



MINI INSPIRE



MANNOFIELD CHURCH of SCOTLAND

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

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Message from Keith

In my ministry I have found myself thinking a lot about bricks, mortar and buildings. My ministry in Bearsden involved discussions about what to do with the two church buildings there and soon we were in the fortunate position of being able to extend the newer one. My ministry here in Aberdeen has similarly focussed a lot on our buildings.

It would be easy at times to think that church life is mainly about upkeep of buildings. With my Presbytery hat on I appreciate the amount of money that the congregations of Aberdeen spend on fabric repairs. It is a constant battle for many keeping their buildings wind and watertight – not to mention making them appropriate for vibrant ministry.

Bricks and mortar aside, we could even recognise that much of our time in congregational life can leave us very insular. It's natural to be protective about what we have, seeking at all costs to maintain a style, tradition and collective friendship with which we are comfortable.

Sometimes this becomes a preoccupation and it can be easy to lose sight of what is truly possible when we allow ourselves to let go and be led by the spirit.

Our Narrative Lectionary Resource (for which I do some writing) has this sentence in an introduction to this season's material: "God intends not for us to be settled people fortifying our lives with brick walls and impenetrable doors but to be journeying people, nomads in a world that is going somewhere..." This is a helpful reminder at this time of the real reason behind all our hard work. It is not for the sake of the building itself (although protecting heritage is increasingly important in a fast - changing modern society) that we work so hard. We are not content to create a monument that is something to look at and be comfortable in. It is not a place intended to provide a safe enclosure from the outside. Once refurbished the building should allow us to journey with more effectiveness in an outreach to the community. Together we step out faithfully, sometimes to be unsettled as we explore new ways of doing things but knowing that under God's Spirit He will lead us somewhere.

Development Update

We move closer and closer to commencing work on the Building Development in the middle of this year. We have been fundraising for some years now and the generosity of the congregation and friends of the congregation has been astounding. Mention should also be made of the hard working Development and Fundraising Committee which has been extraordinarily faithful and committed to the task it undertakes in your name.

Last year we had two pledges made by anonymous donors that were made in the form of a Match-Funding offer. In both cases we not only achieved the target figure but surpassed it. At the end of 2014 the Development Fund was almost £1.2 million. As this update arrives through your letterbox the Committee will have met the Design Team that has now produced the 'Bill of Quantities' for review. Once approval is given to that by Historic Scotland/ Heritage Lottery Fund this will be sent to contractors as a Tender document as we look to appoint the Team who will become our partners in this exciting project. After many years and much effort by many people we are now very, very close to embarking on the long awaited construction work to rejuvenate our buildings.

Creative Worship Group

In September we launched a new group that adds a creative dimension to our Sunday Worship. As we followed the stories of the Old Testament we made a Rainbow to remind us of God's promise of protection.

Various people contributed dramas, reflections and music to the service as we journeyed with God's people on a figurative pathway to the fulfilling of the prophets' dreams for God to come. Again in the season of Advent and Christmas, members of the congregation got creative. Advent Clocks helped us count down the time to Christmas but also reminded us that God gives us 'Time' – and we pondered on what God wants us to do with it.

We continue to get creative in our worship through this session and we will soon prepare for the new season beginning at the start of Lent. Anybody can come and be part of this creative group that uses art/ crafts, music, drama and oration to add flavour in worship. Look out for news of the planning meeting to take place at the beginning of February. Details of the day/time will be added to Facebook and the Web Page.

**NOTE: The deadline for the
Easter Parish InSpire is
19 February**

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Sun 1	10am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Wed 4	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 8	10am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Wed 11	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 15	10am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Wed 18	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 22	10am 3.15pm 6.30pm	Morning Worship <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i> Craigielea Evening Service <i>Cafe Church</i>
Wed 25	10.30am	Midweek Service

MARCH

Sun 1	10am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship Rev K Blackwood <i>Seeing Easter, Glimpses of Resurrection</i>
Wed 4	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 8	10am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship

COFFEE STOP Centenary Hall

Tuesdays 10 and 24 February and Tuesdays 10 and 24 March. Tea, coffee, fine baking and companionship



Mannofield Guild: February

3 John Cooper - *Bees*
5 Coffee Morning, large hall
17 Hugh Black - *Rubislaw Quarry*



March

3 Tess McLean - *Gordon Highlanders Museum*
5 Coffee Morning, large hall
6 World Day of Prayer South Holburn Church
11 Spring Rally 7.30pm Queens Cross Church
17 Ruth Sturgeon - *Cairns Counselling*
21 Spring Coffee Morning
31 Easter Celebration

Mannofield Church Lunch Club 19 February 19 March



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

We look forward to welcoming our regular patrons and meeting new ones.

Flower Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1 Mrs E. Thain
- 8 Mrs A. Dyce
- 15 Mrs C. Strachan
- 22 Misses M. & R. Archibald

MARCH

- 1 Mrs A. Thompson, the late Miss Joan Youngson's Estate (vestibule)
- 8 Mrs J. Anderson
- 15 Mrs M. Craighead
- 22 Miss H. Milne
- 29 Rev G. Goldie

Congregational Register- Deaths

November

- 11 Miss Joan Youngson
- 17 Mrs Margaret Anderson
- 20 Mr Robert Hutchinson
- 28 Mrs Agnes Innes

December

- 2 Mrs Margaret Simpson
- 6 Mrs Nancy Craig
- 24 Mrs Margaret Hillocks
- 28 Mrs Sheila Yule

January

- 3 Mrs Margaret Wilson
- 12 Miss Elizabeth Torrance