



INSPIRE



Warmest blessings
MANNOFIELD CHURCH
Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sun 2	10am	Sacraments of Communion and Baptism
	<u>From</u> 11am	Advent Celebration
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Mon 3	6.30 - 9.30pm	Elders Meeting
Wed 5	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 9	10am	Gift Service
	5.15-6.00pm	Community carols and Christmas lights switch on
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 12	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 16	10am	Morning Worship Children's Nativity play
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Carols & Lessons
Wed 19	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 23	10am	Morning Worship Family Christmas Service
Mon 24	7pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	10.45pm	Mulled wine, mince pies and carols
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Tue 25	<u>10.30</u>	Christmas Morning Worship Children invited to bring a favourite gift

DECEMBER

Sun 30 10am Morning Worship

JANUARY

Sun 6 10am Morning Worship

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

Wed 23 10.30am Midweek Service

Sun 27 10am Morning Worship

3.15pm Craigielea

6.30pm Evening Worship

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Change of Address

Mr Arthur Paterson

Mrs Chris Boyd

Mr Graham Hamilton

Disjunctions

Mrs Anna Forsyth

Deaths

26 Oct Mrs Isabella Crawford

3 Nov Mr James Gelly

4 Nov Mr Douglas McIntosh

13 Nov Mr Bill Robertson

13 Nov Mrs Flo Greig

14 Nov Mrs Pearl Taylor

14 Nov Mrs Sheila Brown

19 Nov Mr Eric Taylor

The Remembrance Sunday
retiring collection for
Poppyscotland raised
£606.59.



Dear Friends

Advent is nearly upon us and we turn our heads to Christmas.

We turn to look East, 'for the time is near', and suddenly the Holy Places mentioned in the stories of Jesus' birth feel a lot closer to us than they did before.

We look forward to a wonderful story set in the context of God's Holy Land; and we are excited because we know the wonder of this story already and know what it brings to us – what it means to us.

What a shame that as we turn our heads to the East in glorious expectation of a Christmas Story that brings the promise of Hope and Peace for the World, we discover instead an age-old conflict festering away again in the most holy of places. As I write, the News channels report the massing of Israeli troops on the borders with the Gaza Strip in retaliation for the launching of missiles out of Gaza into Israel.

The land at the centre of this conflict is small. The area of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is around one third the size of Scotland yet the population is more than double that of our country. The Gaza strip itself has 1.7 million people living in an area smaller than the island of Arran. Since 1948 Palestinians have continually been displaced from their homes and land and the space available to them has drastically reduced. Families are separated from each other, the result of a security line which is very hard to cross.

Such a small area of land, yet such a terrible story of warfare and feud that has captured the world's attention for decades as we watch the injustices of the actions of both sides.

We turn to look East. With our eyes and ears we witness once again terrible tragedy and human trauma.

We turn to look East. With our hearts and from the perspective of Faith, we see something else entirely.

We see the *wrong* of human action and we see the *right* of God's ways and of His Love.

Christmas is like a mirror that we hold up before the actions of the human race. In that mirror we recognize the ugliness of some of our actions. Christmas is also however a window that at the same time allows us to see the beauty of God and His actions directed towards His people.

This Christmas may we be reminded of all that is not right in our lives and world and may the Good News of the long cherished story of Jesus' birth awaken in us and the world a desire to live in the light of God's Love, honouring and respecting each other, and striving for an end to human separation and conflict.

*God who brings light into dark places in unexpected ways,
fill our hearts and minds with the possibilities
that Faith, Hope and Love in You can bring. Amen*

Best Wishes and God's Blessing to you and your families in this Christmas Season.

Keith

**Joy and Peace
at
Christmas**



*Keith, Katrina,
Aaron, Finlay and Angus
wish all our friends in
Mannofield a happy
Christmas and best
wishes for 2013*



After over half a century of dedicated service as an elder, Session received a request from Alastair Macdonald to have his name transferred to the Retired Elders list. It was pointed out that Alastair had been ordained as an elder before the Clerk had been born. He was thanked for his diligence and supportive work over so many years.

Session agreed to embark on a period of reflection to try to identify the way forward for our Church. The congregation has now been asked for their views and two Session discussion groups will meet to review where we are and where we are going.

With our Associate Minister now having taken up her own charge at Kingswells, Session was asked to consider ways in which the work of the Church could be continued and where volunteers from the congregation could be used to ease the workload of the Minister.

The proposals from the Finance Committee that the retiring collection on Remembrance Sunday be donated to Poppyscotland and the additional collections at the Christmas services be given to 'Somebody Cares' were approved.

Preparations for Christmas were already well in hand, with Christmas Cards being made for sale, a Young People and Families Advent event planned for 2 December, the Social 'Sing-a-long' on 4 December and Outreach and Mission arranging Carols for the Community and light switching on for 9 December. All these events are happening before Session meets again on 11 December to finalise the full festive services and arrangements.

The Guild



DECEMBER

Tues 4 Christmas Party
Deeside Golf Club 6.30
for 7pm

JANUARY

Tues 8 Maritime Museum - Talk
by Meredith Greiling
Tues 22 Aberdeen University Library
Laurence Bebington,
Deputy Librarian



WHAT IS ALPHA?

See advert on Page 15

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

It is relaxed, low key, friendly, fun and free. There is a meal together at the beginning of the evening which gives everyone an opportunity to get to know each other. Then after supper we watch one of a series of talks where we listen, learn, discuss and discover.

A place where you can **ask anything**.....

Instant Neighbour Appeal

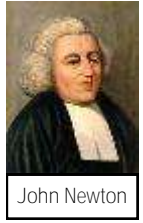
There is a great need for donations and so for the immediate future there will be a collection EVERY Sunday. The Instant Neighbour collection box will be beside the table in the Vestibule. Any non perishable foodstuffs will be most welcome.



Amazing Grace Hymn 555 in CH4

One of the Hymns at Songs of Praise on 28 October 2012

chosen by Margaret Malloch



If someone asked you who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace” would you know that it was John Newton? I had never heard of it until the Pipes and Drums and Military Band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards propelled it to No. 1 in the Charts in April 1972. It did not appear previously in any of the regular church hymn books. CH4 is our first to have it.

John Newton who died in 1807 aged 82 was the son of a master mariner and at the age of 11 was **one of the crew on his father’s ship. In his late teens he was press-ganged** into the navy and put aboard a man-of-war called the Harwich and made a midshipman. When the ship lay off Plymouth he tried to escape but failed and was severely punished. His behaviour was very bad. He became a trouble-maker, blasphemous, aggressive atheist and was often drunk.

He reached the African coast and took service under African traders. He was very badly treated, being forced to work in leg irons. He was rescued by a British trading vessel called the Greyhound **which was almost sunk in a storm. Newton was amazed to hear himself say “The Lord have mercy on us.”**

The Captain said it was Newton’s God-mocking profanities to blame and he should be thrown overboard like Jonah. Newton thought that it was probably all his fault and that he was at last found out by the powerful hand of God and “condemned in his own breast”.

He tried to recollect what he had learned at his mother’s knee when they had attended the Dissenters’ Chapel at Wapping. She was a devout woman but she died when her son was 6. Time passed and Newton became the Captain of slave-ships having no moral scruples about what was accepted as a way of life.

It is a long story but he studied many subjects, especially the Scriptures, and it began to dawn on him that human trafficking was unchristian. He gave it up and turned to studying specifically to become a preacher. It was a long time before that happened. He sought ordination but was **rejected by every Church, his fault being “enthusiasm” which was held to be unseemly in a man of the Church.**

At last however he became the curate in Olney Church in Buckinghamshire, and married his childhood sweetheart Mary Catlett (called Polly). He wrote 269 hymns collaborating with his friend the poet William Cowper. He became a notable preacher and writer- a powerful supporter of Wilberforce in abolishing the slave-trade. He transferred to the Church of St Mary, Woolnoth in London and quite soon was preaching in churches all over England. An inscription in the church at Woolnoth says:

“John Newton, once an infidel and libertine was by the rich mercy of our Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the Faith he had long laboured to destroy. Sixteen years in Olney in Bucks and twenty seven years in this church.”

Margaret Malloch

A big thank you to the Praise and Worship Group for inspirational and memorable evening services.

The sincerity and dedication of all who took part in the Songs of Praise service was tangible and served to make so meaningful the words of favourite hymns which had been chosen.

Anne Farquhar

EDITOR The reason I asked Margaret to submit this Article



Fond Farewells and New Beginnings

On November 25th the congregation bids farewell to two of our staff who in significant ways have played a big part in our congregation's life over many years.



Gill Terry has served as our Secretary and Administrator for all the years of my ministry here in Mannofield and for some years before. Not only has Gill carried out her duties with expertise and efficiency but her friendly manner has endeared her to many in the congregation and beyond. Personally I could not have done without her and I, along with the whole congregation, will miss her. As she leaves we extend our thanks and very best wishes to her on her retirement.

Jimmy Taylor has been our organist for over 30 years! We have been privileged that he has shared his great gift for music with us as Organist, Pianist and Choirmaster during that time. In his quiet and unassuming way Jimmy has expertly led the congregation in Sunday worship, provided music at celebrations such as Christmas and Easter, played his part in wedding celebrations, and sensitively provided music at funeral services. I can count on one hand the holidays that Jimmy has taken in my five years at Mannofield and I expect that he never has been one who liked to be away from his place for too long! We will miss Jimmy at the church organ but of course we will see plenty of him around the church as he enjoys his retirement. Our grateful thanks for his faithful service and our best wishes go with him in his retirement.



As Gill and Jimmy leave us I am pleased to say that early in the New Year we will welcome their replacements.

Replacing Gill will be Jean Sharman. Jean will be leaving her position as a Production Assistant at the BBC in the middle of December and as she moves from full-time work into the world of part-time we look forward to her working with us.

Catriona Williamson, a member of our congregation, will be taking her seat at the organ in January. She has played piano for us on Sunday evenings and Wednesday mornings. We look forward to her involvement in Sunday morning worship.

Catriona will be playing organ for us most Sundays but we have agreed a forward plan that will see us doing something different on the last Sunday of each month. To begin with this might involve guest organists but we hope to move forward and utilise the musical gifts of people in the congregation as we offer some variety to our Sunday worship.

I am sure the congregation will warmly welcome Jean and Catriona to their new roles.

Keith

**Can you find the country hidden
in this sentence?**

In December mud and slush are a
peril on the roads.

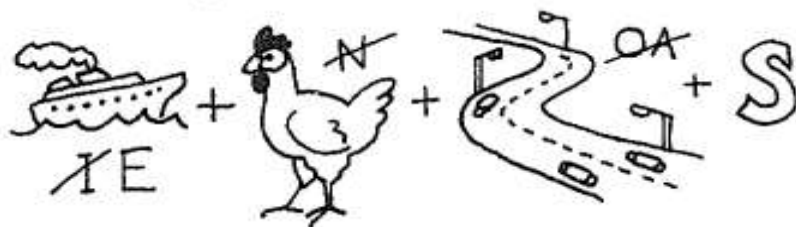




'I'm sure this spire
wasn't here last year!'



Who were the first people to be
told the good news?



Find the words the angels sang:

G	L	O	R	Y	A	B
M	U	N	S	A	N	G
D	O	G	E	D	G	C
O	B	H	N	F	E	E
T	T	J	I	A	L	H
H	I	G	H	E	S	T

'GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST'
SANG THE ANGELS

DX 01

The Nativity

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

ANGELS

ANNA

ARCHELAUS

BETHLEHEM

CYRENIUS

DAVID

ELIZABETH

FRANKINCENSE

HEROD

JOSEPH

MARY

MYRRH

NAZARETH

ROMAN

SIMEON

SHEPHERDS

STAR

SWADDLING

TAXES

ZACHARIAS



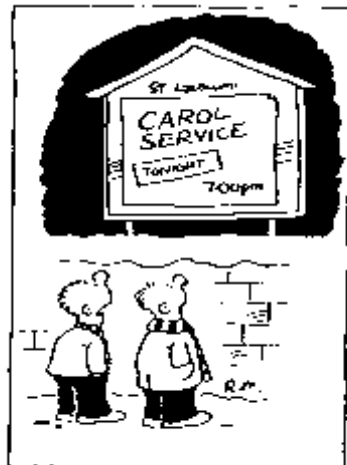
Find the words in the grid!

BIBLICAL GIFTS - CAN YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS?

1. The gift of God is _____ (Rom 6:23)
2. Who have tasted the heavenly gift _____ (Heb 6:4)
3. Every good and _____ gift (James 1:17)
4. With you of the _____ gift of life (1 Peter 3:7)
5. Let him take the _____ gift (Revelations 22:17)
6. Presented him with the gifts of _____ (Matthew 2:11)
7. To give _____ gifts to your children (Luke 11:13)
8. Eager to have _____ gifts (1 Corinthians 14:12)
9. Those having gifts of _____ (1 Corinthians 12:28)
10. If I have the gift of _____ (1 Corinthians 13:2)



"FOR THE LAST TIME, MALCOLM,
THAT IS **NOT** WHAT THE
HERALD ANGELS SANG!"



"I don't know who she is, but she
certainly packs them in . . ."

November's answer: The lady was actually 49 years old.

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

A I am 82 years and 8 months! Retired midwife and single, I am the survivor of my immediate family but have a niece and great niece in Ontario, Canada.

Q What is your favourite verse from Scripture and why?

A 1st Peter Ch1 v 18/19. For you know it was not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life—but with the precious blood of Christ. A lamb without blemish.

Q Who is your favourite character from the Bible and why?

A St. Peter as he is so human and even if he did make mistakes Jesus still loved him and used him.

Q What motivates you spiritually?

A Prayer. It's not easy and I'm still learning .

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

A I like to watch snooker and play if partner isn't too particular.

Q Who is your favourite fictional character?

A Smiley in John le Carré's Tinker Tailor series.

Q What are you afraid of?

A Spiders and slugs.

Q Did you have a nickname growing up?

A I never grew up after 14 and I got the silly name of Chrissie Lamppost.

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

A An "inclination" to procrastinate.

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

A Several choices but I would choose art. I can draw a bit but I seem to spoil it when I start to apply paint!



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

A I find this a difficult question. Women in most ancient times didn't have a very good life. I'll stay where I am.

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

A It's a toss up between the fitted kitchen or bathroom!

Q Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A Miss Horne who taught French. She always gave my full name and she read a story on a Friday.

Q What is the love of your life?

A Chocolate, preferably a piece in each hand!

Q What is your most treasured possession?

A A small pocket purse that belonged to my Dad.

Development Update



The February issue of InSpire will contain a Special Development update. Meantime many thanks to everyone who, since February 2011, has contributed to raising an estimated £426,000 for the project. This includes estimated income of £47k in 2013 apart from fundraising events next year. This year's total to date from such events has been £25k an increase of £6k over 2011.

News from 40th Mannofield Guides



During the summer a few of us attended a residential weekend at Fyfe house, Keithhall. We had an underwater theme and did lots of crafts, silly games involving lots of water and ate lots! The girls also enjoyed an impromptu shopping trip to Inverurie due to our lovely summer weather. They also gained their holiday badge.



We have also enjoyed lots of interesting things on a Wednesday evening such as an art appreciation evening where we looked at lots of drawings and paintings done by some older girls and adults and then created our own display, complete with fizzy juice and canapés! We have worked on our *Go For It* challenges where the girls worked on lots of challenges to obtain their yearly challenge badge early in the new year. They made smoothies, built indoor tents and made craft items, to name a few.

We had an inter-patrol sports night organised by two guides who are working towards their BP trefoil (the highest award in guides). Lots of physical effort involved here.



At the end of October we had a Harry Potter themed party. The week before the party we made owls and magic wands. Then on our party night we were visited by our elders who also got into the spirit of our party.

We all dressed up and were sorted into our houses by the sorting hat. We had a potions class where we made all sorts of drinks using lots of different fruit juices. We played duster hockey on broomsticks. We also had a herbology class where we decorated pots and planted hyacinth bulbs. We then had a feast prepared by Claire. *Heather Tait*



Audrey and Chrissie have really got into the Harry Potter spirit! Editor

Mannofield Church
*At the Heart
of the
Community*



TALENT SHOW

Saturday 16 February 2013
6-9pm in the Church Hall

3 Age Groups! 3 Prizes!

7 - 9 years

10 - 12 years

13 - 15 years

Entry Forms from Church
office to be returned by
Sunday 16 December 2012



**Donations will go towards funds
for the Holiday Club 5-9 August
2013**

The magazine committee
wishes everyone a joyous
Christmas and a happy and
healthy New Year.



Flower Calendar

DECEMBER

- 2 Mrs M Hunter
- 9 Mrs A Reekie
- 16 Mrs A McCaskill
- 23 Flower Fund
- 30 Flower Fund



JANUARY

- 6 Mrs G Terry
- 13 Mrs M Malloch
- 20 Miss A Thomson
- 27 Mrs S Black

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

17 JANUARY 2013

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

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

YOUNG CHURCH

Christmas Activities



**Saturday 15 December
Young Church Party!**

Come at 2.30 for a play practice in the Sanctuary, followed by the party at 3.00 in the halls. Younger children will go home at 4.30, while the older ones get to stay on to watch a Christmas DVD till 6.00. I've heard that a special visitor might drop in so be good!!

**Sunday 16 December,
Christmas Family Service**

featuring the Young Church Nativity Play.

Young Church will start up again on Sunday, 6 January.

Young Church wishes the congregation a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Church Lunch Club

21 December 2012

Thereafter 3rd Thursday
each month until May 2013

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3pm

COME AND JOIN US

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark Tel. 317982

Burns Supper

2 February 2013

6.30 for 7.00pm



Ticket cost £13 per head

MENU

Soup, haggis, neeps and tatties (mince option!) plus tea/coffee and mints.

Light refreshments will be on the tables but if you wish please bring your own wine as glasses will be provided.

The entertainment programme will be provided by weel kent faces.

Because of the success of previous Burns Suppers we anticipate a great demand for tickets. So get your ticket requests in quickly. These are available from the Committee or the office.

*"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit."*

Church Book Club reading list

December *The Hundred year old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared* by Allan Karlsson



It all starts on the one-hundredth birthday of Allan Karlsson. Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, he is waiting for the party he never-wanted-anyway to begin. The mayor is going to be there. The press is going to be there. But, as it turns out, Allan is not...Slowly but surely Allan climbs out of his bedroom window, into the flowerbed (in his slippers) and makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, we learn something of Allan's earlier life in which - remarkably - he helped to make the atom bomb, became friends with American presidents, Russian tyrants, and Chinese leaders, and was a participant behind the scenes in many key events of the twentieth century. This book is a fun, feel-good book for all ages.

February: *Burying the Bone: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spirling

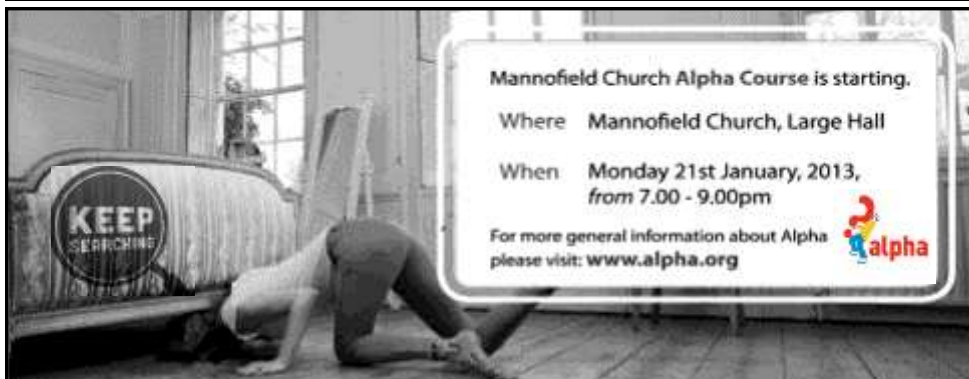
March: *Room* by Emma Donoghue

April: *Boy and Going Solo* by Roald Dahl

For further information contact Niki Anderson Tel743484

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Secretary	Mrs Gill Terry	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick_youngson@o2.co.uk	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484



Life is worth exploring  www.alpha.org

Interested?

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT LOUISE BARRACK on: 01224 311511 or email: louise@barrack.org

GUILD's 125th Anniversary



Something To Look Out For

To Celebrate the 125 years of the Guild we have given 125 bulbs to be planted in the containers in front of the church.

We thank Betty Torrance for her generous contribution and Doug Marnoch, Len and Mollie Mackie for planting them.

No need to count them when they appear!!!



Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

40 shoe boxes were collected by Mannofield Church and have been sent to Blythswood Care for delivery to Eastern Europe and Asia. Well done!! The Coffee morning raised £175





THE PICKLED COW Drama Group

Proudly Present



Pirates!

Mayhem on the High Seas and Stage

Wed 5th Dec @ 7.30pm

Thu 6th Dec @ 7.30pm

Fri 7th Dec @ 7.30pm

Sat 8th Dec @ 2.30pm



Tickets available from the office or any PCDG member.

Also available after morning services from 18th November.



Live, on stage at Mannofield Parish Church, Great Western Road, Aberdeen

COMMUNITY
Carols

OUTSIDE
MANNOFIELD
CHURCH

Sunday 9th Dec. 17.15 - 18.00pm
Drinks & Mince Pies
all welcome

*O Come
all ye
Faithful*

CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON