

MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN

Scottish registered charity SC 001680

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sun 4	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 7	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 14	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18	10am	Morning Worship
	4.30pm	Cafe Church Circles @ Mannofield
Wed 21	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25	10am	Morning Worship led by Rev Mark Rodgers
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service led by Audrey Milne and Margaret Stewart
Wed 28	10.30am	Midweek Service

OCTOBER

Sun 2	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>Sacrament of Communion</i>
Wed 5	10.30am	Midweek Service

Guild News

13 Sept: Ian Lord
8 Oct: Autumn Rally, Queen Street
Church 2pm



Flower Calendar

September

4 - Mrs Marlene McLeod
11 - Flower Fund
18 - Lorna Howie
25 - Mrs Caroline Black



Aster
September's
flower

October

2 - Mrs Pat Stalker



Marigold
October's
flower



Phil Gunn's last Wednesday service. Keith presenting him with the C.S. Lewis edition of the NRSV Bible and a Pastoral Prayer Book.

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

15 September

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

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

Dear Friends

We are back!

This refers not only to the return of 'InSpire' after a summer break, but the tremendous news that after 6 years of planning and fundraising and 9 months of construction work, we are only a matter of weeks away from having the remaining parts of the building returned to us. Already we are enjoying the worship services in the Sanctuary and using some of the other spaces but the completed work will be a moment of great joy for all of us. Each of us in our own way has contributed to the success of this project and we can be proud of achieving something that will greatly influence the way we can move forward as a worshipping and serving community.

I was thinking whether in fact this moment can rightly be called the end of a project. One way to look at things is that we finish one project and move on to another. Sometimes that is the way things work.

In our case I think the far better way to describe the point we have reached is that as one phase of our project fades, a second phase takes centre stage. After all, the building work we have successfully achieved is only one phase of a project to change the dynamics and effectiveness of our congregation's life.

A '*nice new building*' will in itself neither grow our congregation, encourage younger people to become involved nor better connect us with our community.

This really is the core of the Mannofield Project. While having improved facilities will set us up for decades to come, we know that in itself that is not enough. So we move from one phase to another. Now it is time to really focus on listening to God's instruction of how we can use the potential of our buildings, location and the gifts of our people to move forward in the best way.

In many ways this is a harder job than handing over a facility to a Contractor who uses tools to improve a building. Phase 2 of our project will require that we very much pull together as a congregation and be prepared to use our own gifts as the tools we are willing to supply to see God's plan for us come to its fruition.

So my call and my challenge to each one of you is to come to church.

Please make a concerted effort to back-up your membership of this congregation by attending regularly, making regular financial contributions as you feel able and sharing in the life and activities of the church 'in-person'.

The Church needs you.

God needs you!

Best Wishes

Keith

Blessing

May God kiss the top of your head with His blessing
consecrate your hands for His caring
cleanse your feet for His journeying
and fill you with love for His living.

AMEN.

Acknowledgement: This extract is taken from "Living Stones : Pray Now " and is used with permission. "Living Stones" publications are available from www.standrewpress.com

‘Don’t Bother the Minister – he is a busy man’



Don't worry folks – this is not a statement of fact! Instead it is a common phrase I hear regularly in situations where a church member has perhaps gone into hospital or has been ill for a period of time and sometime after the event I hear from others that the person didn't want to bother me at the time as they assumed I would be very busy and would have better things to do than visit them in hospital.

As a minister I can think of 'nothing better', or more important, and of no greater a privilege than to visit a person when they are going through a personal challenge such as illness.

The assumption that I am a busy man is true but the assumption I am too busy to find it easy to visit someone in hospital is not. I would rather I visited the right people at the right time than seek to make casual drop-in visits to people when there is no particular reason for my call.

I know we have tried before to make everyone aware that the new policies in hospitals mean that ministers can't just look at an Admissions list to see what names they recognise.

Again I draw this to your attention and invite you (or your loved ones) to contact the Church Office, or me directly, to let me know if a hospital or home visit would be appreciated by either myself or a member of the Ministry Team.

As I say I can think of nothing more important than a visit to someone who may feel the pressure or challenge of illness or hospital stay.

Keith

InSpire dates 2016/2017

2016	Copy deadline	2017	Copy deadline
October	15 September	February	Mini InSpire 19 January
November	Mini InSpire 20 October	Easter Community edition	9 March for 2 April issue as Good Friday 15 April
Christmas Community edition	10 November for 11 December issue	May/June	20 April

44th Boys Brigade

Company Section have had a busy summer with the boys enjoying a range of outdoor activities.



We had a bike ride locally through Hazlehead woods and Blacktop and a first for this year was a trip to the pitch n putt golf course at Hazlehead where there was varying success and skill levels and that was just the staff! A trip to the new Equis ice cream parlour finished off that night.



A small group visited Transition Extreme to have a go on the indoor climbing wall which was great fun. Everyone managed to get to the top. Also by the time you read this we will also have had a beach cookout at Donmouth and a tubing and picnic session at Alford Ski Centre. Tubing is brilliant fun, riding down the ski slope sitting in a giant inflatable ring. Groups and trains are allowed which is even better.

At the end of September we are off to Carrbridge in the Highlands for an adventure weekend camp. Activities include a zipwire park, archery and Canadian canoeing. Let's hope for some good weather.

In other news, two of our senior boys were presented with their Presidents Badge certificates by Sir Alex Ferguson at a special evening in May at Aberdeen HQ. Sir Alex took time to speak to boys and parents and was happy to have photos and sign autographs afterwards.



We are starting to use a new UK wide Company management system called OBM which will allow better control and staff access to boys' data and their progress through the Company. The My.BB section allows parents to see how the boys are doing, sign up for events, see details of the weekly programmes and ultimately make payments to the BB online through this system. Parents should look out for an email soon inviting them to join My.BB and check the details held by us for their son(s).

Our new session starts early September, a bit later than normal due to the development work continuing and we are looking forward to getting back to normal activities soon. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the 44th Boys Brigade please ask them to get in touch with us info@40four.co.uk.

Anchors is for school age P1-3 Thursdays 6.00-7.00pm

Juniors is for P4-6 Thursdays 6.45-8.15pm

Company is for P7-S6 Fridays 7.45-10pm

Eric Johnston

Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur

On 16 March 2016, Eric was appointed to the rank of Chevalier by the President of the Republic of France in recognition of his involvement in the Liberation of France during the Second World War.

A print of his portrait commissioned by the Prince of Wales and painted by Catherine Goodman, artistic director of the Royal Drawing School which she founded with the Prince of Wales in 2000, is on the wall in the photo of Eric. The original is in the Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace.



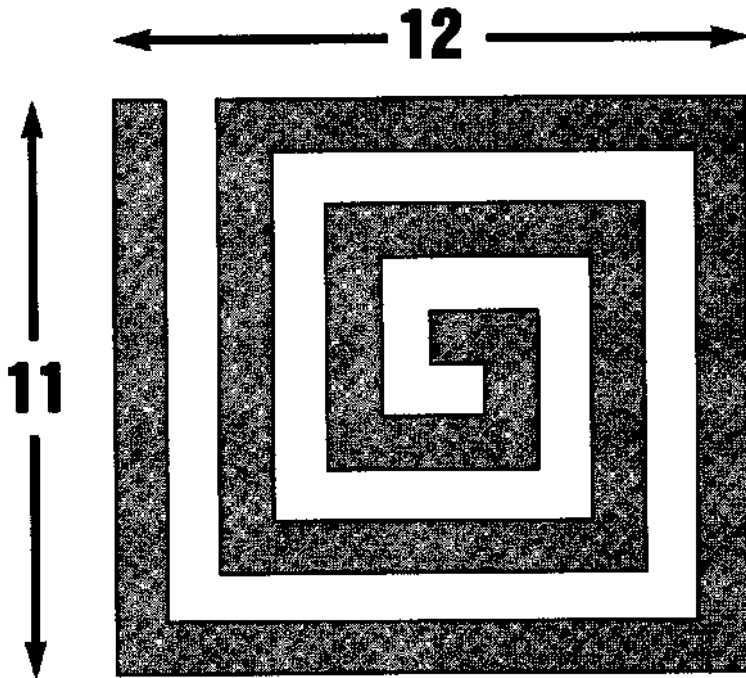
'I saw the young tank trooper completely alive in the old man I was painting' said the artist Catherine Goodman. 'I have painted a quiet and contemplative portrait because that was my experience of being with Eric.'



In his letter of 16 March the President wrote :

"I offer you my warmest congratulations on this high honour in recognition of your acknowledged military engagement and your steadfast involvement in the Liberation of France.....As we contemplate this Europe of peace we must never forget the heroes like you, who came from Britain and the Commonwealth to begin the liberation of Europe by liberating France. We owe our freedom and security to your dedication, because you were ready to risk your life."

Given that the path is one unit wide,
can you work out the area of the shaded path?





CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS?

FARMER
PATH
CHOKED
GREW

SOW
WITHER
SOIL
ROCK

SEED
THORNS
BIRDS
FRUIT

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

How many skunks does it take to make a big stink?

A phew!

A phew!

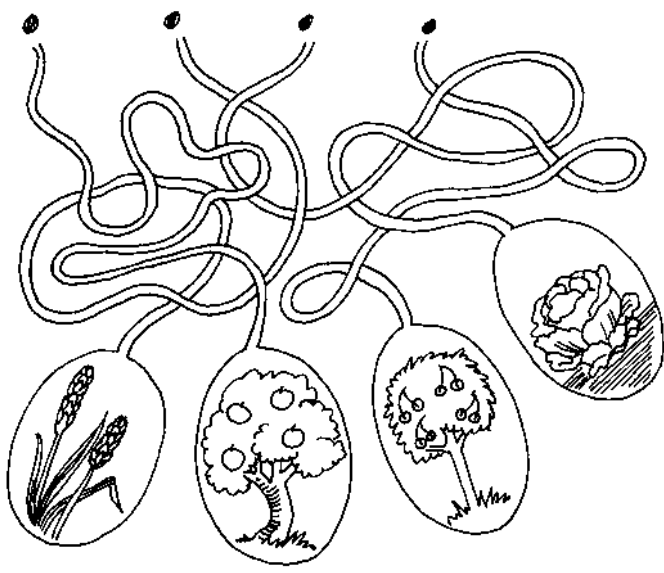
CHRIST'S CROSS

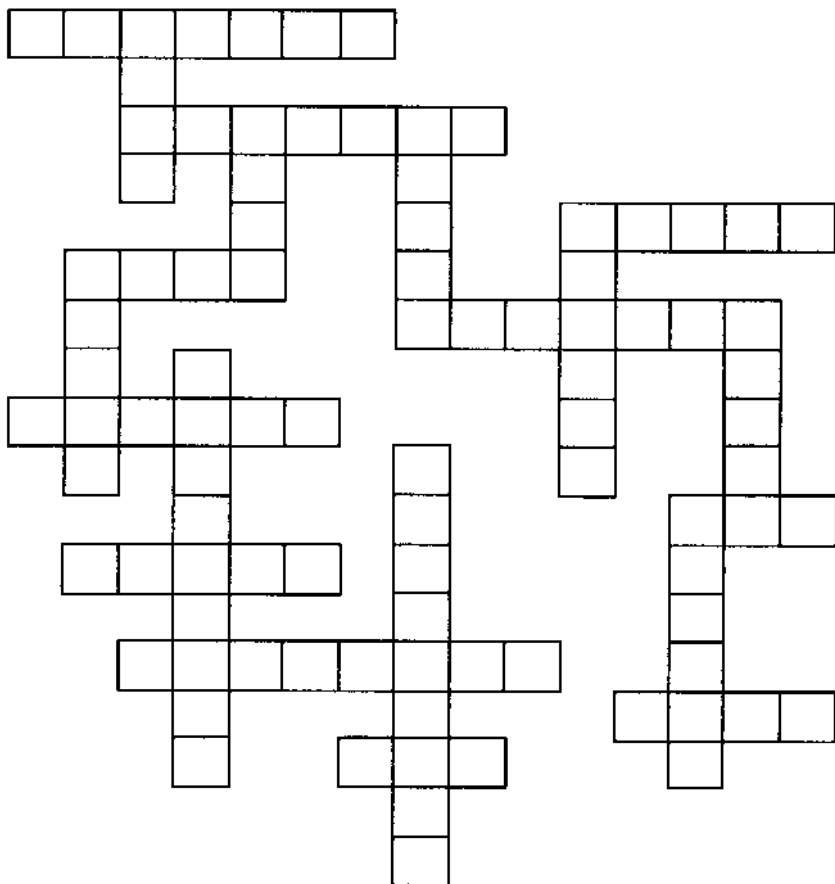
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G O O D

What will the seeds grow into?

Q. How do fleas travel from place to place?
A. By itch-hiking!!!





CAN YOU FIT THESE WORDS INTO THE GRID:-

3 Letters:- AND HIM **4 Letters:-** EACH SIDE WOKE WIND

5 Letters:- WAVES OTHER STERN DROWN STILL

6 Letters:- SQUALL BEHIND AFRAID

7 Letters:- EVENING CUSHION REBUKED **8 Letters:-** SLEEPING

9 Letters:- DISCIPLES TERRIFIED

Summer's answer: LEMUR

Elders Visit -Celebration Invitation and Questionnaire



During their next visit, in advance of Harvest Thanksgiving, District Elders have been asked to deliver to each household in the congregation 2 important documents.

Firstly, every member will receive an invitation to attend special evenings of 'Celebration' where everyone will have the chance to see around the refurbished building and hear of how we intend to use the new changed spaces. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on a new vision for the future as we seek to inject new life into our worship and activities. Hopefully as many of our members as possible will manage to attend their evening. Please RSVP as directed on the invite you receive.

Secondly, a questionnaire has been prepared to assist in planning for the future. As we try to buck the general trend of falling membership and attendance at worship, Session is trying to understand more fully our own situation and we are asking church members to help us by filling in this questionnaire. We are hoping for a good response so that we can try to address the reasons behind our falling numbers and attendance. Every response is anonymous, but the Elder can assist with the questions (if required) with the completed questionnaire placed in a sealed envelope. If completed during the visit, your Elder will return it to the Church Office. Otherwise, we would ask that you return it to the office as soon as you can. Please help us by completing the questionnaire as fully as possible as the more information we get will assist us in trying to get things right for the future.

These important documents should be with you by the end of the first week in September. If you have not received them, please contact the office and we will get them to you. Look forward to seeing you and hearing from you!!

Bob Anderson, Session Clerk

Big Changes Under the Skin

Anyone walking into our newly-refurbished church premises will be astonished at the transformation. It's simply overwhelming, to the degree that it can be quite difficult to remember what was there before.



There have been equally big changes under the skin, too. Our heating, lighting and ventilation have all been completely revamped and brought up to modern standards. There's now underfloor heating where we had radiators, clever new heating controls and very efficient LED lighting. In the meeting rooms, the lights now turn themselves off automatically when the room is empty.

All this means that our energy bills will drop in the future. Perhaps more importantly, our carbon footprint will reduce from the 44 tonnes of carbon dioxide we used to pump out annually. To put that in some sort of context, my home carbon footprint is about 5 tonnes – plus half as much again for my car. I'm not setting a very good example!

The Eco Congregation Committee has been relatively quiet while the refurbishment was in progress although we have applied for our first Eco Congregation Scotland Award (more about that later, I hope). After the summer holidays, we'll be trying to come up with some fresh ideas so that the congregation will be able to contribute to looking after our precious environment.

Alistair Stark, Convenor Eco Congregation Committee

Obituary - Rev John F Anderson

It was with great sadness that the congregation received the news of the death on 9 July of Mannofield's former minister the Rev John F Anderson.



Some months previously it had become known that John had been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. The last few months of John's life saw him face his death with the usual strength for which his life and ministry had become known over his years at Mannofield. John himself was deeply grateful that those last few months allowed for the opportunity to talk with, meet and spend time with so many friends. Of greatest comfort and blessing to John was the special time spent within the circle of family love in these last months.

John's ministry at Mannofield was distinguished. His commitment and dedication to his congregation and to the work of the Church of Scotland - locally and nationally - was exemplary. A strong preacher and caring friend to many, Mannofield congregation and parish were fortunate to be the beneficiaries of his ministry over many years. He leaves a legacy of friendship with so many - both in the congregation and community of Aberdeen.

Elizabeth, throughout the years of John's ministry at Mannofield, stood side by side with her husband - supporting him in his work, providing much of the day-to-day care in the Manse for the family and making her own contribution of course to congregational life. At this time we extend the prayers of all at Mannofield to Elizabeth, Duncan, Andrew and the rest of the family.

John's strong faith was central to all he did within his Ministry and personal life. That same faith was most definitely present in the last few months of his life and at the end.

For now we take solace, comfort and encouragement in the knowledge and faith that John is at peace in the presence of the God whom he served so well in life.

The challenges others face - A reflective prayer



In a sermon on Job in July Keith discussed how commonplace it is in life to become so caught up in our own lives and struggles that we forget to recognise the challenges others face.

Keith said, 'Perspective is always needed or else the complaints we have begin to consume us and we can't extricate ourselves from the shadows'.

This prayer was offered as something for us to reflect on:

*"Lord, when I am famished, give me someone who needs food;
when I am thirsty, send me someone who needs water;
when I am cold, bring me someone to warm;
when I am hurting, send me someone to console;
when my cross becomes heavy, give me another's cross to share;
when I am poor, lead someone needy to me;
when I have no time, give me someone to help for a moment;
when I am humiliated, give me someone to praise;
when I am discouraged, send me someone to encourage;
when I need another's understanding, give me someone who needs
mine;
when I need someone to take care of me, send me someone to care for;
when I dwell upon myself, turn my heart toward another."*

Obituary - John Philip

John Philip was an Elder of Mannofield for many years. His working life was spent mainly within the banking sector overseas - most notably with Barclays in the Caribbean and Africa (including Uganda and Malawi). Upon retirement he moved into the house in Countesswells Road that the family had bought as a home to return to from abroad. It was then that John and his wife Isobel became heavily involved in the life of the congregation.

He was very particular about doing the jobs allocated to him in the best way possible. His financial knowledge was a great help to the Finance Committee of the Church, and as an Elder he was diligent in the visiting of his District and the other business of the Church. John was a much valued member and Elder of this Congregation and is sadly missed. He is survived by daughter Anne, son Alastair and their families.

Mannofield Church Bowling Club



The indoor session starts on Friday 30 September.

The club meets on Friday afternoons in the Balmanno Hall from 2 to 4pm.

New members will be made very welcome. Flat shoes should be worn and bowls are available for beginners.

For further information contact Yvonne Allan ☎ 01224 326840

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



20 October 2016

Lunch is served at 1pm

Entertainment 2 - 3pm

**Come and join us in our
refurbished premises**

A cup of tea before you leave!
Cost -- £5

Need transport?

Contact: Lynn Allan
☎ 012224 323206

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

Dementia Friends Awareness Talk

At the start of the summer we were joined at Mannofield by friends from other churches to hear a wonderful talk by Sarah Geoghegan of Alzheimer Scotland.



She emphasised the need for society to have a positive and inclusive attitude to a condition which is inherent in all our communities. Raising awareness that it is possible to live well with dementia is the first step for all of us to help and support those with the diagnosis and their carers. She highlighted dementia cafés, exercise classes and music therapy groups available in Aberdeen as well as practical suggestions of how we can make a positive contribution in day-to-day situations.

For carers there are opportunities for a friendly chat to share experiences along what can be a difficult and lonely road. Creative writing groups for carers have also been popular as well as a group for those whose partner, spouse, parent or friend has moved to permanent residential care.

Sarah brought positivity, humour and common sense to a subject that has often been shunned through fear or lack of understanding. Her talk was recorded and a CD is available to anyone who was unable to attend.

Phone me on ☎01224-867874 to obtain a copy.

Lesley Reid, Pastoral Care Group Convener

CHURCH CONTACTS



Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk	01224315748
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	01224310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@gmail.com	01224322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	01224743484

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER



Disjunctions:

Miss Hazel Anderson
Mr Gordon & Mrs Myra Williamson

Change of address:

Mr Forbes Main

New members:

Mrs Sheena Findlay
Mr William and Mrs Etta McClean

Deaths:

18 May	Mr David Smith
21 May	Mrs Ethel Fordyce
12 June	Mrs Eveline Brown
22 June	Mr John Philip
16 July	Mrs Edith Blacklaw
28 July	Mr William Blacklaw
24 July	Mrs Evelyn Barron
2 August	Mr Ronald Brown
3 August	Mr Robert Anderson

Meditation :

I have known some,
those people who seem to be more
real than others,
who lift the atmosphere in a room,
who make you want to sit at their feet
and hear them speak.



I have known some,
those people who are ready to listen,
who really hear you,
so you know you have been understood,
who make you want
to place your sadness into their hands.

I have known some,
those people who give of what they have
without counting the cost,
who are ready to help you find what you long for
deep inside,
who reach out, often unnoticed, to those who are
in need.

Their hearts are full of wisdom, of knowledge,
of compassion, of patience, of love,
like human storehouses from which they share
without bounds.

All ages Community event 1 October 12noon to 3pm Mannofield Church

Main activities

- ◆ Hotdog stall
- ◆ Afternoon Tea & Cake café
- ◆ Popcorn machine
- ◆ Home Baking Stall
- ◆ Face painting & kids Tattoos
- ◆ Assault course
- ◆ Fairground type games
- ◆ Sumo wrestling



Development update

The first service in the redeveloped Sanctuary was held on 26 June.

The new kitchen, upstairs meeting rooms plus the welcome area with its office, vestry and toilets have all been completed to widespread approval.

The refurbishment of the Large Hall (renamed Balmanno Hall) and the Centenary Hall is almost finished. Final completion of all of the work is expected by mid September.

The interactive heritage display is in the final stages of completion. This comprises a touch screen facility and a QR code heritage trail.



A QR code is a machine-readable (smart phone, IPad) optical label that contains information about the item to which it is attached.

The Introductory page of the interactive display is based on the stained glass windows.

A Time Capsule has been acquired and organisations have been requested to suggest items for inclusion e.g. a collection of current coins; the special £5 coin for the Queens 90th; Lottery ticket/scratch cards; sample of current Magazines including a technology one; current stamps; AFC match program; current newspapers; letters from a selection of the Congregation including old and young talking about themselves in current times.

If you have any thoughts about what should be included in the collection then please contact:

Roddy McColl roddy@mccollassociates.com or ☎01224 313473



A massive thank you to all who donated during Christian Aid week and to all the collectors who have gone door to door. Together we managed to raise **£4345**.

This will go a long way in making a difference to those in desperate need.

Right now there are 6.5 million people in Malawi who face hunger.

A drought has devastated their ability to produce sufficient food, the last two harvests have failed and last year's floods destroyed food reserves. Christian Aid has just installed two solar powered irrigation pumps to help in Nsange, one of the poorest areas they already support. More help is desperately needed. Backed by the Scottish Government, Christian Aid Scotland has launched an emergency appeal for Malawi at this critical time. If you wish to donate, more information can be found at:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/malawi-appeal-launch.aspx>

