



INSPIRE



See pages 4-6

A legacy for future generations

MANNOFIELD CHURCH
Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

Thurs 1	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 2	7pm	Joint Good Friday Service at Ruthrieston West Church
Sun 4	8.30am	Sunrise Service with Communion followed by breakfast
	10am	Easter Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship with Communion
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tues 27	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 28	10.30am	Midweek Service

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is

Thursday 15 April

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

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

Flower Calendar



April

4 Mrs R Wallace
11 Mrs Crawford
18 Mrs C Robertson
25 Mrs Audrey Milne

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



Come and join us!

15 April

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!
Cost -- £3

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark tel. 317982

Mannofield Guild Events Diary



April: Tuesday 13

AGM and update on the Projects - Jane Dargie, Convener

May: Sunday 16

Guild Walk, St. Mark's Church, 2 pm

June: Wednesday 2

Summer Meeting, Dyce Church
7.30pm - Mr. Andy Martin, Mission Aviation Fellowship

Dear Friends

As I write this the temperature has shot to a high of 12°C. I know that is not particularly high but after three months of deepest winter when the snow flake on my car gauge (signifying a temperature of under 4.5°C) has never disappeared, I will accept today's temperature as a sign that Spring is almost here. I have enjoyed our winter but I am ready now for daylight and warmth in the air.

The remarkable thing about our seasons is that they come and they go. I use the word 'remarkable' because I really do think that we take the transitions of the seasons (along with a lot more in creation) too much for granted. The cycles of the seasons are a magnificent example of how 'Nature' sustains our earth and sustains life. We should not be complacent about the way our world works and thrives. As religious folks we should be forever ready to allow ourselves to be thrilled at what we see in creation and impressed at what we discover in the science of nature for these things point to an intelligent and loving Creator.

As signs of life begin to show themselves in our gardens and fields and as the days become warmer let us be ready to acknowledge in these aspects of life the gracious touch of a creator God.

May we live each day recognising that what we do and say, how we use the resources of the earth and how we grasp the opportunities of time and talent all count as signs of our willingness to worship God as the source and sustainer of life with all we have to offer.

Best Wishes *Keith*

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Last month I asked you to let me know if there was a particular theme or issues that you would like me to tackle in a sermon. Thank you to those who contacted me with suggestions.



I have six topics to address in the weeks after Easter. Below I offer a description of the challenge and the dates when the theme will be tackled.

18 April 10am: *How can we explain 'Suffering' in the face of a Loving God?*

25 April 10am: *Jesus and the Cleansing of the Temple and its relevance for Mannofield as we explore how we might use our buildings in order to relate better to the community around us.*

23 May 10am: *The Second Coming of Christ.*

30 May 10am: *The Lord's Prayer. How to make sense of the closing line, 'forever and ever' and reflect on what this tells us about God's reign in creation given Christian religion has only existed for such a short period compared to creation and indeed humanity.*

13 June 10am: *The "Equality and Diversity" debate currently a hot topic in light of Biblical teaching and the different views held by the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland.*

20 June 10am: *Forgiveness*

A legacy for future generations



Just over a year ago a Development Committee was formed because Session felt that a detailed look at the church and halls was required. The passage of time had taken its toll, not simply with the fabric, but also the appropriateness of what we have to suit the future needs of the parish.

Architects were contacted and ideas discussed. After interviews were conducted Bruce Ballance of Mackie, Ramsay Taylor was instructed to carry out a feasibility study. Detailed surveys were done of the whole site and buildings and practical problems with the current accommodation identified.

This led to draft plans being presented by Bruce Ballance to a joint meeting of Session and Board on 23 February. The outcome of the meeting was overwhelming support for the ideas proposed and approval given to the Development Committee to take matters forward.

Having reached this stage it is now time to let everyone know what is proposed. The church was looked at in sections and problems identified.

The problems:-

- 1). The Countesswells Road door area. - This area is cramped somewhat claustrophobic and not welcoming. The kitchen is isolated and only services the Large Hall.
- 2). Large Hall. – Accessing other parts of the church from Countesswells Road requires access through the hall, interrupting activities. There is a lack of storage space. The layout needs modernising, with more flexibility of use.
- 3). Rooms 1 and 2. - It is felt that the current rooms do not provide the best accommodation for user groups.
- 4). Sanctuary. – All agreed that this area is currently the best area, but is hardly used over the course of a week. The sanctuary is the ‘hub’ of all we are about as a Church. It is a ‘Holy’ place and generates holiness throughout the rest of our buildings and all our activities. Such a special place should be used as often as possible and shared with many more people, allowing them the opportunities to glimpse something of the holiness of God. Retaining its ambience and sacred feeling the committee wishes to find ways to use the space more fully and open it up so that hall users are enabled to sense the sacred as they access our suite of halls for any purpose or activity.
- 5). Remainder of our site. – The Centenary Hall is felt to provide good accommodation but is isolated. An area of available ground where development could take place was identified which would provide additional space to accommodate meetings and activities for which we currently do not have space. A key objective would be to create a café style space which would serve teas/coffee and Fair-trade products to encourage members of the local community (young and old) to visit our church during the week.

A legacy for future generations



The proposed solutions

You will have the chance over the next few weeks to scrutinise the plans as displayed on boards in the Large Hall but in relation to the problems as previously numbered the proposed solutions are:-

- 1). Creating a new door and reception area making the area brighter and more welcoming. Provision of better office and vestry accommodation and providing an access door into the sanctuary from this entrance.
- 2). Providing a corridor to give proper access to other areas without going through the Large Hall. Creating storage and providing dividing screens to allow flexibility of use.
- 3). Moving the kitchen through to this area, enabling provision of catering to all areas of the church. Creating meeting rooms of good size for various uses.
- 4). Creating flexibility by removal of pews and provision of moveable staging that could be used for specific events. Providing better access by creating doorways at each Chancel (under the stained glass windows). Improvement of the front entrance hall making the sanctuary more welcoming.
- 5). Constructing an additional area on the Great Western Road side to provide a bright meeting area with a servery for teas/coffees. Flexibility of use created by provision of dividing screens.

Please come along and see the plans for yourself. It will be much easier to appreciate the changes when viewed on a larger scale drawing.

Members of the Development Committee will be on hand after the Sunday morning services over the next few weeks to explain or discuss the proposals. The outline drawings that you see will naturally require more work. A lot more detail will be added prior to any official proposal being made to the congregation, presbytery and '121'. We hope however that the work carried out so far allows you to imagine the type of accommodation we are seeking to create.

Overall the aim of the Committee is to make our Church the focus of our parish. We want to encourage as much use of our buildings as possible while retaining the idea that we are, first and foremost, a Church. The Sanctuary would become the heart of our site, more visible no matter which entrance you came in by and hopefully more appealing to those not used to entering a church.

Continued on page 6

A legacy for future generations

The cost

A reasonable estimate would be between £1million to £1.5 million

Is it achievable?

That is down to all of us; not just a committee, but each and every person associated with Mannofield, every parishioner and beyond. While outside sources of funding will be sought, a significant amount would require to be raised from our own resources.

Any journey starts with one step. Some require that step to be a leap of faith. The Development Committee believe that with everyone's support and enthusiasm this can happen.

On 17 February 2009 the Kirk Session agreed that the Church needed to review its accommodation to ensure that we would "leave a legacy of a suite of rooms which were fit for purpose for future generations." Grand words maybe, but, when you get the chance to inspect what has been produced from work over the last year, we hope you will agree that the proposals come close to achieving that. We hope that you become enthusiastic for these plans, support the changes and join us so that we can all make that leap of faith, as one Mannofield family.



Do you know your Hymns?

When you go to Church this weekend be sure to smile as you go through your Hymnals!

Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with many Crowns

Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy

The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises

Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I Might See

The Revenue's Hymn.....I Surrender All

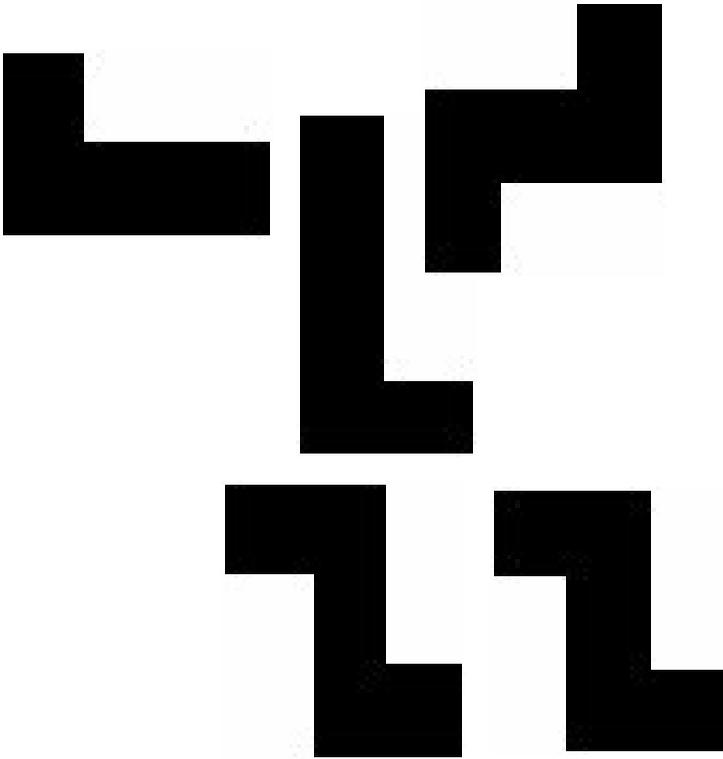
The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light

The Shopper's Hymn.....Sweet By and By

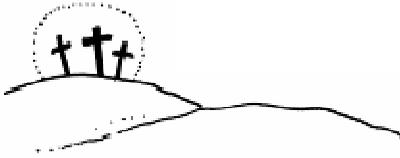
The Estate Agent's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk



How can you make a cross from these five pieces?





Change-a-Word

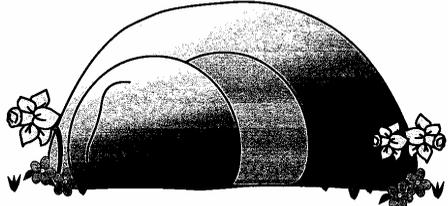
Change the word **TOMB** to **RISE** in 4 steps by changing one letter at a time.

T O M B

R I S E

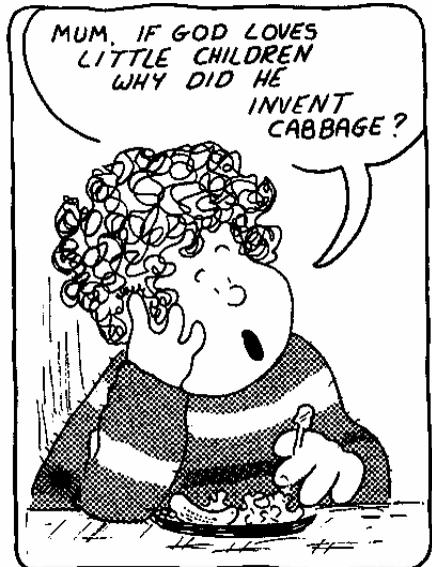
Can you find the words in capital letters below in the grid?
(Mark 16: 1-8)

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

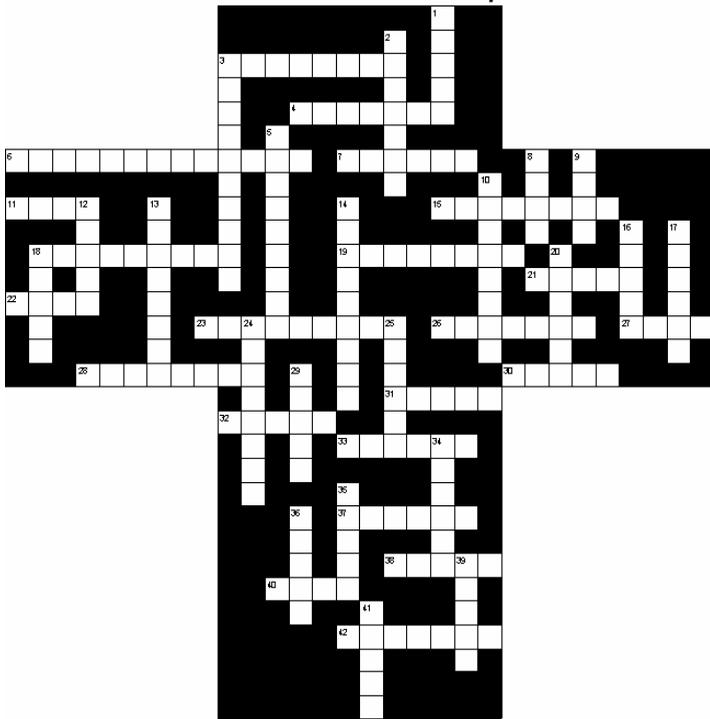


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EARLY on SUNDAY MORNING the WOMEN went to the TOMB. They found the STONE had been ROLLED AWAY. An ANGEL told them that JESUS was ALIVE again, just as he had PROMISED!



The Easter Story



Down

1. The father-in-law to the high priest. Jesus was first brought to him
2. Another name for the place of His crucifixion.
3. The garden where Jesus prayed before He was arrested
5. And it was the third hour, and they _____ Him.
6. This was written and set over His head: "_____ of the Jews"
9. Judas betrayed Jesus with a _____.
10. "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every _____."
12. Joseph took His body down and wrapped it in fine _____.
13. The prisoner released by Pilate instead of Jesus
14. The pharisee that brought spices for His burial
16. The apostle who betrayed the Christ
17. "Why seek ye the _____ among the dead?"
18. He was taken up; and a _____ received Him out of their sight.
20. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of _____.
24. And they crucified Him, and parted His _____, casting lots:

Across

3. It means "A place of a skull;" Where He was crucified
4. These guys were crucified on each side of Him.
6. And He was numbered with the _____.
7. Jesus was anointed with precious ointment in preparation for His _____.
11. This part of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom
15. And when the sixth hour was come, there was _____ over the whole land.
18. This Roman said, "Truly this was the Son of God."
19. The high priest who said it was expedient that one man die for all.
21. The _____ of blood was purchased with the betrayal money
22. The disciple that took Mary home as his own mother
23. He appeared first unto Mary _____.
26. "Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do."
27. He shed His blood so our _____ would be forgiven.
28. The Last Supper was a celebration of this Jewish holiday
30. The ruler of Galilee
31. This was sent to strengthen Him when He was praying in the garden.
32. This apostle denied that He knew Jesus three times.
33. This wealthy man of Arimathea buried Him.
37. The doubtful apostle
38. "A spirit has not _____ and bones as ye see me have."
40. And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet _____.
42. They gave Him this to drink when He was on the cross.

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March's solution:- The actual time was five past two.

Q What is your age, occupation, marital status and family

A Age 37, married to Scott since 1996. We have 2 daughters – Claire (8) & Kirsten (6). I work part time as a community physiotherapist.

Q What is your favourite verse from Scripture?

A Philippians Ch4 V6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Q What motivates you spiritually?

A Faith in there being an overlying force of goodness and love in our world which is more powerful than anything else

Q It's not cool but.....

A I once went to a Michael Ball concert. In my defence I was there with my Mum – someone had to keep an eye on her to make sure she behaved herself.

Q What was the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

A Simply to be true to yourself.

Q Who is your favourite fictional character?

A Shaun the Sheep – now he IS cool.

Q What are you afraid of?

A I'm not great in very confined, enclosed spaces – don't think I'll be taking up pot-holing any time soon.

Q If you could travel back in time, where would you go?

A I would visit an inhabited Skara Brae

Q What situations make you lose your temper?

A People exercising double standards. Also trying to remove cucumbers from the cellophane wrapping in which supermarkets insist on packaging them.

Q If you could choose a profession that you would like to try what would that be? Why?

A Designing and making furniture. Creating something lasting to be both used and enjoyed would be very fulfilling I think.



Q If you could change something about yourself, what would it be?

A I would love to be able to sing well. Me attempting to hold a tune is really not something that other ears should be subjected to.

Q What would you do if you ruled the world?

A Sort out the pharmaceutical companies so that the right medicine could be fairly available to whoever needed it.

Q What is your most treasured possession?

A Excluding my human nearest and dearest it would be our tortoise Speedy. We are the 3rd & 4th generation of my family to look after him, and as a relatively young sixty-something we hope to have him with us for many more years to come. He's a decidedly grumpy creature, but we're all extremely attached to him – yes, even you Scott.

Q What has been your greatest achievement

A Aside from somehow producing 2 beautiful children, and remaining calm in the face of Scott's six monthly "need to change my car" problem, I'm proud of having completed the Great North Run in 2008 – a high 5 from Chris Hoy as you cross the start line can fairly speed you on your way:)

Tim's update



As a lot of you will know I am now working full time at Mannofield. This has been a great boost to my work with the young people. This has strengthened my bond with them as they now know I am officially committed to them full time.

The youth café has undergone a bit of a change as the age range of those who are being attracted to this aren't really interested in coffee etc. and so it is now a youth drop-in. The age has also been lowered slightly to primary seven which is to take advantage of the Primary school being closer to the church than the Academy.

Thanks to all who have helped with this venture so far, you have done a great job! I have been very encouraged watching you interact with and join in games with the young people and I know they have appreciated you. It has been good for them to spend time with you and get to know you all a bit more.

It is hoped soon to get a Saturday night youth music project going based at the church and run in partnership with the Council which has made funding available for this. The project is to offer music tuition and support to young people and hopefully leading to some performance and recording opportunities.

Part of my plan for the youth work is to go to young people where they are at, instead of waiting for them to walk through the door of the youth drop-in. Although many young people will do that there are a lot of them who, unless there is a stepping stone in-between, won't even attend a youth event hosted at the church as there is a stereotypical 'block' of the church being seen as being for old people. So I'm looking into doing some street youth work and also as part of my work volunteering at the Friday night youth club held at Airyhall Community Centre.

With the increase in hours my remit as youth worker has also been extended to having some responsibility for children's work. As part of this I am now going into Airyhall Primary School where I hope to start an after school craft club for Primary 5+.

My work in the Academy is also expanding. Soon a lunch time CU (Christian Union) will be starting. I am also looking into a morning prayer time as well as providing some form of support to stressed teachers!

Thanks again for all your support so far. There is a good bunch of young people associated with the Church and I would encourage you to pray for them and offer a word of encouragement when you can.

Tim

A Tribute to John Stewart

At its last meeting in February the Kirk Session paid tribute to Elder John Stewart who passed away after a short illness.

Born and raised in Aviemore John moved to Aberdeen when joining the Police. He served for 30 years achieving the rank of Sergeant.

John was extremely well known within Aberdeen but also throughout Scotland for his involvement with bagpipe music. A Gold Medal Winner at Braemar, he played, judged and taught pipe music and touched many people with his warmth and friendship. At home he enjoyed history, a little golf and cooking.

John was an Elder of Mannofield for over 30 years. A keen visitor of his District and all-round hard worker for the Church, John left his mark on the spirit of our congregation and will be sadly missed. A loving, caring and personable person we pay tribute to his life and extend our love and prayers to Audrey and family in their loss.



SIMON THE CYRENIAN SPEAKS

He never spoke a word to me
And yet He called my name;
He never gave a sign to me
And yet I knew and came.

At first I said, "I will not bear
His cross upon my back;
He only seeks to place it there
Because my skin is black."

But He was dying for a dream
And He was very meek
And in His eyes there shone a
gleam
Men journey far to seek.

It was Himself my pity bought;
I did for Christ alone
What all of Rome could not have
wrought

With bruise of lash or stone
Countee Cullen (1903-46)

An American Romantic poet. Cullen was one of the leading African American poets of his time.

Our Wonderful World

Next month's magazine will feature photographs from the Flower Festival. The displays were fragrant, beautiful, inspiring and thought provoking.

The photographs (a few of which are included in this Magazine) cannot do justice to the holiness of the atmosphere that was created in the Sanctuary with such loving care and dedication complemented by the excellent choice of music.



Easter Sunday Services and Events

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today,
Alleluia!*

*Come and Join the Mannofield
Family by Celebrating Easter
Sunday.*

All are Welcome!

8:00 Sunrise Worship Service

8:30 Easter Breakfast

9:15 Children's Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 Easter Egg Decorating

10:00 Morning Worship Service

18:30 Evening Worship with
Communion

Mannofield Church Well



We were able to send a £150 cheque to Christian Aid in February 2010.

The official thank you letter is on the Christian Aid notice board in the corridor. We wish to thank all who continue to give, especially in these "credit crunch" times.

Elizabeth Paterson

A small Yale key has been found among the donations. Please phone Elizabeth on 310070 to reclaim it.

NOTES & NEWS

The Retiring collections after the Communion services in March raised £536.77. This sum has been sent to Aberdeen Presbytery Malawi Partnership Committee.

Mannofield Book Club Book for May

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Book Thief revolves around 9 year old Liesel Meminger who loses her family in Germany during World War 2.

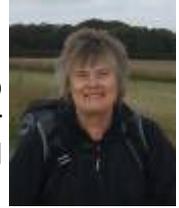
Fostered by a family she develops a love of books which she sets about gathering. She saves books from being burnt and steals them from the mayor's wife's library!

When a Jewish man is hidden in the family's basement books form his relationship with Liesel. This gripping and touching story is about words, the power we give them and the magic they carry in their own right.

We will discuss this book on Wednesday 5 May.



Pastoral Care Group



The Caring Group along with the car service, the hospital escort service and the delivering of the CDs are now under the umbrella of the Pastoral Care Group.

At present each group is managing with the volunteers we have, but of course if anyone is interested in any of these areas of service we would be very happy to include them!

The aim of the group is to befriend and care for lonely, housebound folk in the parish. If any member of the congregation knows of family or friends in these categories, please let Keith, Alisa, Gill or me know. Also if you know of folk in hospital who would appreciate a visit from our ministers, please also refer them to Keith or Gill.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the committee members and all the volunteers for their unfailing commitment and care, often over many years. Our church would be much poorer without your love and dedication. I would also say a big thank you to Gill whose help I find invaluable!

Margaret Stewart

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

21 Feb Evangeline Mahlia May Farquhar

Deaths

14 Nov Mrs Margaret Donald

8 Dec Mr Craig Campbell

20 Feb Mrs Dorothy Gibson

24 Feb Mr George Duncan

25 Feb Mr Graeme Stirling

Disjunctions

Mrs Lynne McDermott

PLANT AND BOOK SALE

Well the snow has gone, the snowdrops are through and flowering.



Our thoughts, if we have a garden, turn to planting seeds and dividing perennials.

Well, think of the Guild Sale on 5 June.

When you plant seeds, sow some extra! When you divide the plants pot up the spare bits!

Quiz Night

Are you feeling intelligent? Is your brain full of interesting facts which until now have been frankly of not much use to you? Well, here is your chance to dazzle us all with your immense knowledge.



The Young People & Families Committee is planning a quiz night, to take place on Friday 21 May at 7.30 for 7.45pm in the church hall. It's a team event and there will be questions for all ages, so get a group of up to 6 people together and come along – there might even be some prizes up for grabs....

Watch out for more information in the weekly intimations but get the date on your calendar now and start cramming! And don't worry if you're not part of a team beforehand – we can form more teams on the night, or you can join up with people looking in need of your extra brain power!

Mannofield Church Hill-Walking and Rambling Club

Peter Stewart

The club has an annual programme of walks in the Cairngorms and the Angus Glens. A typical walk is 9 to 12 miles with an ascent of 2000 ft, taking 6 to 7 hours, but easier walks are arranged to suit members. Outings are on the last Saturday of each month from February to October and a bus is hired for six of the trips, enabling us to do some interesting through walks.

New members are welcome. If you have never walked in the hills but would like to try the experience, walking with a group is the best way to learn how to tackle the mountains and build up your confidence. The 2010 programme is on the church website. The walk on 24 April is a new one for the club, along the Ailnack Gorge near Tomintoul (OS map 36) and finishing with a meal in Tomintoul.



CHURCH CONTACTS

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