fun, games & food. They were challenged to make a tower from a box of toothpicks and a blob of Blu Tack. The results were mixed with some beautiful designs including a very tall & thin one.

One of our officers Ryan Webster was celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on the same night so we had a cake and a "tuneful" rendition of Happy Birthday. He was given a special photo montage of his days in the Company as a boy.

We have done well in recent Battalion sports competitions being runners up in both volleyball & basketball. Fraser Neave, however, won the individual senior badminton tournament which was run for the first time this year.