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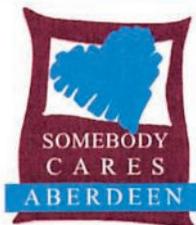


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We are an exercise class on MONDAYS 2-3pm at MANNOFIELD CHURCH HALL



We are Friskis&Svettis exercise class and have been for a number of years. Friskis&Svettis was formerly known as Swedish Style Exercise but in 2005 we became affiliated to the parent organisation Friskis&Svettis based in Sweden. The name does not trip off the tongue readily as we found out.

One of our leaders was running a class in the Physio Gym in the hospital at the time of the name change. As usual she had to stop at the barrier before getting into the hospital grounds, and thought it was wise to introduce the new name. "Friskis&Svettis - used to be Swedish Style Exercise" she said to the little chap on the barrier. Blank look. "Fit?" he asked. "We're

now called Friskis&Svettis" she said with what she hoped was a winning smile. Another pause - then he turned and said into the speaker control "It's the wife from Biscuit & Lettuce". And the barrier went up!

But whatever we're called - the exercise remains the same - it's safe, effective and above all fun. You exercise at your own level, there's no competition and the routines are easy to follow because the music is inspiring. The class lasts for one hour and in that time we raise our pulses to exercise our hearts, we stretch to increase flexibility, we work on the floor to strengthen our back - upper and lower, shoulders and tummies and then we cool down and relax. The class is suitable for everyone who would like an all over workout and we have a very wide age range but you do as much as you feel you want to. When people ask if they would manage a class we tell them "If you can get on the bus to get to the class - you can do it!" A warm welcome awaits you if you would like to have a go.

If you would like to know more please ring Susanne (484643) or Jackie (648171)

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2013

Sun 1 Dec <i>Advent Family Communion</i>	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Rev Keith Blackwood <i>'Greater than my life scripts'</i>
Wed 4 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 8 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Conducted by Lesley Reid
Wed 11 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 12 Dec	2.15pm	Service in Northcote Lodge Conducted by Rev Keith Blackwood and Rev Duncan Eddie
Sun 15 Dec <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i>	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Service in Craigielea Gardens Conducted by Margaret Stewart; Edna Cromarty, piano
	5.15pm to 6pm	Community Carols and Christmas lights switch on
	6.30pm	Evening Worship – Lessons and Carols. Mannofield Gospel Choir (last evening worship for 2013. Evening Services resume 12th January 2014)
Mon 16 Dec	9:40am	Schools Christmas Service
Sun 22 Dec <i>Sacrament of Baptism</i>	10am	Morning Worship Young Church Nativity Play 
Tues 24 Dec	7pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	10.45pm	Carols, mulled wine and mince pies in Hall
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Wed 25 Dec Note later start time	<u>10.30am</u>	Christmas Morning Family Worship

k5blackwood@btinternet.com



Dear Friends

I think most of us would agree that despite the hectic lead -up, the pressure of planning and the cost of preparing for it, the season of Christmas is something we really look forward to. Children understandably are excited by the approach of Christmas. As adults we too are somehow captured by the magic of a season that weaves its spell through music, colourful decorations, lights and smells. The season of Christmas builds up over weeks and it's no wonder that it brings with it such heightened expectation.

There is however a potential problem lying in wait. Like many other things in life the more expectation builds, the higher the chance we end up feeling our expectations have not been met. We pay a fortune for a concert ticket or sporting event and afterwards we wonder why we bothered! When it comes to Christmas, so often the problems I hear people refer to come in the form of comparisons with 'Christmases past'. I hear people saying, 'Christmas just isn't like it used to be.' 'Christmas television is not as good this year.' 'What happened to the great Christmas songs filling the charts?' 'Christmas is over much quicker than it used to be.' One of the most common complaints is often 'What happened to the snow? I am sure it used to snow regularly at Christmas.'

Christmas is a perfect example of 'rose-tinted spectacles'. The truth is, in most cases, the problem lies not with the poorer offerings of the season but with our own inability to be content and absorb the joy from the special character and significance of Christmas.

Even the Church is not immune to the comparisons with Christmases past. Many people comment that the attendances at the special services around Christmas are not as high as they once were, particularly the Watchnight Service. If we take a realistic view of the popularity of church attendance at Christmas we recognise that these services are actually pretty well attended. Many people, both regular church attendees and the less regular, still recognise the value of attending church at Christmas and make every effort to include this as part of their Christmas Celebrations.

In the singing of familiar carols and the opportunity to become immersed in a life-changing and world-changing story that is full of hope and promise, the icing on the cake is added to the top of all the other traditions of the season. Rather than complain in the weeks that follow Christmas that it was all over too fast or it wasn't as good a celebration as expected, I think there is encouragement given for us to take to heart the adage **'you get out of Christmas what you put into it'**. If we throw ourselves into the season I am sure we will be richly entertained and blessed. If we seek a greater guarantee of finding what we might be looking for in the season I would suggest we find it in making space for an experience of 'church' during the Christmas season

and allowing ourselves the opportunity to become caught up in the most wonderful story ever told. It has the power to transform our outlook and perspective and bring significance to our celebrations that meet all our expectations and more.

May God bless you and your families in this season of Christmas.

Keith

Christmas Prayer *by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen

TLC Foodbank

By Councillor Gordon Townson



It was with mixed emotions that on 7 October 2013 I attended the launch of the Foodbank Partnership Aberdeen at the Townhouse. I was sad and dismayed that in 2013 in oil rich Aberdeen there is a rapidly growing need for foodbanks to support struggling families.

I was impressed however at the drive, commitment and compassion of the many agencies and individuals who are involved in offering a helping hand. I am pleased that I am in a position to help drive forward the TLC Foodbank.

TLC is a Scottish charity no SCO42674.

Taking cognisance of good practice within the 'Partnership' TLC will operate a foodbank out of Inchgarth Community Centre launching on Tuesday 3 December 3.30 till 6pm and Thursday 5 December 2-4pm and weekly at these times thereafter.

There will be a permanent collection point at Inchgarth and your support in the form of non perishable items and toiletries would be much appreciated.

The initial 'launch collection' at Sainsburys Garthdee on Saturday 26 October was a great success and the support from the store and all who donated was much appreciated. TLC hope to build on success and extend their foodbank work to the Torry area and elsewhere in Aberdeen in response to demand.

44th Boys Brigade



Each week The Boys' Brigade works with thousands of young people in the UK, many of whom have no other connection with the Church.

The 44th Boys' Brigade Company at Mannofield is currently recruiting new members in all its sections.

Anchor Boys is for boys from P1 (min age 5) - P3 and meets on Thursday 6.00 - 7.00pm. This is a small but enthusiastic group enjoying a variety of sports, games, crafts, stories and competition each week. Recently they had a pirate theme night, have made playdoh and enjoyed a spooky night at Halloween.

Junior Section is for boys from P4 - P6 and meets on Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15pm.

This group is also small in number but full of energy. They too participate in a variety of sports, games, activities and enjoy the weekly joke session. Recently they had a sports night, baked cakes and made bird feeders. They also took part in the International games competing against BBs in countries as far apart as Australia and Ireland.



Company Section is for boys from P7 - S6 and meets on Fridays 7.45 - 10pm.

The oldest section enjoys a great variety of activities, challenges and sports including football, unihoc and volleyball. Weekly gymnastic sessions on the Company vaulting horse are popular as well as outside trips including a burger n bowling night, beach cookout and the annual camp. This year that was spent in Dundee. Next year we are off to the Orkney Islands.

Each section follows an award scheme where boys can gain awards and badges for taking part in the weekly programme.

We provide a balanced selection of fun activities for children and young people from 5 to 18 through all our sections. Run by a dedicated team of people our staff are fully qualified BB leaders and are all cleared to work with children and young people by Disclosure Scotland. For more information or to join email info@40four.co.uk or visit our website at www.40four.co.uk.

The adventure starts here - come and join in.

Dave Tait, Captain



‘HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS’

‘Home is where the HEART is’, is a phrase often used and one which conveys a great deal of significance. It recognises that while houses are built of bricks and mortar, a home is built on the quality and depth of the relationships between those who live in that house, and the love that is discovered there.



As a Church, Mannofield seeks to be a home for the community, a place where relationships are fostered and love is shared. In this changing time we are committed to remodelling ourselves physically and in other ways, so that we might better serve the needs of people today.

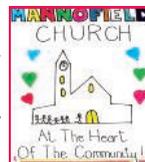
We seek to create a building that is accessible, multifunctional, modern and comfortable, with a more flexible sanctuary for worship and other activities.

The Church is meant to be a place of ‘welcome’ and we have recognised that in order to provide this, a major alteration to the fabric of our building is required.

To date £670,000 has been raised through congregational donations, fundraising and pledges/grants from charitable trusts. We hope to be successful in a bid to the Heritage Lottery, ‘Grants for Places of Worship Scheme’ and our target is to begin work in September 2014.

The building is only part of what we need to be doing. As a congregation we recognise that we need to be providing more care for our increasing number of elderly members and parishioners. At the same time we need to be offering activities and relevance to the younger age groups. It’s a juggling act but Mannofield Church is up to the task.

Whether or not you are a member of the Church or someone who wants to share our modernised building, we need your continued support at this time. Please back us in our campaign to create Mannofield Church as a ‘Heart of the Community,’ your community.



Airyhall School

What the pupils are looking forward to at Christmas

“We are really looking forward to our school Christmas fair on Saturday 30 November. The PTA organises lots of stalls to come to the school and each class does an Enterprise activity to make something to sell at their own stall.

We love doing this and it means that we are helping to raise funds for our school.

The children from P1-P3 are excited to be putting on a performance called ‘The Nativity’. They are working hard to learn their words and songs.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas parties which we enjoy every year. We love to dress up in our party clothes.

The whole school will enjoy going down to Mannofield Church on 16 December for an end of term Christmas service at 9.40am.

Mr Blackwood always has a good story to tell and quite often some children help him with the service. There is a lovely atmosphere when everybody sings Christmas Carols together.”

Happy Christmas THE PUPILS!

GETTING OUR ECO-ACT TOGETHER



Have you ever tried to estimate your total personal impact on the environment? For most people, the answer is “No”. That need not be a problem, because at the individual level what really counts is our actions, rather than an ability to add up all the little and not-so-little bits of a complicated jigsaw. It’s much easier simply to take opportunities to reduce our ecological footprint as they arise.

Things are rather less than straightforward when it comes to the ecological footprint of Mannofield Church.

That’s because we can’t do everything at once, so we have to decide where our priorities lie. Should we concentrate on our Church property and the way it is used and managed, or should we be looking at how we act as an important part of the wider community? Is it better to focus our early efforts on easy and obvious targets, or to spend more time on those which can deliver the biggest impact?

These are tricky questions. So to help plot our way forward, we are carrying out an environmental check-up which will log what we do at present and where we see some room for improvement. It will give us a better idea of where our environmental priorities should lie. We are using a template developed by Eco-Congregation Scotland, partly because it has been tried and tested elsewhere and partly because of its simplicity.

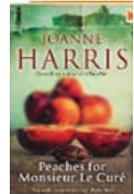
What’s more, if we repeat the exercise in a few years’ time, we will be able to see what progress we have made.

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’s scope to improve the way we manage our existing premises and to be more thoughtful of our daily actions in our Church and home life.

If like us, you believe that we are part of God’s creation, it follows that we have a responsibility to look after it.

*Alistair Stark, Convenor,
Eco-Congregation Committee*

Mannofield Church Book Club



*Peaches for Monsieur
le Curé* by Joanne Harris

Peaches For Monsieur le Curé is a 2012 novel by the author Joanne Harris. It is the third chapter in the author's series of Chocolat books, of which the second is *The Lollipop Shoes*. Set in France in 2010, just at the beginning of Ramadan, it is the tale of two communities, culturally different, but in many ways alike, and the woman who brings them together

For further information contact:

Niki Anderson Tel 743484

Mannofield Church Youth Group

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

Are you looking to add some fun to your evenings? Then read on...

We have 2 youth clubs running on Sunday and Monday evenings for ages 11+. Sundays involve some games, food and discussions. Mondays are more chilled with some card games and snacks. No one week is like the other!

From time to time we have special activities including meals, fancy dress, cinema, sleepovers, movie nights and days out. There is also a tendency to go a bit crazy!

Over the summer we lost the leadership of Chris Still who moved to London to pursue his ministry with the Salvation Army. However, presently helping me to run these events are Andrew Cattanach and Kirsty Meldrum. Among us we have several years of volunteering with young people. Andrew has been involved in Young Church while Kirsty has volunteered at school through her university. I am an officer in our 44th Boys Brigade Company Section.

We have a great bunch of young people attending and it is encouraging for us all to have such a keen group.

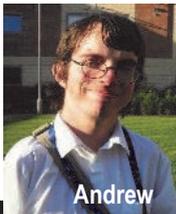
We are always happy to see new faces so if you are interested in finding out more please get in touch.

[Today's youth...tomorrow's leaders.](#)

Please show your support for the young people at Mannofield Church.

Ryan Webster ryan.webster87@gmail.com

Youth Volunteer



MANNFIELD PASTORAL CARE GROUP

The Pastoral Care Group consists of

- (a) The Caring Group.
- (b) The Audio CD service.
- (c) The hospital escort service
- (d) The car service
- (e) Delivery of the Church flowers



(a) **Caring Group**

The Group supports people in the parish who are housebound, disabled, elderly or lonely.

They are initially visited by the Convenor who tries to set up a compatible 'friendship' with a member of the Caring Group. If circumstances change or the relationship breaks down, the situation is reviewed.

Those persons are referred to the Convenor by the Minister, elders and members.

(b) **Audio CD Service**

Each Sunday the service is recorded, copied and delivered to the housebound by volunteers.

(c) **Hospital Escort Service**

There are 2 teams of volunteers who go to A.R.I. one Sunday a month to take patients, mainly by wheelchair, to and from the Chapel for the service.



(d) **Car Service**

Volunteers provide car transport to and from Sunday services for those less able.

(e) **Flower Delivery**

The Church flowers are delivered by volunteers to the persons chosen by the Minister.

For further information contact Jean Anderson:

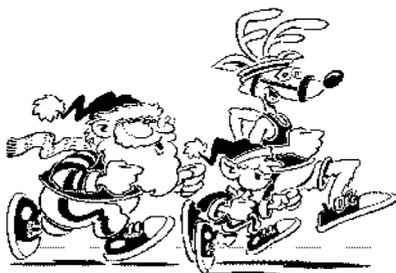
Tel 322183 or email andyandjean@hotmail.co.uk



M A N G O

Mannofield Gospel Choir is not just a Church Choir. It is the opportunity for people in the community who enjoy singing, and who would like to feel the buzz of singing in a choir, to come along and have some FUN. It started in September 2012, under the leadership of Rhonda McColgan an experienced Choir Leader. Mango will be singing for the first time in public at a number Church Services during the Advent and Christmas period.

Rehearsals take place on Monday nights between September and Easter at Mannofield Church from 6.45 to 7.30pm.



During the year forty of Santa's elves took part in their annual freestyle race.

Twenty elves ran. Ten elves dashed.

Five elves bolted and sprinted.

Three elves bolted, dashed ran and sprinted.

Two elves ran, bolted and sprinted.

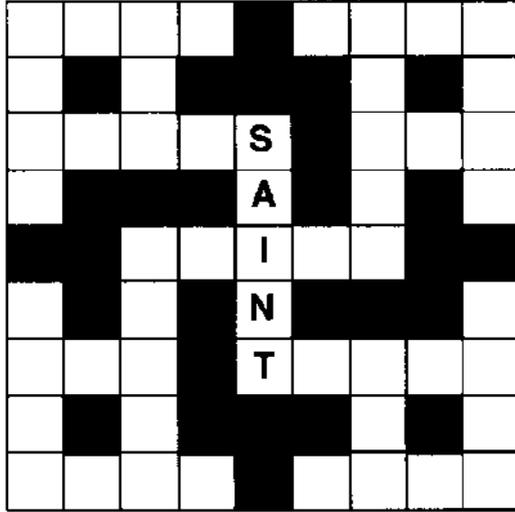
Five elves ran and sprinted.

Two elves dashed, ran and sprinted.

How many elves neither dashed, ran, bolted, nor sprinted?



Crossword



Can you fit the words below into the grid?

- 3 Letters: Lot Inn Eve Uri
- 4 Letters: Amen Boat Tent Adam Glow Atad
- Wash Bird
- 5 Letters: Trust Tribe Areas Titus Saint Olive



"I'd like to know whose idea it was to have a real donkey"



Christmas Wordsearch

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

GOLD

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

WISE

MEN

FOLLOW

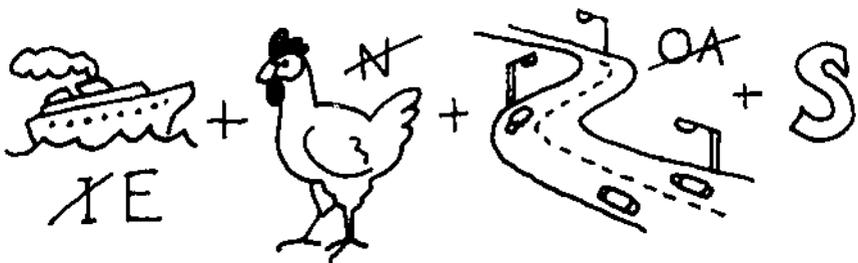
STAR

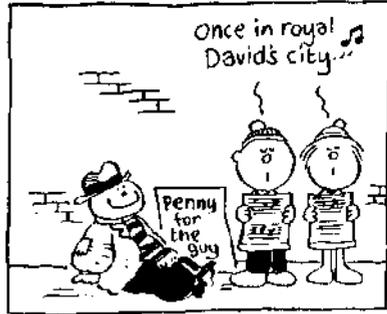
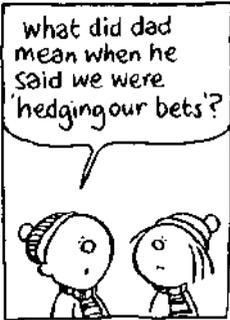
HEROD

DREAM

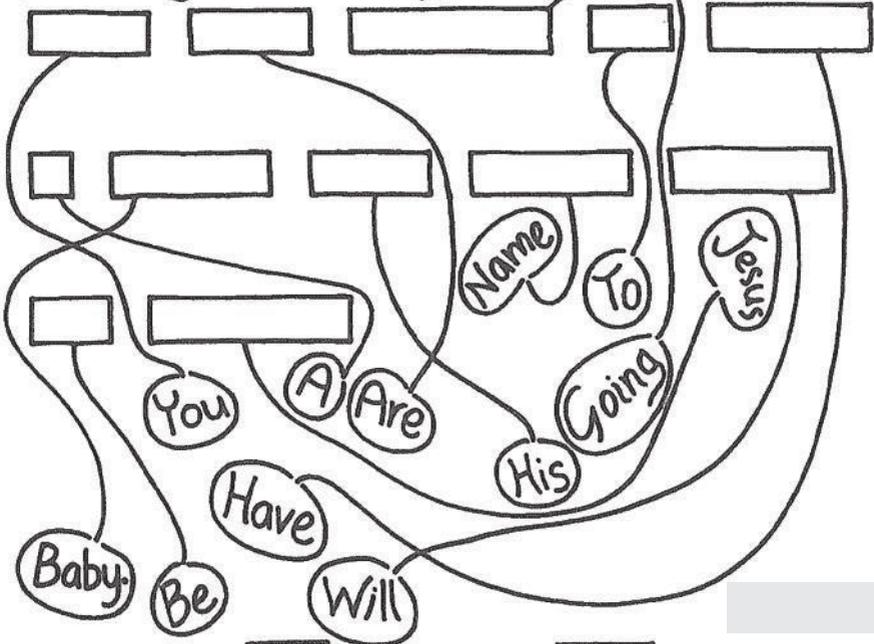
WORSHIP

Who heard the good news first?





The angel told Mary:~



Mary was . She said 

Mannofield Church Social Committee

Fun and fellowship are our mainstays!

We offer a variety of social events throughout the year which we hope will provide several opportunities for parish residents (not just our congregation) to join our activities and feel included should they so wish.

Typically, we run an event in the early part of the year; a Burns' Supper, Ceilidh, or Musical Evening to bring some joy to the winter months. On 1 March 2014 we will be holding a ceilidh and tickets will be available in the church office nearer the date .



Occasionally we organise a fundraising event although these are not the main focus of our remit. These have included in past years a Flower Festival, Fairs, Strawberry Teas with a special church trail event during our 130th anniversary year. The latest event was an excellent evening at the Ashvale fish restaurant where we held a quiz night in aid of the Development fund.

In late summer we organise a bus trip which enables us to enjoy a tour of local NE scenery followed by either lunch or afternoon tea - a very friendly and pleasant afternoon outing!

We have also enjoyed hosting several congregational buffet lunches - from Souper Sunday for Christian Aid to thanking various colleagues for their hard work at Mannofield. In the case of George Goldie we celebrated his 60 years in the Ministry!

The social committee year ends in very early December with a free community Christmas sing-a-long after a short festive musical entertainment. The next one is on Wednesday 4 Dec 2013 from 2 - 3.30pm and we will make you most welcome. Please contact the church office for tickets so that we can better cope with the provision of refreshments during the afternoon.



YPFC

Were you there during the early summer at our Fun Day, or did your children attend our Summer Club? A great time was had by all and we were so pleased to see so many of you.



We're always planning our next event whether it be Advent, Christmas, Easter or at other times of the year. Crafts, cooking, games and fun happen all year round with the occasional Christingle, annual Nativity service and of course at Easter the children enjoy our giant hunt for eggs.

Our aim is to gather together the Young People & Families of the Church & Community. Next year's events may be different, but one thing's for sure, we'll all have a FUNtastic time so please come and join in. To keep up to date with what's happening just follow us on Facebook!



Young People and Families Committee

Worship at Mannfield

Come and join us!

SUNDAY	- Family Service	10.00 a.m.
	- Evening Service (Sept – June)	6.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	- Morning Service	10.30 a.m.

Fellowship continues in the Large Hall where tea and coffee are served.



The Bell Ringers



Praise Band



Services are also conducted for the elderly residents at Craigielea Gardens (generally on the last Sunday of each month) and at Northcote Lodge on the second Thursday of each month.

Alpha and Alpha Plus Courses

Monday, 20 January, 2014: Time: 7- 9pm

All Welcome.

The Alpha team is looking forward to welcoming people to the 2014 *Alpha Course* beginning on Monday 20 January 2014.

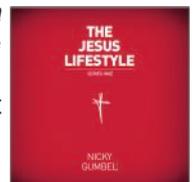
The course will run in the large hall on Mondays for ten weeks, with an 'away day' in early March. We start at 7pm with a light meal and watch a DVD together which we then discuss. The evening finishes at 9pm.

In January 2014, we are embarking on a new venture, **Alpha Plus**, a follow-on course from *Alpha*. You don't have to have been on an *Alpha Course* to come.

Alpha Plus uses material called "*The Jesus Lifestyle*". It will start simultaneously with *Alpha* and following the light meal, will run in Room 1 for 7 weeks.

Learn about the radically different lifestyle that Jesus taught, how to deal with anger, how to handle money, what to do when faced with difficult people.

If you are interested in either course, please contact the *Alpha Team* via the Church Office Tel 01224 310087



Councillor Angela Taylor

I was delighted to be elected in May 2012 to represent the citizens of Airyhall, Broomhill & Garthdee on behalf of Scottish Labour. I consider this to be an honoured position to hold in society. Being a Councillor is a uniquely rewarding experience. The role of a Councillor gives me an opportunity to make a difference to the quality of life for people in my local area and throughout the city.

I have lived in Airyhall for 10 years and in Aberdeen since leaving college in Inverness, having spent many years living on various Royal Air Force bases with my parents.

I strongly believe in the guiding role that the Church gives to many people, especially at Christmas time. And we in the local authority have a key role in society too by providing public services to those who require them – from ensuring our children receive the best education to providing social housing and social care for those who need it.

Aberdeen City Council provides so many invaluable services to local residents, too many to mention!

But to choose just one small but important example locally here in Airyhall – the City Council is in the process of refurbishing the play park at Airyhall Community Centre. The old items have been removed and will soon be replaced with new, modern play equipment as part of a wider play parks improvement programme across the city. The new play park in Airyhall will provide great pleasure for everyone in the area and demonstrates this Council's commitment to invest in our children's future.

Looking forward to the festive season, Aberdeen City Council has a well run "Winter Festival" which includes Santa and his reindeer, the Christmas lights being switched on as well as carol concerts.



I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. If you would like to contact me, my contact details are noted below:

Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Mobile 07876 748527
Office: 01224 346616

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



19 DECEMBER

Thereafter 3rd Thursday
each month until May 2014

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark tel. 317982

Flower Calendar

December

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Mrs M. Hunter |
| 8 | Mrs A. Reekie |
| 15 | Mrs A. McCaskill |
| 22 | Flower Fund |
| 29 | Flower Fund |



Reporting back – Councillor Ian Yuill

Airyhall play area gets new equipment

I am delighted that new play equipment is being installed at the play area beside Airyhall Community Centre and I know this is welcomed by many families.

Our pavements and roads

One issue I am regularly contacted about is the state of some pavements and roads in our area. I am pleased that some repairs and resurfacing have been carried out but much, much more needs to be done and I will continue to ask the City Council to properly repair roads and pavements in our area.

Road safety worries

Road safety is an issue which concerns many residents and on behalf of our community I will, amongst other things, continue to:

- ◆ Press for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on the main road near Tesco's Mannofield store.
- ◆ Ask Police Scotland to tackle speeding vehicles on roads including Countesswells Road, Craighton Road and North Deeside Road.
- ◆ Urge that "red light cameras" are installed at pedestrian crossings on South Anderson Drive and Anderson Drive. Red light cameras would improve pedestrian safety by discouraging drivers from driving through red lights - and by catching those who still do so.

I am pleased that Traffic Scotland was eventually persuaded to change the phasing of the traffic lights at the junction of Great Western Road and Anderson Drive. This means people crossing whilst the "green man" is on are not now faced with cars still turning right from Great Western Road.

I am here to help

I am always happy to help residents with problems and complaints. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 77 Duthie Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 7PS, on 346627 (council) or 310746 (home) or at iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk. I can also be contacted via my website www.ianyuill.org.uk



Great Gift Idea

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups of plain flour
3/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup light brown soft sugar
1/4 cup cocoa powder
3/4 cup red & green m&ms

Chocolate Christmas Cookie Mix (makes 1 litre jar)

Combine flour, baking soda and salt in a bowl; mix well. Pour 1/2 cup of flour mix into wide neck litre jar; pack down well. Add 1/2 cup of brown sugar, 1/2 cup of flour, cocoa, remaining flour and remaining brown sugar. Add sweets to top of jar. Cover jar with fabric and attach recipe label

Recipe Label

1 JAR COOKIE MIX
2/3 CUP SOFTENED BUTTER
2 EGGS
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
Beat softened butter and eggs together.
Add cookie mix, stir well.
Drop heaped teaspoons of mix onto a greased baking tray 2 inches apart.
Bake for 11 to 12 mins.



POLICE SCOTLAND

I was delighted to be asked recently to contribute to InSpire on behalf of Police Scotland's West End Community Policing Team.

We are a team of Officers comprising myself, 4 Sergeants, 21 Constables and 5 Special Constables working out of the building we share with Whinhill Medical Practice in the heart of the West End, providing 24 hour cover to the Airyhall, Ashley, Braeside, Broomhill, Craigiebuckler, Ferryhill, Mannofield, Ruthrieston and Seafield areas.

Since 1 April we have been part of Police Scotland but it is very much business as usual for us. Hopefully you will have seen no change to the first class service which we aim to provide during what has been a very interesting and challenging period of change.

What you should be seeing and should be expecting from my officers is that we continue to respond to the needs of the communities we are working alongside, and that the issues that you see as a priority become our priorities as well.

In addition to our on-going work to address issues with inconsiderate driving, speeding and failing to obey road signs, particularly at pedestrian crossings, which we have targeted through routine patrols and planned operations, a number of break-ins have demanded our attention recently. Secure and insecure houses have been targeted, in addition to car thefts and break-ins to vehicles.

Whilst varying degrees of property security have been overcome, on some occasions insecure houses and cars have helped these criminals.

We have recognised the issue and our investigations have seen several positive results over recent weeks. We have been carrying out planned overnight crime patrols in the affected areas and key to this is you calling us on '101' as soon as you see something suspicious, or '999' if it is on-going.

It's important too, particularly in the run-up to Christmas, that you lock up houses & cars at night, removing valuable property from vehicles, and making sure that keys and valuables are not immediately visible within the home. Use timer switches to bring on lamps and radios to make it seem as if there is someone at home. PIR security lights also help.

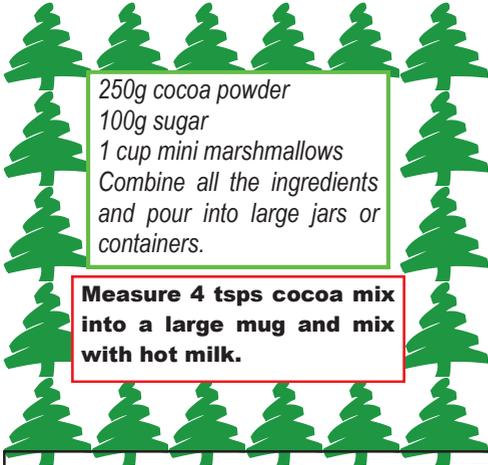
Enjoy this festive edition of InSpire, and on behalf of the West End Community Policing Team have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Colin Taylor, Community Policing Inspector



Hot Cocoa Mix in a jar

Perfect winter warmer



250g cocoa powder
100g sugar
1 cup mini marshmallows
Combine all the ingredients
and pour into large jars or
containers.

**Measure 4 tps cocoa mix
into a large mug and mix
with hot milk.**

Councillor Martin Greig



We live in an area of town with relatively low levels of crime. However, I often receive complaints about road safety concerns especially in the vicinity of schools such as Airyhall, Ashley Road, Harlaw Academy etc. I have asked the Police and Council for action against speeding traffic, dangerous driving and unauthorised parking. Unfortunately, the efforts to identify and penalise offenders has to be ongoing.

Parks, gardens and play spaces are much appreciated in our area. I am trying to ensure that Hazlehead Park, Johnston Gardens, Cromwell Road Park and other spaces are kept up to a decent standard. I have followed up concerns such as tree problems and vandalism at Johnston Gardens. Young people enjoy Pets' Corner at Hazlehead so it has been good to secure the funding to refurbish this facility. Other issues are now being dealt with at Hazlehead: improvements to the Piper Alpha and Queen Mother Gardens, proposed new toilets, a running route, more tree planting, various sprucing up

work, etc.

Many like the walking routes in the area, such as those leading into and around the Hazlehead policies: so this is a further "green" priority that I am following up. I would very much welcome your comments and suggestions so that we can have good quality parks for all to enjoy.

Residents tell me they are worried that local residential developments will lead to congestion and road safety problems.

Current proposals are for 350 houses at Pinewood/Hazledene in Countesswells Avenue and for 3000 homes at "Countesswells village", located west of Hazlehead Golf Course along Countesswells Road. The concern is that the roads network in the west and centre of the city would not be able to cope with the increases in traffic volume.

Please let me know any comments and queries on this - or any other issue - and I will do my best to help.

mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk
M:07920806332

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Change of Address: Lorna Anderson

Deaths: Mrs Jean Grant

CARING CHRISTMAS TREES BETHANY TRUST

Collection times for Caring Christmas Trees ordered from Bethany Trust:

13 December 4-7pm

14 December 11am-3pm

Faith, Fun, Fellowship and Fund Raising.

Mannofield Church of Scotland Guild

Age is not important, fellowship is! Many of our members are over 80 years old and are the youngest in spirit!



Our meetings vary. There are talks from people who are involved in different fields of work at home or abroad including the six National projects. Music is important – either listening or participating.

This leaves fundraising which is a large part of what we do. Monthly coffee mornings with a Bring and Buy stall mean we can contribute to the Church's Development Fund.

Three big fundraising events every year mean we can send donations to two of the six National Guild's projects running from 2012-2015. This year we'll be supporting A Passage from India and Mary's Meals.

A Passage from India works in partnership with the Priority Areas Committee of the Church of Scotland to support Urban Priority Areas in Scotland.

Mary's Meals is working in Liberia, one of the poorest countries in the world, to provide food and resources for school children. Hundreds of children were recruited to fight in a war which has had long and devastating consequences for Liberia.

We collect goods for Instant Neighbour and fill shoe boxes with little gifts to be sent abroad through Blythwood Care. We buy backpacks for the children who attend schools supported by Mary's Meals and we enjoy our knitting projects. These provide warm hats for sailors of many nations, Linus blankets for sick children and goods for Uganda.



The Guild tries to help others at home and abroad through our fellowship, having fun and strengthening our faith.

The Golden Age Project This is about ministering to older people in the parish. Meetings should be easily accessed by all who find getting to church difficult. Conversation helps overcome isolation and loneliness either for those in their own homes, with or without carers, or for those in sheltered housing or care homes.

Mannofield is involved in the Golden Age Project and we already provide midweek services, Lunch Club, Coffee Stop, monthly services in Craighielea Gardens and more recently Northcote Lodge, outings twice a year and a Christmas sing a long afternoon. Supported by the Church of Scotland Guild we are part of a group of Churches throughout Scotland developing resources and ideas for this project. Have you ideas?

Can you think of other ways to be involved in this important branch of ministry? Why not come along and join us?

Rhoda Wright rhodakwright48@yahoo.co.uk

CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

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

YOUNG CHURCH Calendar

21 December Christmas Party
22 December Christmas Family Service
featuring the Young Church Nativity Play
**Young Church will start up again on
Sunday 12 January 2014**

"The Big Switch On" Community Carols Sunday 15 December at 5.15pm

Last year we thought we would make an event of the switch on of our Christmas tree lights and invite everyone along to join in the preparation for Christmas celebration. The organisers were overwhelmed by the success. This year we are arranging a repeat performance, only this time we will be ready for the numbers turning up!



Mulled wine, tea, coffee and juice for the kids in the hall lubricate the vocal chords to enable you to join in with a few carols before the countdown and switch on of the Christmas tree lights. Then another drink to wash

down the mince pies.

This year there is the added bonus that, after this, people will have the opportunity to stay on and go into the church to join in with the Lessons and Carols evening service. This will have an upbeat feel to it this year as MANGO (our very own Gospel Choir) will be taking part. Hopefully you will agree that this sounds like a great way to start your 'Countdown to Christmas' and we look forward to seeing you there!

MANNOFIELD GUILD



December

- 3 Christmas Party, Deeside Golf Club
- 12 Coffee Morning, large hall
- 17 Christingle Service with Audrey Skinner

Church Lunch Club Fun, Friendship and Fabulous Food



Can I take him home?!

This very popular social event is held between 1 and 3pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month (September to May).



A home made lunch is served up for a small cost and is followed by entertainment and a cup of tea.

We welcome all to join us for fun friendship and fabulous food!



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the King's community church

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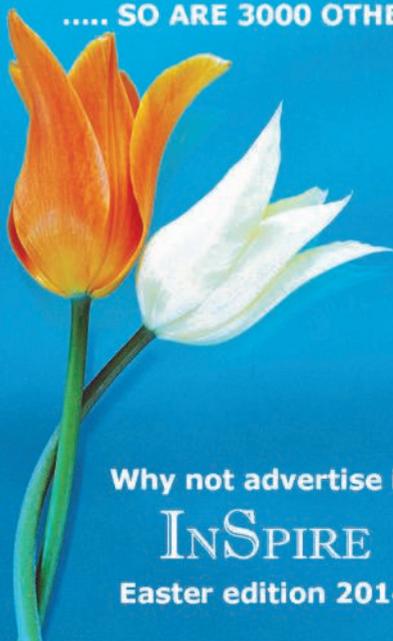
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all ye
Faithful

TO OUR

COMMUNITY

Carols

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CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
SWITCH-ON

