



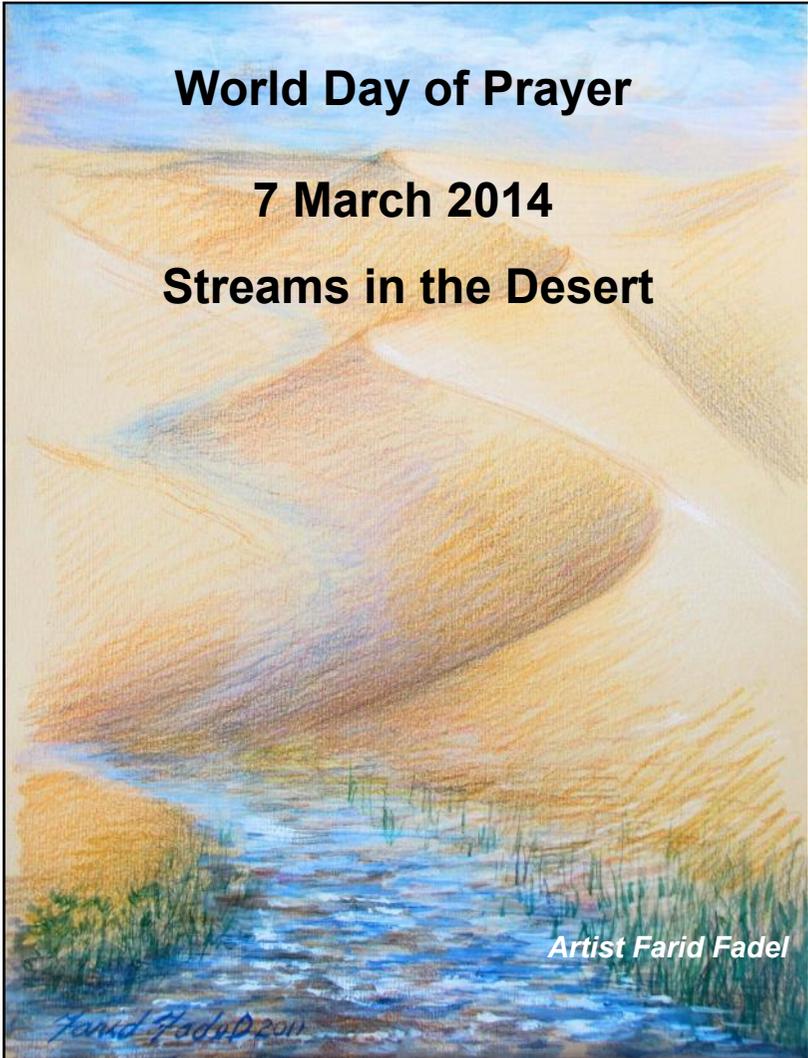
INSPIRE



World Day of Prayer

7 March 2014

Streams in the Desert



Artist Farid Fadel

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH

Sun 2	10am	Morning Worship
<i>Sacrament of Communion at both Services</i>	6.30pm	Evening Worship Rev. K. Blackwood "4-Part Harmony" <i>Rom 12: 5, 1 John 4: 7-12, 19-21</i>
Wed 5	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 9	10am	Morning Worship Praise service with Gordon Cooper
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Worship & Devotion committee
Wed 12	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 16	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Rev. K. Blackwood "Become Like Christ" Col 3: 1-11
Wed 19	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 23	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship The Bell group
Wed 26	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 30	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship led by Margaret Stewart

SMARTIES Tubes!!!!

Since the appeal was launched last August a fantastic sum of **£6000** has been raised to mid February. Thank you all.

Flower Calendar

MARCH



2 Mrs A. Thomson
9 Mrs J. Anderson
16 Mrs M. Craighead
23 Miss H. Milne
30 Mrs E. Cromarty

**The deadline for the
EASTER Issue of *InSpire* is
6 MARCH**

This will be a Parish publication

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

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

**building a
strong
family life**



**The parenting children course
0-10 years**
**The parenting teenagers course
11-18 years**

Starting 29 April –27 May

Every Tuesday 7.15 to 9.15pm

Mannofield Church Centenary Hall

Both free courses are on offer for
5 weeks—any donations will go
towards the Mannofield Church
"Heart of the Community" Appeal.

Spaces are limited so please call to
secure your place on 01224
310087 (Mon—Thurs 9.00am—12
noon) or email
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

One of my favourite authors Frederick Buechner asks us to :

'Listen to our life'.....'See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis, all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace'.

So often life seems to pass us by. In the relentless pace of activity and in the quiet boredom of the humdrum we often lament quality and the sense of Blessing. However what we forget is that life itself is **'holy'**. Our life, personal and unique, is a gift to us from God Himself. It is a tragedy when the special nature of that gift passes us by because we forget to look inside the packaging of our life and discover the giftedness of what's inside.

Already we move very soon into the journey of Lent towards Easter. As the storms and darkness of winter begin to ease there is no better time for us to find ways to take stock of life, ask ourselves what matters, and move to a clearer sense of how lucky we are.

Lent also affords us the time to make changes to our lives and perhaps the change that is needed more than anything else is that we clear life from all the habits and baggage that block the senses that we might create the space needed to recognise life's quality once again.

God Bless

Keith

A Lenten Reflection

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism — become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments — think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry — trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement — be full of hope.

Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred — return good for evil.

Give up negativism — be positive.

Give up anger — be more patient.

Give up pettiness — become mature.

Give up gloom — enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Give up jealousy — pray for trust.

Give up gossiping — control your tongue.

Give up sin — turn to virtue.

Give up giving up — hang in there!



Introduction to Philip Gunn our new Parish Assistant



It has been nearly 18 months since Alisa McDonald left us to take up her post as minister of Kingswells. Since then Aberdeen Presbytery has conducted a reorganisation of the allocation of Ministry resources across the city and agreed in the Spring of 2013 that Mannofield would be given a 50%, (18.75 hours p/w.), Parish Assistant post. The post was first advertised internally and then externally from October and interviews were held in January.

I am pleased to report that Mr Philip Gunn has been chosen to fill the position and will hopefully take up post in the coming weeks. He is a Geography graduate and for 6 years was the full-time Children's and Youth Work Coordinator at Kintore Parish Church.

In addition to our part-time post Philip will work with the Samuel Trust which is a collaborative church project within Aberdeen supporting Children's Clubs and school work.

Within Mannofield, Philip's job description will see him support the provision of worship, pastoral care and the development of fresh expressions of worship and opportunities for spiritual growth.

Please give Philip, his wife and daughter a warm Mannofield welcome as he begins work within our congregation.

Keith

The Church of Scotland Enquiry Process

Recently the Church of Scotland changed the way it seeks to provide for people testing out whether God may be 'Calling' them to a form of Ministry in the Church of Scotland.



This could be full-time Ordained Ministry, or Ordained Local Ministry (Voluntary), or to the Diaconate or Readership. The process is called a time of 'Enquiry'. It begins with a 6-8 week initial placement that is not assessed. Once this is completed an individual can choose to enter coordinated field assessment (6 months) which takes place in a local church and concludes with a local review.

The Review can make one of four decisions ranging from accepting a person as ready to pass to a National Assessment for the Ministry to a person not being suitable for ministry. In between these two decisions are two options either to take part in a further 6 months assessment or extend the current one by a few months. It is the National Assessment which makes the final decision and involves a number of days of testing and interviews along with a review of all the paperwork since the person entered the Enquiry process.

Mannofield currently has Ciorsten Blake as an Enquirer. Ciorsten belongs to Rubislaw Church and is using her time with us to test the sense of 'Call' she has towards the ordained ministry. She is working her way through the coordinated field assessment. As well as gaining experience taking part in the different aspects of worship service she and I meet regularly for reflective conversation and analysis of her experiences. In the spring she will be assessed by a panel on whether she is ready for attending the National Assessment stage. Please support her in her time at Mannofield

Keith



Extracted from "A Century at Mannofield —The Story of a District Church" 1882-1982. Continued thanks are due to all those who contributed to this excellent historical record especially Arthur McCombie, Fred Thomson, Alastair Macdonald and the late Douglas Stewart.

The Early Years by Fred Thomson (continued) from February 2014 InSpire

With a Communion Roll which had not quite reached 500 by 1900 and with the high level of church attendance, parish communication was probably not too difficult during the Ministry of Rev. William Forbes. Nevertheless a parish magazine appeared at an early stage in the life of the congregation with a reference to it in the minutes of January 1884. There also appears to have been a large readership of "Life and Work" within the congregation with the Minutes of the Committee of Management recording towards the end of 1902 that a large number of the members of the congregation had so far failed to pay their subscription for the magazine for the current year.



Rev. Wm. Forbes, M.A.

The steady increase in the roll ensured a steady improvement in finances of the church from both seat lettings and congregational offerings. In addition there were regular contributions from the Ladies' Working Party and in 1902 a sum appears in the accounts which was a share of interest on duplicand of feu duty recovered from the proprietor of a feu in Leith of which Mannofield Church and the Church of Tighnabruiaich were joint superiors. *Editor's Note: Must research this in the future!*

When the congregation voted almost unanimously on 11 December 1906 to call the Rev. W. Phin Gillieson from St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, it is unlikely that many realised what his short Ministry of three years would mean for Mannofield. Membership rose from 500 to nearly 800, the Sunday School more than doubled and two organisations which play a big part in our modern congregation were set up. In May 1907, Mr Gillieson reported to the Session that he proposed to invite the women of the congregation to form in the autumn a branch of the Woman's Guild of the Church. Later that year in November, he reported to the Session that had initiated a branch of the Boys Brigade in connection with the Church and that 42 boys had joined. Shortly afterwards, Mr Gillieson was also responsible for setting up a branch of the Girls' Guildry. It is evident also, that it was the minister who was the moving spirit behind the idea of the first significant extension of the fabric of Mannofield Church, the building of a new hall



Rev. W. Phin Gillieson.

The considerable sum of £1,100 was raised for the building of the new hall in less than eighteen months, but before it was officially opened on Friday 9 September 1910, the Rev W. Phin Gillieson had been translated to Ayr Parish Church. The dedicatory service at 4pm was followed by a welcome social for the Rev W.W. Reid who had been elected to the Charge by a majority of nearly 100 votes on 29 June.



Rev. W. W. Reid, B.D.

Continued on page 6



The Jubilee booklet of 1932 very adequately summed up what the new hall meant to Mannofield- "The whole social atmosphere of the Church has been transformed. Many a pleasant and instructive evening has been spent there by members and friends".

Much discussion had taken place among the Office bearers of the church before the rules and conditions for the use of the hall were drawn up. When the Kirk Session considered the class of meetings and entertainments to be held there, an attempt to have dancing by adults prohibited was only narrowly defeated.

JUBILEE BOOKLET UPDATE

This is a very appropriate point to report that a copy of the Booklet has just been found by Maureen Allan at the bottom of her dance box!! How it got there is a mystery but the Communications committee and the InSpire editor are very grateful that we have this important record of the church's history for our archives.

In passing it is quite a coincidence, in view of the above vote, that the Booklet was in the possession of Maureen who started the country dancing class in 1962!!



The conclusion of the "Early Years" leads us to the nations of Europe moving "inexorably towards catastrophic war in 1914".

It is with the nation at war that this account of the early years of our church must come to an end. In 1915, the Rev W.W. Reid departed to Dumbarton and was succeeded by the Rev J Aulay Steele. For its part, the Kirk Session had to consider many special collections for a variety of war charities and readily agreed to one for Belgian Refugees among many others. The absence of many members of the congregation on war service must have had a considerable effect on the life of the church, but the war did see the introduction of an important innovation – united services with Holburn United Free Church during the months of July and August, begun in the summer of 1917 and repeated because of the unanimous wishes of both Kirk Sessions in 1918.

Lest We Forget

A short talk will be given by Keith Campbell on Mannofield Church's War Memorials specifically the First WW but also with passing reference to the Second

Venue: Church Large Hall **When:** 7.45pm

On: Tuesday 11 March 2014

No entry fee but donations if so desired may be made to the Development Fund.



A date for your Diary

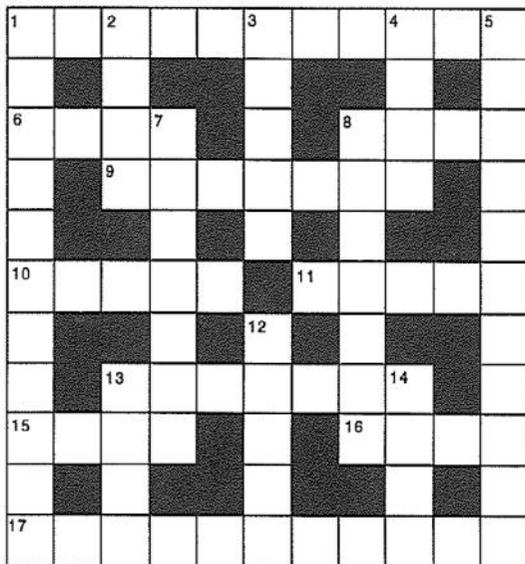
Lemonade

On a long bus journey with his two grandchildren, a man realises he has left his flask of tea behind. Luckily his granddaughter has brought five cans of lemonade, while his grandson has three.

During the journey, they share all of them equally between the three, and afterwards, as a reward for their generosity, he gives them eight 10p coins, telling them to share them in proportion to their contribution of lemonade. They argue long and hard over how to divide the money. How should it be done?



Crossword



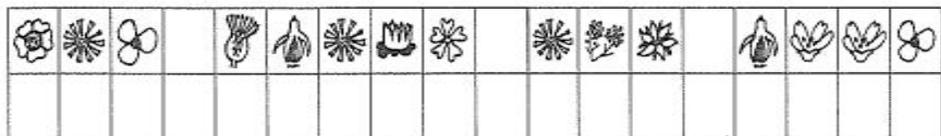
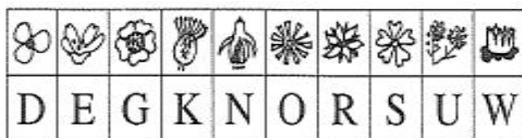
ACROSS

- 1 A New Testament book (11)
- 6 An Old Testament prophet (4)
- 8 The disability suffered by Jonathan's son (4)
- 9 An ancient city visited by Jonah (7)
- 10 Words come out of it (5)
- 11 A well known occupation (5)
- 13 A Moabite city (7) Numbers 21
- 15 Here God planted a garden (4)
- 16 The mountain upon which Moses died (4)
- 17 The occupation of Demetrius (11)
Acts 19

DOWN

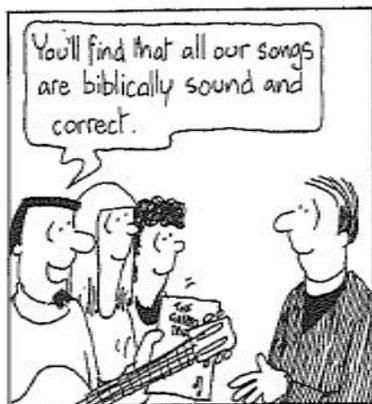
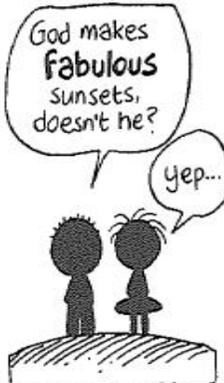
- 1 Blessed are these (11) Matthew 5:9
- 2 Goliath's spearhead was made of this metal (4)
- 3 Strength from above (5)
- 4 The mother of Jabal (4) Genesis 4
- 5 A teaching Levite (11) 2 Chronicles 17
- 7 Azariah's age when he became king (7) 2 Kings 14
- 8 Known for its cedar trees (7)
- 12 To comfort (5)
- 13 Hades (4)
- 14 The grandfather of Zerubbabel (4)
Luke 3

Crack the code



the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell



Local Church Review

Aberdeen Presbytery, through its Visitation and Oversight Committee is currently undertaking a Review of the workings of our church.



Formerly known as the 'Quinquennial Inspection', the emphasis of this Review appears to have changed and, whilst the Review Team is still tasked to "offer advice and support or recommend remedial action if anything is found to be unsatisfactory or not in accordance with Church Law and Order", the first two objectives are as follows:-

- 1) To give counsel and encouragement to Congregations and
- 2) To help them set their priorities and plans for the next 5 years.

Therefore, this is to be a positive process, with the Review Team assisting us to consider what we, as a Church, want to achieve over the next 5 years, how we plan to get there and to prepare an Action Plan to set this out on paper.

The initial procedures and preparations have now taken place and members of Session and Committees are working on material for this Review. However, the process includes everyone involved with the Church and it is important to get as broad a spectrum of views as possible before embarking on the writing of our 5 year Plan.

If you wish to make your views known, or if you are simply interested in seeing the process in action, please come along to a meeting with the Presbytery Review Team within the Church on 18 March 2014 at 7.30pm.
Bob Anderson

Pakistan's Christians Under pressure from all sides

Extracted from *barnabasaid* January/February 2014 and suggested by Rev George Goldie.



The deadliest ever attack on a Christian community in Pakistan targeted All Saints Church in Peshawar on 22 September 2013. More than 100 worshippers were killed or died later of their wounds when two suicide bombers blew themselves up at the end of a worship service. This devastating attack illustrates the pressure faced by persecuted Christians in Pakistan, pressure that is perhaps more intense now than ever before. Our brothers comprise a small minority (around 5 million or 3%) in a country that is 95% Muslim and endure harassment from the authorities, discrimination by the majority community and violence from radical Muslims

Pakistan's "blasphemy laws" are perhaps the source of the most devastating official pressure faced by the country's Christians. Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code prescribes a mandatory death penalty for anyone found to have defiled the name of Muhammad, while desecrating the Quran carries a sentence of life imprisonment. False accusations of blasphemy are often made to settle personal scores and members of the despised Christian minority are particularly vulnerable to accusation by Muslims as a Christian testimony in court may not be given as much credence as that of a Muslim.

See Page 13 on how the Barnabas Fund is helping.

BLACK BAG recycling BONANZA

Every house in the parish will receive a black bag soon!



Please fill it with recyclable **clothes: bags: belts: shoes: hats: scarves: gloves and good quality curtains**

Sorry we can't accept bed linen or towels.

There will also be recycling bays for.....



toys: books: bikes: mobile phones: small electrical goods

PLEASE don't put these items in the bags.

Goods should be dropped off at
Mannofield Church
Saturday 22 March
9.30am – 12 Noon

All goods will be sold to recycling companies. The bags will be sold according to weight.

All proceeds will go towards the essential repairs and development of our church.

If you can help with this event or for further information call Ellen 867028 or Jane 315144.

A GOLDEN RIDDLE

Can you answer the following sum?

11 rings +
3 watches, straps & some links +
2 bracelets +
2 chains +
1 ear ring, 1 locket, 1 pendant & 1 brooch = ???



Turn to page 13 for the answer

ECO CONGREGATION UPDATE

Alistair Stark



In the December issue of InSpire, I talked about how we need to decide where our Eco Congregation priorities lie.

To help plot our way forward, we have now completed an environmental check-up. Much of what we might do to improve the environmental performance of our Church property will be delivered through our major development plans. But that does not mean that we can afford to stand still while we wait for the builders to move in. There are things we could do such as sourcing recycled stationery, or buying locally-produced or Fairtrade items.

One priority is linked to our personal and community life and another centres on the youth of the church and community.

Deciding which to tackle first is being addressed by the Kirk Session, aided and guided by the Eco-Congregation Committee. Meantime, keep working on ideas for the Mannofield Eco Congregation logo. The closing date is 16 March.

I want to say a very sincere and grateful thank you to Keith, George and all my friends at Mannofield for the wonderful prayers, friendship, support and help in so many ways which has been a huge inspiration and comfort in my recent sudden and quite frightening illness.



I have been extremely fortunate to have come through it really unscathed and I am so thankful.

As one of the chaplains at the hospital said; "You had the great physician himself on your case."

He has been abundantly generous and merciful to me.

The past few weeks have made me realise how frail one's hold on life is, how suddenly one's circumstances can change and how valuable real friendship is.

Anne Farquhar

A GOLDEN RIDDLE SOLD FOR £460



A big THANK YOU to all those who donated the gold.

The proceeds will go towards the development.

Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convener, wishes to thank all who have forwarded Gift Aid payments in the current tax year.



He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, either sent directly to him at 10 Gordon Road, Mannofield, Aberdeen, AB15 7RL, or deposited in the Church plate in a clearly marked envelope, by 5 April 2014.

Please note Sandy's new address.

Barnabas Fund

Hope and aid for the persecuted church

The mission of the Barnabas Fund is to support

Christians where they are in a minority and suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. Its goal is to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

This is done by making their needs known to Christians around the world, by encouraging prayer and financial giving in support of these brothers and sisters in Christ, working with existing local Christian organisations, and by speaking on their behalf. The Fund channels this aid from donors to the needy recipients with minimum overheads. All gifts are monitored to ensure they are used in line with the stated need.

In accordance with Biblical teaching, the Fund believes that Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who persecute them.

Barnabas Fund's projects in Pakistan include regular feeding programmes, Christian schools, a women's health project, safe houses, leadership training, disaster relief, constructing church buildings and legal support for needy Christians. It also provides support for pastors and evangelists, for victims of violence and for vulnerable converts.



NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Church Lunch Club

20 MARCH

Thereafter 3rd Thursday
each month until May 2014

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



GUILD



MARCH

- 1 St David's Day Lunch
- 4 One to Five Craft Night
- 6 Coffee Morning, large hall
- 12 Spring Meeting, 7.30pm
Ruthrieston West Church
- 18 Jenny Brown, Victorian
Pharmacy

GUILD

To all those who are helping
with Guild knitting and
sewing – see *October 2013*



InSpire – please bring any completed
items to the Church Office, or hand
them to a Guild member, by 11
March, so that they can be taken to
the Spring Rally on 12 March for
distribution. Do keep going! The
Summer Rally is on 4 June.

3000 hats for sailors have just been
handed out over this last Festive
Season. Patterns for hats, blankets
and baby items are still available in
the Church Office.

Thank you for all
your help.



Edna Cromarty

Mannofield Christmas Cards 2010-2012



Final opportunity to buy
cards at a special price
after the Service on
9 March.

Any unsold cards will be recycled after
that.

20 cards for £5

There is a shortage of
volunteers to operate the
sound desk for the Sunday
evening services. We
currently only have 3
members on the rota, but as one will
be retiring in June we need at
least another 2 volunteers to ensure a
minimum of once a month commitment
The operation of the sound desk is
quite simple and we welcome any
volunteers.



If you are interested or would like to
see what is involved please contact
Tom White on 01224 318963.

MORVEN SINGERS 50th Anniversary Concert

Phoenix Theatre,
Newton Dee, Bieldside
Friday 21 March 2014 at 7.30pm
Tickets £5 including refreshments
from choir members or
Tel: 07519 749258
L. Findlay, Secretary

COFFEE STOP Centenary Hall

Tuesday 11 March
Tuesday 25 March



CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	315748
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@o2.co.uk	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism: Emma Jessie Dougal

Deaths: Miss Isabella Summers; Mrs Barbara McKenzie; Mr Ian Brown; Mrs Nan Wallace; Mr Jon Anderson and Mr Arthur Monkman

Christian Aid at Lent



Count Your Blessings 2014

Make Lent count - Instead of giving up treats this year, why not make Lent count in a different way with a **Count Your Blessings** calendar.

Throughout Lent, the 40 daily bite size reflections will inspire you to give thanks for the blessings in your life, and enable you to help change the lives of poor communities around the globe. This is how it works...Using your **Count Your Blessings** calendar:

1. Read the daily reflection.
2. Count your blessings by recording your response in the space provided.
3. Pray for the people, countries and issues mentioned and give thanks for the blessings in your life.
4. After Easter, send your total gift to Christian Aid with the form provided, or put it in an envelope in the Offering plate.

Why not get the whole family involved with a children's version too?

The **Count Your Blessings** series starts on Ash Wednesday, 5 March. On 2 March 2014, there will be copies of the **Count Your Blessings** calendar spread around the Church to take away and use.

Outreach & Mission Committee

March Book Club *Handling Sin*

by Michael Malone



On the Ides of March
Raleigh Whittier Hayes
(forgetful husband

baffled father, prosperous insurance agent and leading citizen of Thermopylae, North Carolina), learns that his father has discharged himself from the hospital, taken all his money out of the bank and, with a young black female mental patient, vanished in a yellow Cadillac convertible. Left behind is a mysterious list of seven outrageous tasks that Raleigh must perform in order to rescue his father and his inheritance.

And so Raleigh and his friend Mingo Sheffield set off on an uproarious contemporary treasure hunt through a landscape of unforgettable characters.

Handling Sin is a moving parable of human love and redemption.

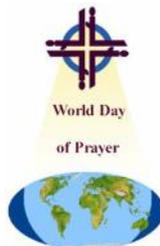
For further information about the Club please contact Niki Anderson on:01224 743484

World Day of Prayer

7 MARCH 2014

Streams in the Desert

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March.



World Day of Prayer services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.



The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

This year we pray with women of Egypt

We are invited to think about our own lives and where we recognize streams in our own deserts; places and moments where God is actively at work; to reflect on times when we, like the Samaritan woman, have gone to the well looking for one thing and then discovered Christ offering us what we never expected.

We will come not only to learn what this spring of living water is, but how we can, like the Samaritan woman, carry it back to our communities.

We will see the transformation that can happen when we share our stories of encountering the living God.

So come, drink your fill of the waters that God has to offer.

The service for the South West area of Aberdeen will be held in Garthdee Church, Ramsay Gardens at 2 pm.

The City Centre service will be held in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Justice Street at 12.15 p.m.