



INSPIRE



September's Flower — the Aster

**"By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather
And autumn's best of cheer."**

Helen Hunt Jackson, *September*, 1830-1885

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Wed 1	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 5	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship resumes
Wed 8	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 12	10am	Family of the Church Sunday
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 15	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 19	10am	Harvest Thanksgiving
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 22	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 26	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 29	10.30am	Midweek Service

OCTOBER

Sun 3	10am	Sacrament of Communion
	6.30pm	at both Services

Blessing

'Let me no more my comfort draw
From my frail grasp of thee;
In this alone rejoice with awe
Thy mighty grasp of me.'

John Campbell Shairp

Flower Calendar



September

5 Miss S Quin
12 Miss E McCombie
19 Sheila Murray and Betty Henry
26 Mrs C Black

Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 19 September



Our annual opportunity for returning gifts back to God in appreciation of the blessings we know in life will take place on Sunday 19th September. This year, children of the Young Church and members of the congregation are asked to support Blythswood Care by bringing a selection of the following goods:-

Packets of rice; tinned fruit; tinned tuna/ salmon; and tinned Ham.

We are indebted to the Guild for decorating the church and for the young people of the Church who will be taking part in the service that day.

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is Thursday 16 September

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

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

Dear Friends

It's typical! First day of school after the holiday and the sun, which has been sporadic in its appearances during the last 6 weeks, decides to turn up as the children walk to school.

Despite the lack of sun I trust you have enjoyed the activities of summer.

In addition to our own family holiday, this summer I attended the Army Cadet Force camp for the first time in my capacity as Chaplain. We were based at Strensall Barracks near York, with over 150 cadets from Aberdeen, the North East and Shetland. It was a totally new experience for me but one which I thoroughly enjoyed. During the ten days my involvement was varied and I have to say I was kept much busier than I expected. Prior to attending the camp I admit I was slightly unsure of the nature of my role as every other officer's area of responsibility was clearly defined and I felt mine was not. However very quickly it became apparent that my role in many ways was no different to my role within Mannofield fifty two weeks of the year.

For the 10 days of camp the 150 cadets, officers and adult leaders became my congregation - to care for and support, encourage and teach, to befriend and learn from.

Put simply my role was ministry! I need not have worried about how the specifics of my role would develop; the great truth about ministry is it has an uncanny way of instinctively revealing itself.

We are all called to be ministers in our own right of course as the ministry of God's love is not reserved for a chosen few. As parents, as relatives, as neighbours, as friends, as colleagues to others, as volunteers, as Elders and church members, God places us into situations where what is required of us simply reveals itself to us in its own time. Sometimes we think too deeply about our roles and our areas of responsibility. We spend a lot of time trying to ascertain what exactly we must do and achieve.

In most circumstances I think God wants us to be ourselves; to have hearts that are open to others; to be focussed on service and not attainment. God needs us to do what we can and not necessarily any more than that; for by His spirit God will work through us and His work will exceed efforts we can manage.

Let us then be open to the way God works and to be willing to be used in the ministry of His love. God will provide many opportunities that will allow us to play a role for Him. We don't need to chase these opportunities down; they will come. That is a certainty. What we must be is ready to minister goodness and love when and where we can.

Best Wishes

Keith

E-mail k5blackwood@btinternet.com



No doubt many of you are keen to know of the latest position regarding the work of the Development Committee. As with all such projects there are times when it is obvious that things are moving forward and other times when from the outside it appears things have ground to a halt but in actual fact much is going on behind the scenes.

So let me as briefly as I can give a summary of what has happened recently and what will happen in the future.

For many weeks the draft plans of the committee have been on show in the large hall. During the spring we invited people to take a look at the plans and offer opinion and comment to the member of the committee on duty. From the comments made the vast majority of people are very positive about these outline plans.

The committee continued to consult with respective parties within Presbytery and the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and work progressed with our appointed architect as he fine-tuned and added to the original drawings.

The committee feel that as of late summer we have the basis of a plan that is advanced enough to satisfy future needs and to leave for the time being in order to progress other areas of this project.

What happens with these plans?

At some point in the future these plans along with associated background material will be used by the Kirk Session as various permissions are obtained. This plan would be used to present a case to the Planning Department of Aberdeen Council, the Presbytery of Aberdeen and the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh

Before this however it would be up to the congregation to decide whether these plans are suitable or not.

The recognised church procedure for this process would be that after plans were made available to all our members a congregational meeting would be held on a given date, and a vote would be taken on whether to approve or reject the proposed plan.

When would this Congregational meeting take place?

We are not exactly sure on the timescale but a best guess might be around mid winter; either late 2010 or early 2011. In any case a sensible amount of advance notice would be given allowing for continued discussion and debate at various levels. What the committee recognises as of crucial importance for the interim period is that advances are made to build a strategy for fundraising.

Continued on Page 5

Development Committee News continued

There is no point in presenting an architect's plan without at the same time presenting a plan for how money might be raised and making a case as to the likelihood of the success of such fundraising.

What happens next?

The committee in the next few months will be working on a strategy for raising funds. We have the support of two recognised experts in the area of fundraising who have made themselves available to us and the intention is to use their guidance to put together a fundraising team and strategy. Once this is in place then the committee will move forward to seek the appropriate permissions and launch a fundraising campaign.

Where will I find out about the dates of these meetings and the details of the fundraising campaign?

Essentially the InSpire magazine will be the place to keep up-to-date with progress.

Please continue to support and pray for those individuals and committees who are working away at top speed in an attempt to bring together all the parts of this ambitious project.

Kind Regards

Keith



In Session-----with Scribe

The development of our church in the years ahead continues to play a prominent role in the Kirk Session's deliberations now and for some time to come. At June 1 meeting of Session, Keith reported that a meeting had taken place with a professional fund raiser who had assisted with ideas on how the necessary funds could be raised. It was confirmed that any plans put forward would require the approval of a full congregational meeting. Further debate would be engaged in prior to such a meeting.

Under 'Minister's Matters' Keith reported that a plan was being formulated for the restructuring of crèche provision, with helpers to be recruited. Also required are volunteers to help with Young Church and enlistment of such helpers required immediate attention to enable Young Church to function effectively next session. There is a particular need for a co-ordinator.

Among the various committee reports submitted to Session, the Communication Committee indicated that two sets of Christmas cards are to be prepared—one for elders to distribute to homes in the parish and the other for general sale to the congregation.

The Social Committee reported that a bus trip was planned for mid September, while the Young People and Families' Committee advised that the fun day will take place on September 4. Future Kirk Session meetings have been scheduled for December 7, 2010 and February 22, April 26 and June 7 2011. Next year's AGM will take place on March 20.

Thoughts on the General Assembly 2010

This was my first General Assembly but hopefully not my last. I applied to Presbytery for a place and was successful, so I felt I was there on the Guild ticket since that is my role in Presbytery.



Highlights:

Worship was uplifting: Hymns, Psalms sung either unaccompanied or with the organ. Readings and a Reflection pertinent to the day's theme (often based on a slide of a stained glass window).

The Moderator himself: people friendly, humorous (there was more laughter in the whole proceedings than I had expected), willing to admit he'd made a mistake, struggled at first with procedural amendments etc. Out of his "chair", sat on the floor cross-legged with the children.

I loved the ceremony and pageant of it all - archaic to some perhaps but meaningful.

Meeting people: Mrs W. whose church was a listed building and had sustained storm damage to the roof requiring £4 million to repair it.

Miss B. encouraged us to speak up (we didn't) –she questioned and queried only to tell us she would miss the final afternoon as she was at the hospital to find out if her treatment for cancer had been successful.

We listened hard to all the arguments then voted-electronically when too close to call such as the issue about the fate of St Andrew's Press. Hard work from 9.30am to 5.30/6.00pm as the temperature soared into the high 20's.

Sunday afternoon saw us all taking part in a Celebration of 450 years of the Reformation. Being a Geographer my historical knowledge has big gaps. This event certainly helped to fill this particular gap.

Each day the Council which was presenting its report had a lunchtime meeting to bring other personalities or issues to Assembly. This meant hurrying to George IV Bridge – St Augustine's - to hear about Middle East progress, Science, Religion and Technology or Ministries in Bangladesh etc. *Continued on Page 11*

Thoughts on the General Assembly 2010 *contd*

The session where we learned about the role of Chaplains to all the Forces was a particular highlight. Jackie Bird addressed us about her time in Afghanistan.

This reflects something of the way of Chaplaincy in the Army and I quote:

“ Communion from a mess tin and a wine glass on a table covered by a clean white sheet, the words of the Bible heard and reflected upon, psalms and hymns sung all in a reverent atmosphere attended by professing atheists and every denomination and none.”

Disappointments:

Sorry to say the Youth Report. I was waiting for challenge, innovative thought and enthusiasm. This was the Convener's 3rd year and he was Establishment even to the shirt and tie!

No Garden Party but a lovely Reception in the Long Hall of Holyrood Palace. This year of course the weather was eminently suitable for outside but with costs of £20,000 for security alone it was deemed an unnecessary expenditure.

Quite an experience overall, never boring, great for people watching and I would certainly go again!

Rhoda K Wright

PS. I met Scott Kirkland who was with us at Mannofield then went to Falkirk. He was there representing the Presbytery of Bermuda which has decided to ally itself with Florida and no longer be part of Church of Scotland. He was asking about those he remembered and sent his best wishes to all who remembered him. He and his wife Anita have 2 teenage daughters, neither of whom was born when he was here!

RW

Tribute to Eric T H Smith

Eric Smith was a great friend of mine and we both had common links and interests. As boys we were brought up in Bearsden and our parents' houses were just a hundred yards apart.

My father was his Sunday School teacher at Killermont Parish Church. We both attended Hillhead High School but Eric being my senior by seven years meant that we did not know each other at school.

We both started work in Clydeside shipyards and gained qualifications in naval architecture.

Eric studied at Glasgow University and obtained his BSc in ship design which proved to be a firm foundation for the various positions he held in later years.

His early employment with William Denny & Bros. Dumbarton as well as family holidays at west coast resorts no doubt sparked his interest in Clyde steamers on which he became a leading authority.

After leaving Clydeside Eric joined the Board of Trade as a ship surveyor and for many years was based in London. Along with his wife Anne and their family Brenda, Graham and Gordon, Eric lived in Broxbourne before moving to Aberdeen as chief surveyor with the Marine Survey Office.

It was in this position that Eric travelled the world surveying ships and floating structures. For four years before retiring he took up an appointment in the Cayman Islands which proved a popular location for the family!

Eric was a great family man and never happier than with his family and grandchildren especially when they spent time together at Larny Place and at the cottage in Arran. A keen sense of humour and a quick wit were always present when you were in his company and many will remember the fun which resulted.

As an elder he was greatly appreciated by the folk in his district. His involvement with the church drama club gave him much enjoyment and in later years he and Anne organised the meetings for the senior fellowship

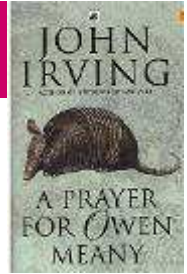
His love of music not only as an accomplished pianist but also as a singer gave him enjoyment as a member of Aberdeen Operatic Society.

Above all Eric was a person's person, a true gentleman and all who were privileged to know him have many fond memories.

John R Little

Mannofield Book Club October 2010

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving



John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, is a long, sprawling novel in the tradition of Charles Dickens and other nineteenth-century novelists.

John Wheelwright, a former American who is now a Canadian citizen living in Toronto, tells the story. John recalls growing up in a small town in New Hampshire with a very unusual best friend, a tiny boy with a high voice named Owen Meany. Despite his strange appearance and voice, Owen is a boy with a strong personality, intellectual gifts, and an air of authority that enables him to take charge of a situation. Owen also possesses a strong religious faith and an uncanny knowledge of future events in his life—including the exact time and circumstances of his own tragic but heroic death. It is through Owen Meany that John becomes a religious believer.

A Prayer for Owen Meany is Irving's seventh novel. Compellingly readable, it contains a large cast of idiosyncratic small-town characters and has many hilarious scenes and episodes. It also contains serious political and religious themes, exploring issues such as faith and doubt, predestination, the Vietnam War, and the wider issue of American foreign policy from the 1960s to the 1980s. The book is also a mine of information about American social history, from the advent of television in the 1950s to the rock videos of the 1980s.

WHO DOES WHAT

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replied, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replied, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says.....**'HEBREWS'**

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Guild News



The opening meeting of the Guild is on 7 September at 7.30pm in the Large Hall. We extend a warm welcome to friends, old and new.

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Sept "3 Scots Biddies in the land of Bin Laden" - an amusing and interesting talk by Prof Jane Geddes
- 19 Sept Harvest Thanksgiving
- 21 Sept "St Nicholas & Marischal Excavations" an interesting talk by Alison Cameron about what is happening in Aberdeen.

OCTOBER

- 5 Oct Catch of the Day - Demonstration by Downies of Whitehills
- 7 Oct Coffee Morning

Bowling Club



The Mannofield Church Bowling Club starts the new session on Friday 24 September at 2pm in the Large Hall. New members are most welcome. Bowls can be provided and flat shoes should be worn. There is always a cup of tea and a chat! For more information contact Yvonne Allan Tel 326840 or Nick Youngson

MANNOFIELD BUS OUTING

**TUESDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER**



11.30am - 4.30pm

Cost £10/head

Leaving Church at 11.30am and travelling to Huntly via Oldmeldrum. Soup and sandwiches will be provided in Huntly Castle Hotel.

The return journey is via Rhynie and Alford (comfort break) arriving back at 4.30pm.

Names should be given to John Allan in Large Hall after the morning service or phone him on 319043.

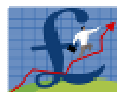
Church Well



Thanks to your continuing generosity it has been possible to send another cheque to Christian Aid. The cheque was for £160 and it was sent on 9 August 2010.

Elizabeth Paterson

Retiring Collection October Communion



The Retiring Collection at the October Communion will be to help finance the work of the Church of Scotland in Africa. Forms will be available to enable donations to be made by Gift Aid

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms

30 May Martha Isobel Smith
20 June Jessica Currie

Wedding

12 Aug Krista Michol & Daniel Ross

Deaths

17 April Mrs Helen Dick
8 July Mrs Edna Alexander
17 July Mrs Margaret McPherson
18 July Mrs Dorothy Diack

Change of Address

Miss Carole Torrance
Mrs Margaret McLean
Mrs Margaret Menzies
Mrs Isobel Crawford
Mrs Jessie Gavin
Mr Norman & Mrs Evelyn Burt
Mr Andrew Middleton
Mrs Isobel Ogilvie
Miss Gillian Slessor

Disjunctions

Mrs Irene Wallace
Mrs Margaret Gabriel

4 July 2010
Dear Mr Blackwood



At the last committee meeting Ian McAdam informed me of the wonderful sum of money raised for SSAFA by members of your congregation. It was a marvellous effort and I am writing to thank you for so generously giving a Sunday collection to our charity, all your parishioners for their immense generosity and those who gave by gift aid. We could not be more grateful and a huge and very sincere thank you to everyone. It is people like you all at Mannofield Church who help us to help those who so desperately need our aid. My best wishes to you and your congregation and once again my most sincere thanks to everyone.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Patricia Linzee Gordon
President, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen
and Families Association

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



**Come and join us
in the Large Hall!**

16th September

Thereafter
3rd Thursday each month
from
Sept. 2010 – May 2011

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm
A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

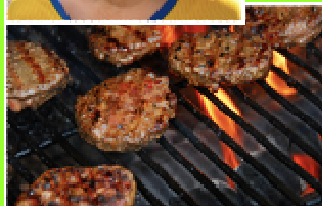
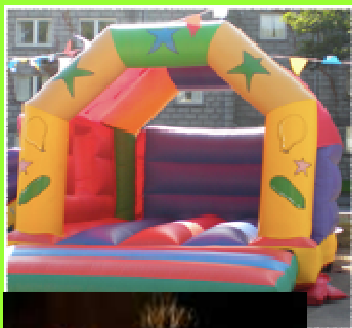
Contact: Mhairi Clark tel. 317982

*The Lunch Club would like to thank the badminton ladies for relinquishing their time in the **large hall** to allow us to serve lunch and entertain there every month.*

We wish them well at their new allotted time.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Associate Minister	Rev Alisa Ferlicca	alisa.ferlicca@gmail.com M 07838 835778	277428
Youth Ministries Worker	Tim Still	tj.still@btinternet.com M 07535 356346	
Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@talktalk.net	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484



3RD ANNUAL MANNOFIELD FUN DAY! At Mannofield Church SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 11.00AM-2.00PM

Live Magician @ 11.00/ Burgers and Grill/ Bouncy Castle/Bungee Run/
Book Stall/ Face Painting/Building
Development Plans/Crèche Display/
Teasers of Church Organisations...

AND MUCH MORE!