



INSPIRE



**For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins**

"First Chorus from Atalanta in Calydon"

By Algernon Charles Swinburne

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Wed 2 | 10.30am | Midweek Service |
| Sun 6 | 10am | All Age service |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Worship with Communion |
| Wed 9 | 10.30am | Midweek Service |
| Sun 13 | 10am | Morning Worship |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Worship |
| Wed 16 | 10.30am | Midweek Service |
| Sun 20 | 10am | Morning Worship |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Worship |
| Wed 23 | 10.30am | Midweek Service |
| Sun 27 | 10am | Morning Worship |
| | 3.15pm | Craigielea |
| | 6.30 pm | Evening Worship |

MARCH

| | | |
|-------|--------|---|
| Sun 6 | 10am | Sacrament of Communion at both services |
| | 6.30pm | |

Tea Time Teaser

Use the digit 4 four times and the normal mathematical symbols to generate the values 2 to 20. Use +, -, x, division, 4 squared, square root of 4 and brackets. For example $(4+4)/(4+4) = 1$ or $4 \times 4 / 4 \times 4 = 1$.

Answers in next month's InSpire

Flower Calendar

January

- 2 Mrs K Jones now Yarnold
- 9 Mrs M Malloch and Mrs L Anderson
- 16 Miss A Thomson
- 23 Flower Fund
- 30 Mrs S Black



February

- 6 Mrs E Thain
- 13 Mrs C Strachan
- 20 Mrs L Anderson
- 27 Mrs Parkinson

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



Come and join us!

17 February

3rd Thursday each month until 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

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for the next issue of InSpire is Thursday 17 February

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

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

Dear Friends

The Year 2011 needs to be a year where we all work together and do what we can to support the Development Project. We have pledged that during this year we will see what might be achievable as far as fundraising is concerned (both internal fundraising and external fund seeking) and make a judgement at the end of the year as to whether or not the goals we have set ourselves will be achievable within a reasonable timescale.

You will have received a letter from the Finance Committee explaining how we can make our personal giving to this project. The letter invites us to consider what we can 'afford' to give. Some of you might be in a position where you feel that this is the opportunity of a lifetime to be part of a project that will not only create a building with great possibility for the present time but also potential for future generations and you might recognise that you are able to give a substantial figure towards the cost. Some of you might be less sure of the plans but are none-the-less willing to give generously to the project.

However, there is perhaps a third group within the congregation. Some of you will just feel that you are already at your financial limit as to what you can give to the causes you would like to support; you would like to give to the project but are anxious because realistically you can't give any more.

I want to say to you - that's okay! I understand the feelings that you have in relation to what you would like to do and what you feel you can do. But what I want to say to all of you is that we can all do something and that doesn't necessarily need to be a major financial contribution.

The important thing about a campaign such as we are running is that momentum is built up and that all are able to enjoy being part of something worthwhile. There are lots of things we can do this year. We can support the events that others organise or we can decide on something that we might offer by way of a fundraising initiative that we can undertake on our own or with friends.

If baking is your talent for instance – then by all means arrange a Sunday date where you can sell some home baking in the hall after church. It doesn't need to be only in the church that you host a fundraising event. If you are in a bowling club or other club maybe you could do something there and raise some funds. That way we are not always targeting the same people to dip into their pockets.

The point I seek to make at this time is that any effort that we are able to make, as an individual or a church group, towards this project - be it a financial gift or a gift of your particular talent - is hugely appreciated. My encouragement to you all is to give some thought as to what you can do and then if you come up with an idea speak to the Fundraising Group who will assist you to get on and organise it.

Let's make 2011 a great year for the congregation. A campaign like this that allows us to busy ourselves in the work of the Church is a great opportunity for everyone to play a part and know a deep satisfaction at the same time.

Best wishes Keith

The Joy of TeachingJenny Imrie

Whilst studying for my up and coming assessments for teacher training I came upon this in one of my books. It highlights the everyday frustrations of a teacher; frustrations that Jesus himself must have felt at times.

The Joy of Teaching

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathering them around him,

He taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek.

Blessed are they that mourn.

Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are they that thirst for justice.

Blessed are you when persecuted.

Blessed are you when you suffer.

Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.

Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to know this?"

And Andrew said, "Do we have to write this down?"

And James said, "Will we have a test on this?"

And Phillip said, "I don't have any paper."

And Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"

And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Mathew said, "May I go to the toilet?"

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and inquired, "Where is your anticipatory set and your objectives in the cognitive domain?"

And Jesus wept.

NOAH TODAY

In the year 2011, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said:

"Once again, the earth has become wicked and overpopulated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing, along with a few good humans."



He gave Noah the blueprints, saying "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.

"Noah!," He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed since I last built an Ark. I needed a Building Permit."

"I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system."

"My neighbours claim that I've violated the neighbourhood By-laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Planning Committee for a decision."

"Then the Local Council and the Electricity Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them the sea would soon be coming to us but they would hear nothing of it!"

"Then the Environmental Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood."

"Then getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls but to no avail."

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive and that it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in such a confined space.."

continued on Page 6

"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew and the Borders Agency are checking the Visa status of most of the people who want to work."

The trade unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark building experience."

"To make matters worse the Inland Revenue seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally and with endangered species."

"So forgive me Lord but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up to the Lord in wonder and asked,

"You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The Government has obviously beaten me to it!!!"

In Session.....with Scribe



The future development of Mannofield Church was extensively debated at Congregational meetings held in November and December.

The December gathering was deemed necessary as the November one produced a low attendance due to adverse weather conditions. It was perhaps significant, however, that the voting on the development proposals produced a similar outcome in each case.

At the first meeting, the voting count was 96-3 in favour of the proposal to support a fundraising campaign with a view to achieving the proposed redevelopment, while additional votes at the December meeting backed the proposal by a 52-8 margin.

The Kirk Session meeting on November 30 was also informed of the impact that proposals for cost reduction are having on Presbytery planning. The 2003 plan is to be revised, with a minimum reduction of seven ministries achieved.

A consultation process on Presbytery planning is under way, and we in Mannofield should be prepared to put forward our views when we are visited by Presbytery representatives. The aim is to have the revised plan completed by 2012.

On a more domestic topic, Session has agreed to reinforce its ranks by the introduction of new Elders. Session members have been asked to nominate possible candidates for Keith to approach.

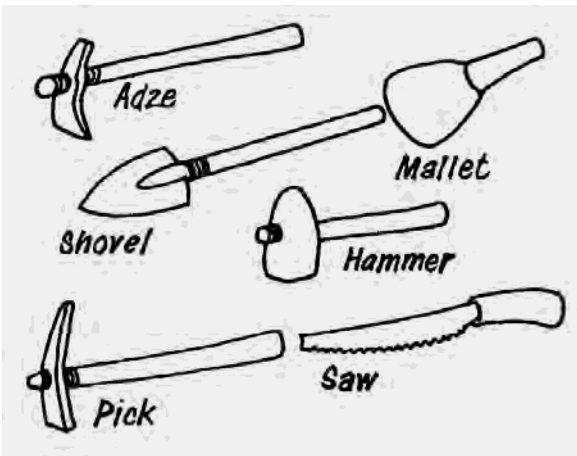
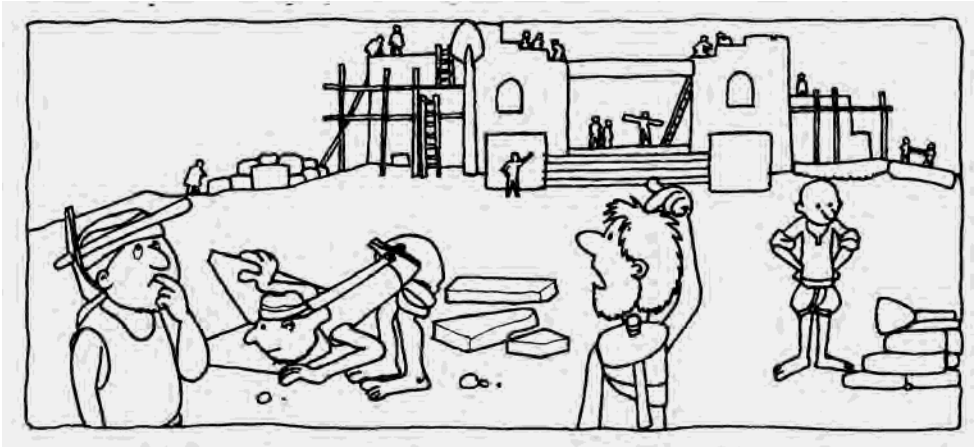
The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22 (7.30p.m.)

God said, and it was made. See if you can change the word 'said' to 'made' in 4 steps by changing one letter at a time...

Said

Made



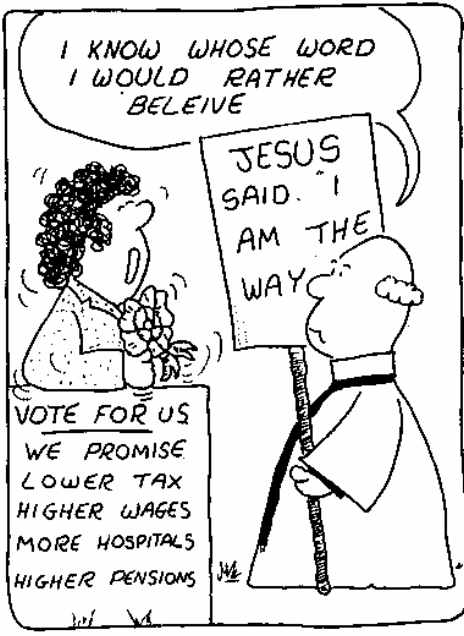


Can you help the workers find their tools?

Innkeeper: The room is £60 per night. But it's £10 if you make your own bed.

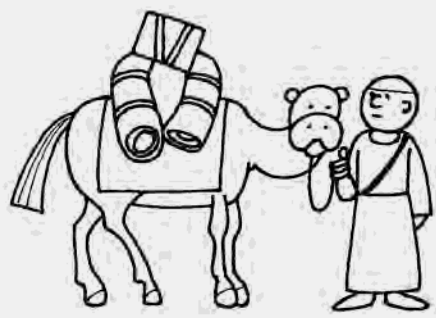
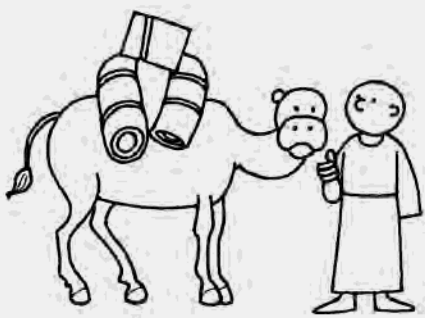
Guest: Ok, I'll make my own bed.

Innkeeper: I'll get you some wood and nails...



How did Noah see the animals in the Ark?

Flood-lighting!



These two pictures may look the same, but can you find ten differences?



FIX A WORD

Most of the twenty-six words to be entered into the grid are given below, but seven of them are to be found in the Bible verses referred to. To help you, the word required in the Bible verse is placed alphabetically in the list. Also a word has been inserted to start.



5 Letters

ABANA
1 Samuel 17:57
BREAD
ERROR
Daniel 3:1
NEEDS
REIGN
John 3:14
STILL
SWORD

6 Letters

DEEPER
DEMONS
GOSPEL
Luke 3:31
RICHLY
Isaiah 24:2
SHARON
SHEKEL

7 Letters

ABIGAIL
Isaiah 7:18
COLOURS
DANCING
DESTROY
HARNESSES
MARRIES
John 1:41

December's solution: The Elves Freestyle Race - 10 Elves neither dashed, ran, bolted or sprinted.



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

A. I am 83. I was a hospital pharmacist. I am a widow with 3 stepchildren, 3 of my own and 6 grandchildren.

Q. What is your favourite verse from scripture and why?

A. ISAIAH 53 v5 in A.V. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Written 8th century BC the whole chapter is a vivid prophecy of what Christ came for and what befell him.

Q. Who is your favourite character from the Bible?

A. Andrew. You cannot read a bad word about Andrew. He was the first to meet Jesus and thought Jesus would be the Messiah. He introduced his brother Simon Peter and brought others too.

Q. What motivates you spiritually?

A. The suffering of Christ – the fact that he loves me.

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

A. I prefer conventional art like Constable. Picasso's painting "skull and leeks" and other messy art is a turn-off.

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

A. Do not go to bed nursing your anger. Make your peace.

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

A. Nazareth.

Q. What would you do if you ruled the world?

A. Cancel all television other than news for six weeks every year to make people get out and make their own entertainment with their neighbours.

Q. Who or what is the love of your life?

The who is my family – the what is photography from which I derive great pleasure.

Q. What is your most treasured possession?

A. I suppose it is now the cameras since they are now irreplaceable and even irreparable. I don't wish to embrace the digital cult.

Q. Who is your favourite fictional character and why?

A. David Copperfield. Partly autobiographical (Charles Dickens) it describes the trials and tribulations of his own young life and how he meets and interacts with other characters, Mr Micawber, the Peggotys, and triumphs in the end.

Q. What are you afraid of?

A. Large spiders.

Q. Did you have a nickname growing up?

A. When I was small I would say my name was Mac-grit which became Mac

Q. What situations make you lose your temper?

A. Since biblical times, the law has been written and administered by men, in favour of men, to the detriment of women. Even today women get sent to prison for shoplifting but men nearly never.

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

A. Not another profession, but I went to night school for carpentry to make things for my house, six sets of bookshelves, linen cupboard, blanket-box. If I had my time over again I'd study to be a cabinet maker and make beautiful things.

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

A. I would love to sing well.

Q. On what purchase have you spent the most apart from a car or property?

A. Two Contax cameras and ten lenses.

Q. Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A. A primary teacher who had lived in Canada and told wonderful tales of the North American Indians. She had models of wigwams and braves with feather head-dresses and squaws carrying papooses.

Q. What has been your greatest achievement?

A. Possibly it was making a reasonably happy family life for the six children – a real privilege.

All Honour Due

This week I read a beautiful legend about a king who decided to set aside a special day to honour his greatest subject. When the big day arrived, there was a large gathering in the palace courtyard. Four finalists were brought forward and from these four, the king would select a winner.

The first person presented was a wealthy philanthropist. The king was told that this man was highly deserving of the honour because of his humanitarian efforts. He had given much of his wealth to the poor.

The second person was a celebrated physician. The king was told that this doctor was highly deserving of the honour because he had rendered faithful and dedicated service to the sick for many years.

The third person was a distinguished judge. The king was told that the judge was worthy because he was noted for his wisdom, his fairness and his brilliant decisions.

The fourth person presented was an elderly woman. Everyone was quite surprised to see her there because her manner was quite humble as was her dress. She hardly looked the part of someone who would be honoured as the greatest subject in the kingdom. What chance could she possibly have when compared to the other three, who had accomplished so much?

Even so there was something about her; the look of love in her face, the understanding in her eyes, her quiet confidence.

The king was intrigued to say the least, and somewhat puzzled by her presence. He asked who she was. The answer came, 'You see the philanthropist, the doctor and the judge? Well she was their teacher!'

The woman had no wealth, no fortune and no title but she had unselfishly given her life to produce great people. There is nothing more powerful or more Christ-like than sacrificial love.

The king could not see the value in the humble lady. He missed the significance of the teacher.

Often we miss the value of those around us. I think it would surprise us to know how often we miss the presence of Christ, just as Cleopas and his brother missed the significance of the stranger on the road to Emmaus.

Anon

'Where there is no vision the people perish'.

'Where there is no vision the people perish'. I read these words many years ago in a Lillian Beckwith story, uttered by a loving but inarticulate uncle as he was seeing his niece off at a railway station. Stuck for something fitting to send her off with he resorted to familiar text from the Bible. [Proverbs 29:18]

The circumstances made me laugh at the time but in some prophetic way these words have shaped my life ever since.

At university, in the midst of all the socialising, looking for a path for the future; bringing up my own family, trying to give them the skills and confidence to make their own way in life; in my teaching career, trying to establish an environment which would nurture and stimulate the hundreds of children who passed through our doors -- there was always a need for vision.

I don't know if you remember, but some years ago, before Keith's time, Mannofield Church had a Quinquennial visitation. While we were praised for the many things that Mannofield does extremely well, we were chastised for having no vision and no 5 year plan in place.

But here we are in 2011 -- and we **do** have a vision -- *Mannofield at the heart of the community*, and we **do** have a plan to make it happen.

So let us go forward into the future with faith and confidence, doing our best to make the vision for Mannofield Church come true.

Ellen Smith

**Hillwalking club Saturday 26 February
Inverbervie to Johnshaven circular (OS 45)**

Depart from Mannofield Church at 8:00. Start at the beach car park in Inverbervie (NO833723) and walk up through the town then up a track to Benholm. Pass the old church on the left and follow another track on the left to a road junction at NO794681.

Go down this road to Johnshaven.

Follow the coastal path north through Gourdon back to Inverbervie. (10 miles; 4.5 hours)

The walk can be shortened by going downhill directly from Benholm to the coastal path (7 miles; 3.5 hours). Return to Aberdeen at 16:00.

The Club has an annual programme of walks, mostly in the Cairngorms and the Angus Glens and welcomes new members. A typical walk would be 9 to 12 miles with an ascent of 2000 ft, taking 6 to 7 hours, but easier walks can be arranged. 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.



For further information contact Peter Stewart Tel 313721 or see the 2011 programme on the church website:

<http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk/hillwalkingclub.html>

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Guild



FEBRUARY

- 3 Monthly Coffee Morning
8 "Can we forgive and forget?"
A talk by Rhoda Wright
19 **PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH**
See below
22 "Where there's a Will there's a Row"
A talk by Prof. Mike Meston

MARCH

- 3 Monthly Coffee Morning

Instant Neighbour



5 St Machar Drive
01224 489955

Once again our thanks to the congregation for their contributions of dried and tinned foodstuffs to this local charity. Our collection box is in the vestibule on the **last Sunday of every month**. Special thanks to the Guild for their imaginative themed collections at their meetings.

Instant Neighbour is a charity set up in 1984 by a group of local churches to help the disadvantaged and socially excluded members of our community. As well as the food collections the charity now handles (and collects) furniture, white goods, beds, carpets and bicycles.

Meg & Bob Littlejohn
Tel 313576

Dear Friends



Thank you so much for all the lovely presents. They have been distributed to needy families and I'm sure the children will be delighted with them.

Tillydrone Family Resource Centre

Everyone at Deeside Family Resource Centre would like to say a huge "thank you" to you all for the very kind donation of Christmas presents, which were delivered here on 15 December. The presents have been distributed to the families that we work with.

Deeside Family Resource Centre

Thank you so much for your kind donation of gifts for the children at the Williamson Family Resource Centre. The presents are greatly appreciated by the parents and children.

Williamson Family Resource Centre.



MANNOFIELD CHURCH GUILD

**PLOUGHMANS
LUNCH**

SAT. 19 FEB · 12-2PM

Adults £4.50 Children £2.50

IN CHURCH HALL

*also
HOME BAKE STALL
CHOCOLATE
TOMBOLA*

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 07535356346 | |
| 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 |

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Wedding

31 Dec Karen Jones and Paul Yarnold

Deaths

20 Nov Mrs Mary Fiddes
25 Nov Mr Alexander Kerr
29 Nov Mrs Margaret Scott
11 Dec Mrs Violet Innes

Disjunctions

Mrs Isobel Cook
Miss Joan Adams
Mr Alex and Mrs Eva Barbour

Accessions

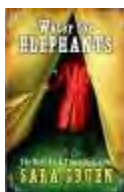
Mrs Moyra Emslie

Change of Address

Mrs Winifred Umdasch
Mr Robert Meff

Book Club March 2011

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen opens with a day of disaster at the circus and Jacob Jankowski admitting he kept a secret from that day for over 70 years.



The novel then moves to the ninety-something year old Jacob in a nursing home. As the older Jacob fights to survive the indignities of old age he recounts the story of his life with the Benzini Brothers' Most Spectacular Show on Earth.

IT Equipment

A volunteer is sought to manage/ monitor/ oversee the various items of church IT equipment. If you feel that you can help and spare some time with this, please contact Doug Marnoch for further information and details

marnoch505@btinternet.com



CENTRE PAGES

A big thank you from the Editorial team to Andrew Harper for many years dedication to compiling the Centre Pages which have been greatly enjoyed and appreciated. We welcome Ryan Webster who takes over from Andrew and wish him well.



ANDRA

We're rael prood at wan o the twal is Scotland's patron saint,
But much o what we hear is nocht nor tales an legends quaint.
Whit dae we ken o him for shuir, at we shuid aa remember?
Weel, twa thing staun out in ma mind on the threttieth o November.

Wan is the day on Jordanside whan first he met the Lord:
He'd bin wi John the Baptist (it tells us in God's wurd),
Whan syne he fallaed Jesus, fur he c'd dae nane ither;
No ainly did he come himsel, he gaed an feshed his brither.

The ither day in Andra's life at stauns out clear fur me
Wis whan the sun shone brichtly on the braes o Galilee,
An mony fowk hed come frae faur tae hear a suithfu wurd,
An mony fowk hed gethered roun tae listen tae the Lord.
Nou Andra luikit roun, an thocht at there (for aa he kent)
Wis thousans here wi nocht tae eat, an the day wis nou faur spent.
An while he wunnert whit tae dae, tae care fur iverybody,
He realised at by his side wis staunin a wee lauddie.

"Hullo, I didnae notice you," said Andra, luikin doon.

"Sir," said the boy, "I wunnert gif ye c'd share ma píece aroun."

Juist for a gliff our Andra paused, astoundit at this wurd,
Than said, "Gíe me yer haun; we'll gang tak it tae the Lord."

Weel, the lave o't is weel-kent tae ye; ye've haurd it aa yer days:
The míracle wisnae Andra's; it's the Lord deserves the praise.
But the story in the Gospel nicht no be juist the same,
Hed the bairn no pickt Andra as the wan tae wham he came.
For some fowks wad hae chased him, an some fowks wad hae laucht;
Some at saa the bairn an Andra thocht the baith o them wis daft!
But Andra wis a kind, big chiel at kent at this wee laud
Wis daein juist the kind o thing at pleased the hert o God.
They tuik the food tae Jesus, an he did aa thing well
In this THE AINLY MÍRACLE at AA FOWER GOSPELS tell.

Weel, that's the tale o kindness (than which there's naething sweeter)
Tae add tae that o bringin ben the gryte man, Símon Peter.
Gif yon wis aa at Andra did, I'm shair ye will agree,
He did faur mair fur Jesus nor either you or me.
He brocht the first kirk leader. He fed a stervin croud.
He is the kind o Patron Saint o wham we can be proud.