



INSPIRE



World Day of Prayer

1 March 2013

I was a stranger and you welcomed me

Artist: Anne-Lise Hammann Jeannot

See page 15 for more information

MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Scottish registered charity SC 001680
www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH

Sun 3	10am	Morning Worship
<i>Sacrament of Communion at both Services</i>		
	6.30pm	Evening Worship

Wed 6	10.30am	Midweek Service
<i>Sacrament of Communion</i>		

Sun 10	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
<i>John Allan - Memories</i>		

Wed 13	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Sun 17	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship


Wed 20	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Sun 24	10am	Morning Worship
<i>Palm Sunday</i>		
	3.15pm	Craigielea
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
<i>Led by the Young Church</i>		

Wed 27	10.30am	Midweek Service
--------	---------	-----------------

Thurs 28	7.30pm	Service at Mannofield
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		

Fri 29	7.30pm	Garthdee Church
<i>Good Friday</i>		

Sun 31	8.30am	Breakfast Service
<i>Easter Sunday</i>		
	10am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening Service

Flower Calendar

MARCH

3	Mrs A. Thompson
10	Mrs J. Anderson
17	Mrs M. Craighead
24	Miss H. Milne
31	Mrs E. Cromarty



The Guild



MARCH

1	World Day of Prayer
	2pm South Holburn Church
5	'To the Land of the Midnight Sun'
13	Spring Rally Ferryhill Parish Church
19	Talk by Nicola Youngson - Tillydrone Vision to Uganda

The deadline for the next issue of *InSpire* is 21 MARCH 2013

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

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

CAN YOU LEND A HAND?



To keep the Church Office open when Jean is on leave during March, are you free to volunteer to be in the office for one or two weekday mornings Monday to Thursday 9am–12 noon? All you'll have to do is offer a warm welcome to callers and answer the telephone.

Stop by the office to put your name down, or telephone Jean Sharman on 01224 310087

Dear Friends

A few days into the season of Lent we ponder the value of the time before Easter.

Whether we choose to give something up in these 40 days or not, the lead up to Easter is best used as a time for preparing ourselves, in order that we receive in the right spirit the gift Easter brings.

We might say a great deal about the blessings of what God did at Easter. One thing we can reflect on in Lent is that Easter comes for people living in poverty as it does for those living in affluence.

Indeed, the resurrection hope of Jesus may be experienced and lived more acutely and vividly by those who have little else in which to put their trust, whose perceptions are not blurred by the power to control their own environment and whose profound sense of the preciousness and fragility of life is sharpened by the sheer struggle for survival.

This is the testimony of millions across the world who will celebrate this Easter in settlements, prisons, refugee camps, squalor and poverty. They celebrate as joyfully as we do despite their circumstances. Lent challenges us to recognise that Easter is as much about creating a better world for the poor and destitute, forlorn and forsaken, as it is about affirming our own comfort in the knowledge of God's love for us.

Jesus entered the lonely desert and facing hunger, danger and temptation did not turn to self sufficiency but stayed true to God. Lent calls us to a right and proper spirit; it calls us to stand in solidarity with the poor and the challenged. It calls on us to do what we can in order to bring the Easter promise to fulfilment in the lives of those who need Good News more than ever.

Kind regards

Keith

building a strong family life



**The parenting children course
0-10 years**

**The parenting teenagers course
11-18 years**

30 April – 28 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

You can read more about these courses at:

www.relationshipcentral.org

The Pickled Cow Drama Group—Ten Year Anniversary

In October 2002 a new force in drama was born. The Pickled Cow Drama group sprang to life with just 3 founding members, Dave Tait, Alison Farquhar and Stuibhart MacChoille. The first performance of *Spy's R Us* had a cast of just 6 and it was the opening line of that sketch which gave us our name. By December 2002 our first panto was performed with a cast of 19. The following Christmas saw another panto and then in 2004 we performed our first summer show, *The Acts of Ludicrous*. After that we have never looked back, performing 2 shows a year ever since. We never charge for tickets, rather encourage donations at the door for the various charities we have supported over the years. These include Archie, Cash for Kids, Archway, The Deaf Society, Hearts and Minds, Make a Wish and this year Befriend a Child. We have also supported our own **Church's Development Fund. An amazing £8,000 has been raised by our young people** to date. In our 10 years over 80 performers young and old have passed through The Pickled Cow taking part in 20 full blown productions and countless church service sketches. We are immensely proud of what PCDG has achieved over the years bringing the Gospel message to the young people of Mannofield and beyond.

'Outreach with a sense of Humour' has been our tagline and we have been successful in that, bringing fun and laughter with a Christian message to many 100's and 100's of non church people in our 10 years. Mission accomplished.

All Our Amazing Performances !

Christmas	2002 - A Lad in a Manger
Christmas	2003 - Sinnerella
Summer	2004 - Acts of Ludicrous
Christmas	2004 - Red in the Dark Woods
Summer	2005 - Colonel Custard/Counterfeit Christian
Christmas	2005 - Pirates!
Summer	2006 - SpaceTrek
Christmas	2006 - Beanstalk!
Summer	2007 - Colonel Custard/Beast of Bakerville
Christmas	2007 - Rumpelstiltskin
Summer	2008 - Extended Acts of Ludicrous
Christmas	2008 - Humbug!
Summer	2009 - SpaceTrek 2
Christmas	2009 - A Great Western
Summer	2010 - A Fools Journey
Christmas	2010 - A Christmas Carrot
Summer	2011- PCDG TV
Christmas	2011 - Sinnerella 2
Summer	2012 - Extended Acts of Ludicrous 2
Christmas	2012 - Pirates 2!



Burns Supper 2 February 2013

If you like tasty homemade Cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, mince, neeps and tatties followed by tea/coffee shortbread, mints and fudge, {especially the fudge (*Editor*)} then the Large Hall was the place to be on 2 February.

Over 120 people had a most enjoyable evening which commenced in traditional fashion

with Bill Blacklaw piping in the haggis carried in by Nick followed by Jim Ruxton's spirited Address to the Haggis. Thanks are due to Ian McAdam for a very informative Immortal Memory, Jim Couper for his amusing Toast to the Lassies, his wife Jean for her Reply using as her theme the meaning of the names of flowers linked to Burns poems, Roddy McColl for his poetry recitals, Alistair Stark for his usual accomplished singing, Bill for his piping selection of Gaelic airs and Jimmy Taylor who accompanied Alistair and led us in Auld Lang Syne. The success of the evening was due in no small measure to the wit and style of John Greig, the Chairman, although you do not want to try to recite a poem after his stories! {*Editor*}

The Social Committee should be proud of their efforts which raised £245 for the Development Fund.



CHRISTIAN AID



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

CONFERENCE ABERDEEN 2013

Christian Aid is holding a pre Christian Aid Week Conference to which everyone who is interested in the work of Christian Aid is invited.

It will be held in Woodside Parish Church, Church Street, Woodside, Aberdeen on Saturday 23 March between 10am & 3pm. A light lunch will be provided.

It will be an excellent opportunity to meet the CA staff and find out more about the work of the partner organisations in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Bolivia, as featured in the CA material for CA week - May 13th to 18th. Look forward to seeing you there.

RUN FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Are you running or planning to run in a marathon or 10k in the next 3 months?

Christian Aid has several projects running in Zimbabwe, Ghana & Bolivia aimed at alleviating hunger in these countries.

You could run on behalf of Christian Aid and help raise money towards these worthy causes.

If you would like to run for Christian Aid then we can help to support you.

Please contact Bill Manson
contact Bill Manson (Tel.07758862794) for further details or contact the office.

Bill Manson



Some months ago members of the congregation were asked to help the Kirk Session focus on the right areas of church life as we prepared for two Elders Meetings led by Robin Bowden which sought to reflect on the 'the way forward' for the church.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire and in this article to give you a summary of the discussion at these meetings and describe how I think we should progress.

Those elders who attended the meetings spoke to me of how pleased they were to discuss these matters in a fresh way. Robin brought with him years of experience from his working life in which he often would help businesses and agencies spend time thinking about their future and the ways ahead. The meetings allowed the participants to talk openly and concluded with participants noting down specific things in church life that may be changed or enhanced to create a stronger and more appropriate church community in the future. These ideas were then added to your own from the questionnaire and an extensive list was formulated. Robin then created a document for the Session that contains his thoughts on the meetings as well as bringing together all the ideas that were provided into an extensive list under headings relating to church life and work. I have read his report and the Elders have received their copy.

So what happens to the report now?

As with all such reports, the danger is it would be laid on a shelf somewhere and the dust would gather on it and before too long it would be forgotten. We will not let this happen!

The report will be read by the Elders and we will together reflect on it and seek to choose ideas to implement when we see them as worthwhile and achievable to our objective of creating a strong, caring and community focussed church. Many of the ideas are already in the pipeline.

It is not the case that only the Kirk Session will be privy to the ideas and their implementation. After all we are all passionate about the church we belong to and we are all workers in it. Through future InSpire magazines and church services the congregation will be kept well informed and involved in the processes.

Thank you for your help with this exercise and I hope you are as positive as I am about the future of the congregation as it finds its 'way ahead' and commits to it with vigour and freshness.

God is gracious and creative with his use of people and ideas. As we reflect and discuss matters as elders or congregation members it is important to remember that actually what we are doing is listening to the voice of God as He directs us and influences by His Spirit in order that we become shaped into the church He needs us to be in this age and for this and future generations.

Keith

Find this 6-digit number.

First 3 digits — last 3 digits = 665. Within the number there is a 3 to the left of a 1. There is a 0. There is a 7 to the right of a 9. There is a 5 to the left of a 3.

1

8

6

4

2

3

9

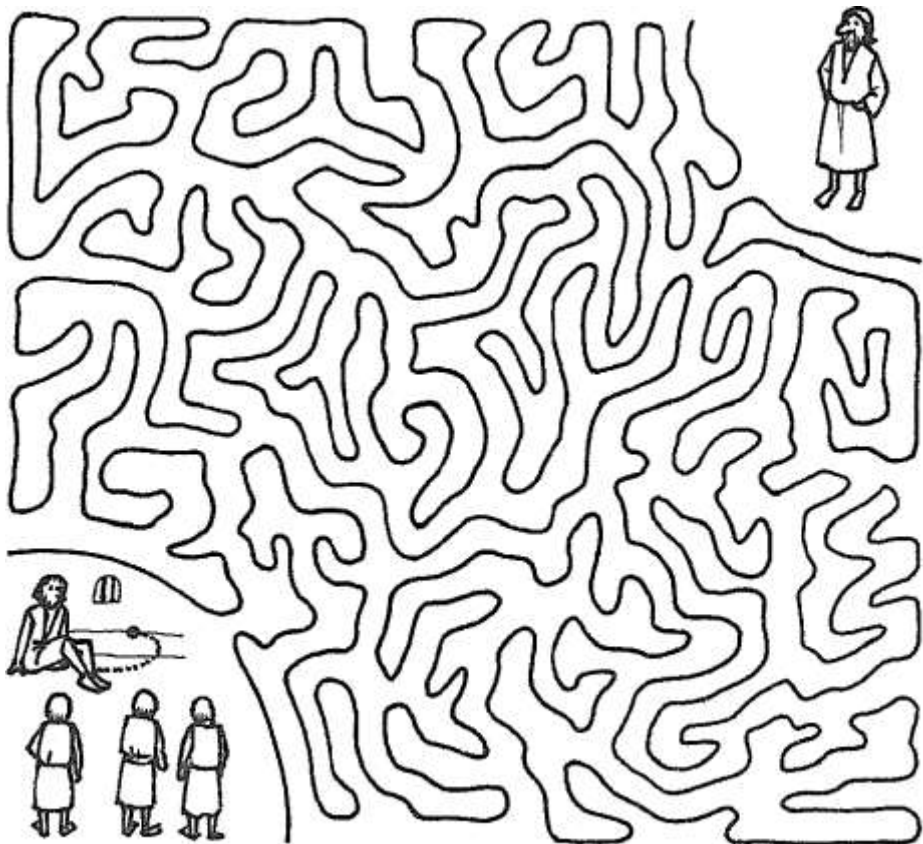
0

7

5



Help John's disciples find their way to Jesus:

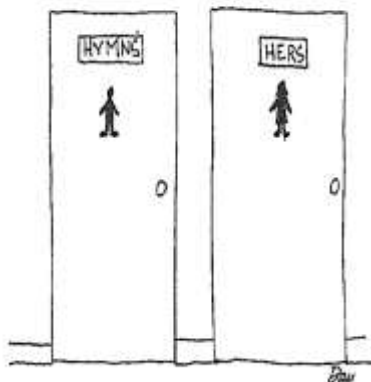


Get John's Disciples to Jesus



... but I don't think that's really necessary for the Harvest Festival dear.

CHURCH TOILETS



WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MOTHER?

Write the names of these objects in the boxes and you will see her name! Then read the story of John's birth in *Luke 1:5-66.*

Answer: Bee, ball, lion, maze, cat, lamb, wheel, hat, chair. (Elizabeth.)

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

ANTIOCH
 BABYLON
 BETHLEHEM
 CORINTH
 CYRENE
 DAMASCUS
 EPHESUS
 GOMORRAH
 JERUSALEM
 NINEVEH
 SAMARIA
 SODOM
 THEBES
 TYRE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



Read the story in Mark 8 about Jesus healing the blind man.

Replace the words in CAPITALS with words which rhyme, so that the verse makes sense:

Jesus took the FINED man by the LAND and FED him out of the SPILLAGE. After HITTING on the man's LIES Jesus LACED his BANDS on him and asked him. 'Can you BEE anything?'



February's answer: Each of those words has a group of three letters that is in alphabetical order.

Personal InsightJohn Telfer

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

A I am 83 years young/old depending on the day weather etc. married with 3 children and 8 grandchildren and a retired Agricultural College Principal.

Q What is your favourite verse from Scripture?

A The Lord is my shepherd.

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

A Pass, but I have great sympathy for Thomas and his need to be convinced.

Q What motivates you spiritually?

A A good sermon.

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

A **If you can't pay for something you want then you don't buy it.**

Q What are you afraid of?

A Confined spaces and water.

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

A To be more patient and to become a reader.

Q What makes you lose your temper?

A I aim to avoid becoming involved in such situations.

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

A To be a forester as I have always been very interested in growing trees.

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

A Relative to my means at the time my Rolex watch.

Q Who or What is the love of your life?

A Kay whom I first met when we were students at university then went our separate

ways before meeting up again and marrying 3 years later.

Q Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A There were 2 for totally different reasons. The first was Mrs Goodfellow, a widow, who taught me from 1935 to 1941 along with another 14 or so pupils aged 5-14 in a one **room wooden "hut" building with no insulation** and only a coal fire to keep us warm!

Then Sandy Main was a big influence. He was senior tutor in Agriculture at the University of Durham. He taught me, or I learned, more about the English language when writing my thesis than I ever learned at school.

Q What is your most treasured possession?

A After my wife and family my Rolex. It cost me two and a half weeks of hard physical work during my second Christmas vacation as a student when I worked long hours as a fitter building the atomic power station at Annan, then spent the lot. I was told it would last a lifetime but sadly it deceased last summer but fortunately by the grace of God I still have Kay and the family.

Q What would you do if you ruled the world?

A Attempt to reduce pollution, waste and live in peace with others.

Q What has been your greatest achievement?

A This must be graduating as a mature student BSC AGRIC (HONS), Crop Production in 1960. This was before I learned **the often quoted saying in farm colleges: "We do the impossible immediately, miracles take a little longer."**



The Caring Church

Providing a culture of care and real value to society

In 2012 I was able to take 4 weeks study leave under the Church of Scotland scheme that encourages ministers to take regular time away from parish duties in order to read, study or attend a conference. Other agencies would call this opportunity 'continuing professional development' or something similar.

I decided to reflect on the place of the Church in society today and seek to determine the view that others take of the Church in terms of its ability to influence the creation of strong communities. This stemmed from the work we are doing in a bid to improve our building so that we are able to welcome people into our buildings that they may be able to take part in, and benefit from, activities that are life strengthening and which lead to positive physical and spiritual well-being.

During my study leave I read for half the time and then prepared a paper on the basis of my reading and my own observations. The title of the paper is:

"The Caring Church: Providing a culture of care and real value to society

It's a question of *Creating it, Sharing it, and Partnering with others.*

In the paper I begin by describing the 'the culture of the early and growing Church': what made it tick, what emphasis did it place on its relationship with the community in which it was set, what was the mind set of those who were part of it and how did they view faith in terms of interaction with everyday community life?

I then suggest that a change in mind set may have taken place within the Church in recent centuries as faith became more a matter of individual life rather than corporate life.

From there I make the connection to the Church's standing (or should we say lack of standing) in the affairs of community and national life today.

What do non church goers recognise as the contribution that the Church makes in the creation of strong community life? Has the Church lost ground as other agencies take over the mantle providing the backbone of successful caring societies that meet people's needs?

I conclude with the view that the Church needs to regain an ethic of seeing Faith as synonymous with caring for others and to play a part in building communities that reflect something of God's caring love.

I've enjoyed the time of Study and I am grateful for the chance to think about these matters. These thoughts are being shared in the Evening Services through the coming months and I would invite you to join me as we think together about 'the Culture of the Church'.

Keith



What is Gift Aid?

This is a government scheme which allows the congregation (as a registered charity) to reclaim the tax you have already paid on the money you give to the church e.g. offerings and donations to the Development Fund.

Gift Aid is good stewardship

Giving your offering as a Gift Aid contribution increases the value of your offering by 25%. More money coming in to the Church means more sharing of the gospel through the work of the Church.

Who can give through Gift Aid?

Anyone who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax which is annually at least equal to the tax that the congregation (and other charities to which you make Gift Aid donations) will reclaim on your gifts for that year.

What is required?

Sign a Gift Aid Declaration (if you have not already done so) - a form can be obtained from Mr Sandy McKenzie (Gift Aid Convener) or Mr Roger Imrie (Freewill Offering Treasurer).

Give your offering using Offering Envelopes or by Bank Standing Order, or by cheque - to provide the Church with the necessary record of your giving.

You do not need...

.....to promise to give a particular amount

.....to promise to give for a specified period of time

You can cancel your Gift Aid Declaration at any time by writing to the Gift Aid Convener. You must also advise him if you cease to pay sufficient tax or change your name or home address.

You can claim tax relief...

If you pay higher rate tax, you can claim the difference between the higher rate of tax (40% and/or 50%) and the basic rate of tax (20%) on the total 'gross' value of your donations. If you claim the age-related Personal Allowance or the Married Couple's Allowance it is important to let HMRC know about any Gift Aid donations. This may have the effect of increasing these allowances if your income is above the relevant 'income limit' that applies.

CH4 Hymn 496 vv 2-8

These, our hearts, are yours; we give them to you,
Lord; purify our love to make it like your own.

These, our eyes are yours, we give them to you,
Lord; may we always see your world as with your
sight.

These, our hands, are yours; we give them to you,
Lord; give them strength and skill to do our work for
you.

These, our feet are yours, we give them to you,
Lord; may we walk along the path of life with you.

These, our tongues, are yours; we give them to you,
Lord; may we speak your healing words of life
and truth.

These, our ears are yours, we give them to you,
Lord; open them to hear your words of guidance,
Lord.

Our whole selves are yours; we give them to you,
Lord; take us now and keep us yours forevermore.

NOTES & NEWS

Mannofield Church Lunch Club

21 MARCH 2013

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



Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets on a Thursday morning from 11am until midday in Room 1. We are using the 'Pray New' booklet produced by the Church of Scotland.

Currently, we are finishing the 2012 booklet on the theme of 'time' based on Ecclesiastes chap.3,v.1-8. The 2013 booklet's theme is 'from generation to generation' and looks at a selection of biblical characters.

Do come and join us. For more information contact: Edna Cromarty on 317453



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE ... EVENTS



FEBRUARY

- 2 Burns Supper: £245 raised
- 9 Flute & Piano recital: Over £900 raised to date
- 23 Bag packing: 11am-5pm, Sainsbury's, Bridge of Dee

APRIL

- 20 Silent Auction: Further details to follow in April InSpire and screen intimations.

Church Book Club March 2013

Room by Emma Donoghue is the story of a five-year-old called Jack, who lives in a single room with his Ma and has never been outside. When he turns five, he starts to ask questions, and his mother reveals to him that there is a world beyond the walls. Told entirely in Jack's voice, *Room* is no horror story or tearjerker, but a celebration of resilience and the love between parent and child.



Thank You

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

All outstanding amounts should be either sent directly to him at 27 Norfolk Road, Aberdeen, AB10 6JR or deposited in the Church plate, in a clearly marked envelope, by 5th April 2013.

Tax recovered in 2012 on Ordinary offerings under Gift Aid was £27,029, a significant amount in the Church's income.



HOSPITAL ESCORT TEAMS

The opening of the new wing at ARI means extra wards to visit to take patients to the hospital service. Please would members of each team try to give priority to coming to the hospital even if it means changing church duties with other people as it is difficult to cover all the wards without a good number of escort volunteers. Thank you for all your help.

Margaret Stewart



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Disjunctions

Gordon and Norma Robertson

Deaths

22 Dec Mrs Grace Milne

CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	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

World Day of Prayer

1 MARCH 2013

I was a stranger and you welcomed me

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.

This year's service is written by the Christian women of France. The French WDP Committee is inclusive and representative of the multi-cultural complexity of France today. The service asks us to think carefully about how we treat the strangers we meet. Do we always welcome them as we should?

This year we pray with women of France for

refugees and migrant workers
victims of oppression and violence
the hungry
those who are abused
women who are powerless
children who need help
women and children who are trafficked
those affected by HIV or AIDS

The service for the South West area of Aberdeen will be held in South Holburn Church at 2pm.

The City Centre service will be held in Crown Terrace Methodist Church off Crown Street at 2pm.



THE PICKLED COW Drama Group

Proudly Present Ten years of Pickled Cow in pictures

THANK YOU
FROM ALL
AT
MANNOFIELD

