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CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2014

Sun 7 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Tues 9 Dec	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 10 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 11 Dec	2.15pm	Northcote Lodge, joint service
Sun 14 Dec 	10am	Morning Worship
	5.30pm	Mince pies, mulled wine; Community Carols and Christmas tree lights switch on
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>Reflections and Carols</i>
Mon 15 Dec	9.30am	Airyhall School Christmas Service
Wed 17 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sun 21 Dec	10am	Morning Worship <i>Young Church Nativity</i>
	3.15pm	Service in Craigielea Gardens
	6.30pm	Evening Worship – <i>Carols and their stories of faith</i> (Last evening worship for 2014. Evening Services resume 11 January 2015)
Wed 24 Dec 	7pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	10.45pm	Carols, mulled wine and mince pies in Hall
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Thurs 25 Dec Note later start time	<u>10.30am</u>	Christmas Morning Family Worship
Sun 28 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship

k5blackwood@btinternet.com



Dear Friends

As we enter into the season of Christmas once more it is hard not to become consumed by the urgency of all the planning that goes into it. However the important thing to remember is to create enough breathing spaces so that we might inhale the special spirit of the season that is so refreshingly optimistic and hopeful.

Christmas is a special season. It does something to us. It is hard to put into words its power to transform and change perspective. Perhaps the best illustration of its all-consuming spirit is found 100 years ago in the dark, desolate, battle-scarred and muddy fields of Northern France.

In the devastation of the first months of war on the Western Front, where fierce fighting was taking place and soldiers were digging in and coming to terms with the fact that the fight was not going to be over soon, an unofficial and temporary truce took place. Records suggest heavy fighting was experienced in places on Christmas Eve and there were many casualties, but late in the day British infantrymen were surprised to see Christmas trees, branches with lights, appearing on the other side of No Man's Land and accompanied by the sound of German voices singing. British soldiers sang their own carols and on Christmas Day many attended Christmas services behind the lines. Over the next few days, according to personal letters dating from that time, the truce continued with some gatherings between the lines where cigarettes and souvenirs were exchanged, the dead were buried, and perhaps even a game of football took place.

That such a truce was experienced in the midst of the carnage of those early months of war is surely evidence of the way the Christmas story and its promise has the power to change perspective and reveal to people a different way.

The First World War was deemed the 'war to end all wars'. Sadly this wasn't to be the case and as we reflect on our world's problems today we recognise that along with war many other issues, both generally and individually, threaten to disrupt the search for peace.

Yet, we must keep believing that Peace in the world and in life is possible. The Christmas Story gives us **Hope** and **Incentive** - to believe in the opportunities for peace in life, and play our part in establishing it for the sake of all who live in the world today and those who will live in it in the future.

The world has changed a lot since 1914. What hasn't changed is that the Promise of Peace, made concrete in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, remains available to us all. I wish you all the peace and joy of Christmas.

Keith

Maureen Watt MSP

In April's edition of InSpire, Reverend Keith Blackwood rightly noted that, irrespective of our views on the now past Independence Referendum, we all should encourage people to use their vote.



This sentiment was one which I, and all Parliamentarians, shared; and the final turnout of 85% was testament to the fact that the people of Scotland had become politically engaged like never before.

Although some had voiced concerns over the conduct of individuals during the campaign, I do not believe that the referendum was divisive. Rather, we witnessed the triumphant return of grassroots activism, and perhaps most importantly, community hall debates.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to speak in many of these debates, and what struck me most was not only the audience's acute understanding of the issues at hand, but the cordial manner in which all differences of opinion were expressed.

Our challenge now is to harness this democratic tide and to ensure that this level of political engagement is both maintained and, hopefully, built upon.

Whilst political parties will have their part to play in achieving this, so too does the wider civic society. It is essential that we all work together to help everyone understand the political process and to emphasise the importance of voting.

The 2015 Westminster General Election affords us the opportunity to do this in the very near future and I hope that you will join me in helping to encourage everyone who can vote, to vote. In the meantime, I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and Hogmanay.

Maureen Watt MSP

TLC Foodbank *By Councillor Gordon Townson*

I have previously highlighted in InSpire the work of TLC Foodbank operating out of Inchgarth Community Centre. The generosity of shoppers at Sainsburys collection mornings is very heartening and pupils of Harlaw Academy continue to collect within the school. I am pleased to do my part to help extend the work of TLC which unfortunately is desperately needed in other areas of the city. I was recently able to secure storage / distribution premises for TLC courtesy of and attached to Citrus House in East Tullos.



On another note RGU is very much in full swing with an ever growing campus and an army of students who frequently contact me seeking 'interview' (some televised) for their various studies. Having a son and daughter both students at RGU I try to meet every request, even delivering presentations to whole year groups: not on politics I might add, the most recent being on 'The Voluntary Sector-Fundraising-Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Visibility'.

We are lucky to have two world-leading universities in the city and I would urge all to support them in any way possible especially in relation to the accommodation problems, a penalty for being such a thriving oil city.

44th Boys Brigade



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 looking for new members in all its sections.

Anchor Boys: for boys in P1 - P3 meets on Thursday 6.00 - 7.00pm. Anchors are a small but enthusiastic group enjoying a variety of sports, games, crafts, stories & competition each week. Recently they have had a sports theme night, made hama bead coasters and enjoyed a spooky night at Halloween.

Junior Section: for boys in P4 - P6 meets on Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15pm. Juniors are also small in number but full of energy. They too do 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 Junior Team Games competing against BBs in countries as far apart as Australia and Ireland.

Company Section: for boys in P7 - S6 meets on Fridays 7.45 - 10pm. The oldest section enjoys a vast 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 trips are planned for Glasgow with a camp likely to be in Forfar.

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.



Dear Friends

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome that you have given to both myself and my family, over my first eight months as your Parish Assistant. We have settled into Mannofield with great ease and are enjoying getting to know you all. As I approach my first Christmas here at Mannofield, I am really looking forward to joining you in celebrating the festive period and in remembering the reason why we really celebrate at Christmas.

As we look to the coming New Year I am looking forward to meeting many more of you and sharing in the many challenges that 2015 will bring us all.

May God bless you all this Christmas.

Phil Gunn

Mannofield Church Heart of the Community Project Update November 2014



Earlier this year we set a challenge to the congregation, hall users and others to raise as much money as possible in the three months to June with the incentive being an offer from an individual to match fund what was raised up to £50,000. We surpassed this amount with the sum raised of £74,670 bringing the total raised to end July of £1,098,359. Fund raising has continued since then and many and varied have been the events –

Whisky Tasting; Fraserburgh Half Marathon (£1,150 sponsorship for Keith Blackwood at the time of going to press); Sale of unwanted silver and gold which raised over £2500; the sale of Dinky toys; the repeat concert by Claire Telford and Wayne Robertson on 22 November; and the sale of a DVD.

This DVD was produced by Jim Ruxton and features the 1993 Mannofield St Andrew's Night celebration and the 1994 Mannofield May train outing to the Kyle of Lochalsh. You can still get a DVD from Jim – cost £5 - by contacting him at 01224 31608 or [jadrujton@aol.com](mailto:jadruxton@aol.com)

With the income from these and other fundraising events plus the additional £15,000 grant pledged by the Church of Scotland the sum raised to date is £1.120 million. We expect this sum to increase as a member of the Congregation has pledged to match what the congregation raises by donations and fundraising in the period from 1 September to 31 December 2014 up to a maximum of £25,000. Although anonymity has been integral to these matching schemes, we are so grateful for the extreme generosity of the individuals concerned.

As things stand, based on estimates, we might need a further £100,000 to start construction by May/June 2015. This seems a lot. However, we believe that the estimated figures for the cost of the required work may come down as we put the work to tender. Moreover the Trust team has been hard at work in identifying and applying to suitable trusts and has had some success from the many applications submitted.

Exciting times lie ahead. In the coming months let us keep up the good work, sharing together the sense that collectively we are all part of making this vision for our buildings a reality in the very near future.

This term at Airyhall School is going to be so busy but so much fun!

Primary 1 has been learning the alphabet



Airyhall School

and will be making words by Christmas. **Primary 1/2** will be talking to a Viking! He will be able to tell us lots of interesting facts: **Primary 2** will be making posters about cities of the world. **Primary 3** will be creating and designing their own shops: **Primary 4** will be learning about historical Aberdeen, researching life in the past and comparing it with life today. **Primary 5** will be learning even more about our rights and the responsibilities that are linked to our rights. They will also be comparing how we get to enjoy our rights compared to a child in Rwanda. **Primary 6 and 7** will be learning about the customs, food and traditions of South America. They will be comparing this with our lives in Aberdeen. We hope to have a visitor to help with dance originating from South America.

We have been working on our allotment at Slopefield, preparing the soil for our return in March to begin planting again. We are currently working on our re-accreditation for the Rights Respecting School Award and are doing lots of work to help inform people about the Rights of children.

We are also looking forward to making and selling items for our school Christmas Fair on 29 November 2014. We are looking forward to our Christmas parties and all the traditions of Christmas.

Happy Christmas THE PUPILS

As a GP I am preparing for probably the busiest time of the year, although this autumn is the warmest I remember.

So how can you help yourself and stay healthy over the winter months?

Prevention is better than cure

If you are eligible you should be booking your appointment with your GP's surgery for your flu-jab. Almost one third of people are eligible; if you are over 65; if you have a chronic illness, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, COPD, chronic kidney disease and new this year coeliac disease; you are also eligible if you are a carer; or if you have any condition that means your immune system is low. The vaccine has no live flu virus in it and will not give you the flu.

If you are pregnant flu can be a very severe illness and it is important that you get your flu jab. This year we are again running a program of flu vaccination for children.

You may also be eligible for other vaccines including pneumococcal vaccine, which prevents some types of pneumonia and if you are over 70 you may be offered the shingles vaccine. If you have any questions about the winter immunisation program contact your surgery.

Slips and falls

As the weather gets colder pavements get slippery, not just with ice but soggy leaves. Many folk suffer falls and a good few broken bones result. Be aware of conditions under foot, wear sensible footwear. (I am sounding like my Granny now) Don't be too proud, use a stick if you have to. Remember "Pride comes before a fall".

Stay warm

As we get older we lose our ability to cope with the cold. Hypothermia can be a silent killer as you don't notice you are getting cold. Wrap up warm even in the house; put on an extra jumper; put that extra bar on the fire. If you are worried about the cost of heating heat your main room and your bedroom. There may be grants or additional funding available to help if you are struggling to meet costs.

If you have an elderly neighbour look out for them particularly if there is a cold snap and they are on their own.

Stock up your drug cupboard

Plan ahead. Work out if your repeat prescriptions or essential drugs are due to run out over the festive season. Remember this year most surgeries will be closed from Wednesday evening until Monday morning over Christmas and again over New Year.

Speak to your pharmacist about simple remedies that you can have in the house to treat yourself if you need to.

Eat, drink and be merry

Remember everything in moderation, the temptation to overindulge is great! Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Ken Lawton



COLLECTION TIMES FOR BETHANY TRUST TREES

VENUE MANNOFIELD CHURCH

12 December 4-7pm

13 December 11am-3pm

Buy your tree and support this worthwhile charity

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...

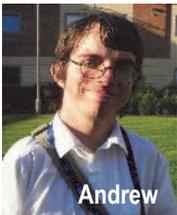
We have a youth club running on Sunday evenings for ages 11+. We have some games, food and discussions. One Monday per month we have Youthie: On the Road where we go out for some food to McDonalds, Subway or Baskin Robbins! From time to time we have special activities including meals, fancy dress, cinema, sleepovers, movie nights and days out. There is also a tendency to go a bit crazy!

Helping me to run these events are Andrew Cattanach and Natalie Crowe. Among us we have several years of volunteering with young people. Andrew has been involved in Young Church while I am an officer in our 44th Boys Brigade Company Section. Natalie has only just joined us this term and has made a great impression on the young people. She has previous experience of helping at children's groups.

Kirsty Meldrum had to leave us in the summer unfortunately when she took up the offer of completing a Master's degree in London and has recently joined a Brownie pack as a volunteer.

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.



Andrew



Ryan



Natalie



Today's youth...tomorrow's leaders.

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

Ryan Webster

Youth Volunteer ryan.webster87@gmail.com 07446 015279

MANNOFIELD 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.

With a decrease in the number of volunteers, we seek more people to give some of their time towards these worthwhile duties enabling us to provide appropriate care to individual people.

For further information contact Jean Anderson: Tel 01224322183 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. Rehearsals take place on Monday nights between September and Easter at Mannofield Church from 6.45 to 7.30pm. Rehearsals resume on 12 January.

For further information please contact Sarah Constable on 01224745234 or by email jsconstable@btinternet.com

Can you decipher these common Christmas Carols?

Happiness to the Global Ecosystem

Small male percussionist

I'm experiencing nocturnal visions of a colourless holiday

Festoon the corridors

A non-summer fairytale area

Oh holiday conifer

Ten plus two twenty-four hour periods of holiday festivity

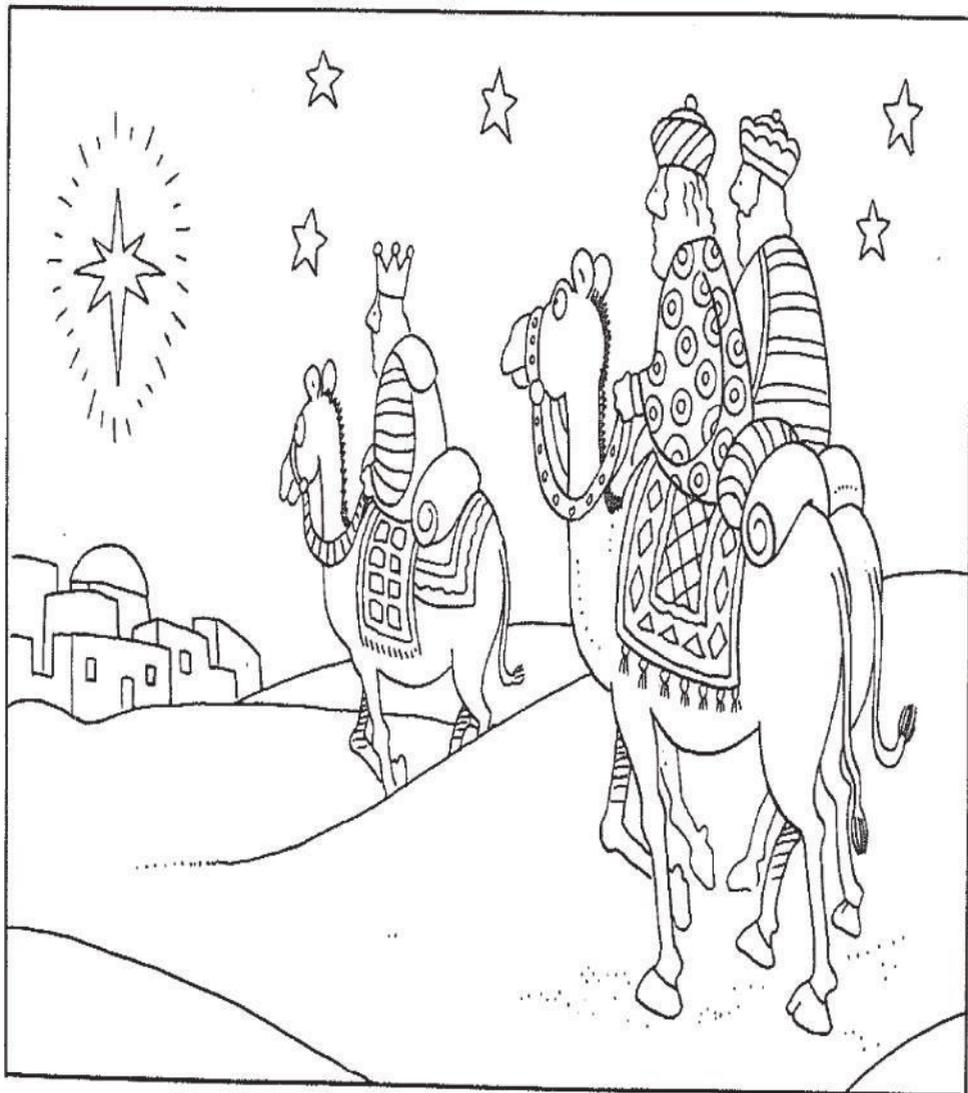
Hey tiny city in Israel

In a remote location in a barn stall



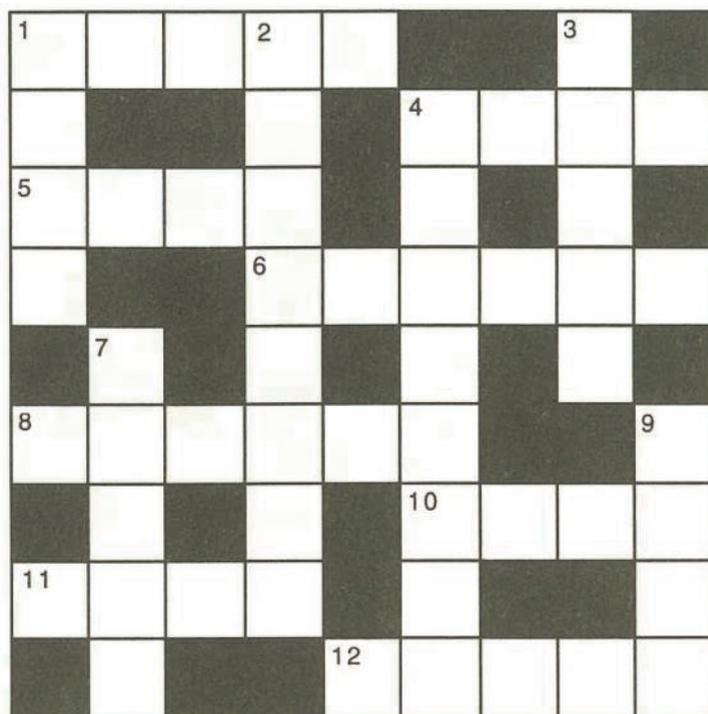
Who saw a star in the East and followed it?

Read Matthew 2:1-2 to find out. Here is a picture to colour in!



Christmas Story Crossword

Read this well known Christmas story. Then look for the missing words which are given in the list below. When you think you have found the correct words, put them in the right squares in the puzzle, Their position is given by the reference number in brackets



- SOON
- ADORE
- LIFTED
- RARE
- FEELINGS
- BLUFF
- CHANCE
- SUFFERED
- CAME
- THERE
- LESS
- BOWED
- WERE
- BACK

After the birth of Jesus, wise men (5A) to visit the young child. They had followed a special star which led them to the place where Jesus was.

But they had called first at Jerusalem to tell King Herod the news. He was angry, but tried to (1A) them by saying 'As (4A) as you find the child, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

They took (7D) very important gifts. And after following this (10A) star for many days they arrived at the house where they found the young child with Mary his

mother. As they (3D) down to worship and (12A) Jesus they presented their gifts. Gold for the King of Kings, incense for worship and myrrh for suffering. For he was also going to be (6A) up and hung from a cross, where he (4D) and died.

In a dream that night the wise men (9D) warned not to report (1D) to Herod, for they knew of his ill (2D) towards Jesus.

They decided that if they took a different way home to avoid seeing the king, there would be (11A) (8A) of him finding Jesus. And that is what they did.

“Love others as I have loved you”

AN OIL
SHOWS IT
IS HOW STIPPLED
Colour in the dotted letters to see the message.



What is a mum's favourite Christmas carol?

Silent Night!

What's a child's favourite king at Christmas?

A stocking!



November's Answer: The cat broke the vase!

Mannofield Church Social Committee

Offering opportunities for fellowship throughout the year

A variety of social events is organised throughout the year. These are not just for the congregation but also those living within the parish and their friends to be invited to and feel included in should they so wish.

Typically, we run an event in the early part of the year, e.g. a Burns' Supper, Ceilidh, Musical Evening or something similar to bring some joy to the winter months. In 2015 we are holding a **musical evening featuring Jim and Marisha Addison on Saturday 28 February** and tickets will be available through the church office nearer the date.

In September we organise a **bus trip** which enables us to enjoy a tour of local North east scenery followed by either lunch or afternoon tea. This year we headed for Kellockbank near Inch and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with delicious cream teas for all! Do give it a try next year. We even had an easy access bus for those who required a little help with the steps.



Just recently we helped say thank you to our Senior Elders by inviting them to a special morning coffee after the October communion service. We also hope to be involved in a joint social initiative with other churches within the city although this is very much at the planning stage.

In the few years since this committee has been established we have, amongst other things, organised fairs, a flower festival, a church trail with a strawberry tea and a fish and chip quiz night. All of these have been fundraisers although that is not our main remit or focus.

Our year ends in very early December with a **free community Christmas sing-along with festive entertainment and refreshments. This year's event takes place on Tuesday 9 December from 2.00-3.30 p.m.** If you would like to attend please contact the church office for tickets. Entry is by ticket - but only for catering purposes.

If you are interested in joining the social committee please contact the church office with your details. We would value your help, ideas and involvement. Alternatively, if you have an idea for an event which you think might be suitable for the committee to host in future please let the convenor know, again through the church office.

Sheila Towns, Convener

Young People and Families Committee

The young people and families committee arranges three or four fun filled events during the year. These are for the whole family, whatever your age. We normally, but not always, focus on Advent, Easter and summer.



Did you take part in our Easter decorate off? There were lots of you who were enjoying the fun with some EGGselent results. Just recently we had a mass "decorate our church event" with everyone including Young Church, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Boys Brigade groups and our youth all taking part to make the church and its halls ready for this special time. We hope you enjoy looking at them when you are in church this festive season.



Councillor Martin Greig

In previous years, I was pleased to have Christmas lights set up in Great Western Road and Springfield Road. These will be in place again this year. Happy Christmas to All!



In October, the Council granted planning permission to build a new town of 3000 houses west of Hazlehead Golf course. I voted against this proposal but was unfortunately in the minority. The surrounding area will be impacted in many ways. Two new primaries and a secondary are proposed but they will not be built until a certain number of houses have been occupied. Pressure will therefore be placed on existing local schools to accommodate the new pupils. Residents in the surrounding communities are worried about the dramatic rise in traffic that will cause local problems. The Pinewood/Hazledene building work in Countesswells Road also continues to cause worries to residents and I am trying to help with complaints about traffic, drainage and flooding.

I have long supported the idea of local police patrols on bicycle so I was delighted that this is happening at last. Generous private sector donations have kindly contributed towards the cycling equipment. I believe the bicycles will help the police to tackle problems of crime and antisocial behaviour in our area.

Recently, I was again on the losing side on the decision about the St Nicholas House site in Broad Street. A minority of 18 of us voted against this massive, unsympathetic block of glass and concrete. The site was cleared in order to build a more open and attractive square. Residents have told me this very large building was in any case "a done deal". Thank you to everyone for working so hard to make their voices heard on this important issue. We tried our best! Please get in touch if I can help in any way. *Martin* 07920806332 mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Alpha and Alpha Plus Courses

Monday 19 January 2015: Time: 7- 9pm

All Welcome



The **Alpha** team is looking forward to welcoming people to the 2015 **Alpha Course** beginning on Monday 19th January 2015.

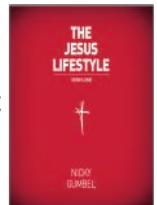
The course will run in the large hall on Mondays for ten weeks, with an 'away day' in early March. We start at 7pm with a light meal and watch a DVD together which we then discuss. The evening finishes at 9pm.

We are also running **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 01224310087 office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk



Councillor Angela Taylor

There have been some major events since the last newsletter, the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and the Scottish Referendum on Independence. For me as a politician the big event was the Referendum. Now that the people who live in Scotland have voted “No” to independence, it is time for politicians, as well as those of us living in Scotland, to focus on the future, and work collaboratively for the future prosperity of Scotland. It was good to see the Church of Scotland holding a service on the Sunday following the referendum, a first step in bringing people together in their shared values, despite having different visions for the future of Scotland. It was also great to see so many people, young and old alike engaging with the debate on Scotland’s future. I do hope that this engagement continues in politics.

Also, Aberdeen City Council has recently undergone a restructuring process and I was delighted to be appointed as the new Convener of Education and Children’s Services. Education and Children are one of the main priorities of the Labour led Administration and for me personally. This is a fantastic opportunity to continue to ensure that Aberdeen’s children get the best education possible. We have £100m worth of investments planned for our schools, including a new Centre of Excellence for children with severe and complex needs.

Some of you may have heard of “Shaping Aberdeen” which is for you, the citizens of Aberdeen. Shaping Aberdeen is a long term plan of how we can make this economically buoyant city one we are all proud to

call home.

Whilst I am proud of Aberdeen as it stands today, Shaping Aberdeen will build upon already established foundations demonstrating the city’s strengths and ongoing improvements, with residents in mind.

Shaping Aberdeen has the following five main objectives, which are driving towards making Aberdeen a more successful city:

Delivering affordable housing;
Increasing digital connectivity – increasing the speed of internet connectivity;

Transport-improving congestion and journey times and cross city connections. **Skills and Labour** – attracting and retaining a workforce to meet Aberdeen’s needs **Image & Regeneration** – boosting Aberdeen as “the place to live”, and encouraging pride in Aberdeen.

Shaping Aberdeen is linked to the Administration’s Strategic Infrastructure Plan which you can find on our website at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Finally, I would like to take this 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 No 07876 748527



Flower Calendar

December

7	Mrs M. Hunter
14	Mrs A. Reekie
21	Mrs A. McCaskill
28	Mrs A. Dyce



Reporting Back Councillor Ian Yuill Countesswells development issues

One decision made by the council – that 3,000 houses can be built at Countesswells – will have a major impact on our area. I consistently opposed this proposal but sadly the council decided otherwise. One big worry I now have is the impact this will have on local roads. Although the development will include new links to the A944 near Kingswells, much of the construction traffic in the early years will inevitably use existing roads.



The development will include new primary and secondary schools but, until those open, the Braeside School building will be reopened to accommodate primary age children from the new houses.

Dealing with a wide range of issues

Issues I continue to pursue on behalf of residents include concerns about road safety, road and pavement repairs and concerns about grass cutting and tree management. One long-standing issue I continue to pursue is the dreadful state of the grass verges on Anderson Drive and South Anderson Drive. Sadly Bear Scotland, the company that maintains these on behalf of the Scottish Government, has failed to make any real improvements and I have recently contacted the Transport Minister about this.

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 01224 346627 (council) or 01224 310746 (home) or at iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk. I can also be contacted via my website www.ianyuill.org.uk

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



17 DECEMBER
15 JANUARY

Thereafter 3rd Thursday
each month **until May 2015**

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!
Cost -- £4

Need transport?

Contact: Mhairi Clark
Tel 01224317982

Pickled Cow is a youth drama group for young people in P6 and above. We perform two major productions each year with no admission charge.



Patrons are asked to donate at the door for a nominated charity. This year we have supported *Somebody Cares*. The June show saw us move away from a stage based performance to a cafe diner style murder mystery where the audience sat at tables while the action unfolded around them. Our Christmas Pantomime *A Christmas Carrot* told the nativity story in a humorous way with some extra characters you won't find in the Bible. For more information email thepickledcow@hotmail.com



Ian McKinnon

In June 2014, I took over as the new Inspector for the West End Community Policing Team, based at the Whinhill Police Office. Over the last twenty years I've worked in a variety of roles within Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Roads Policing, and I was delighted to be offered this role. I've spent the last few months getting to know the area and the challenges within and was pleased to see that a number of strong community links were already well established by my predecessors. I am committed to advancing this aspect of my role.

I've met with a number of key individuals in the community, and I'm very impressed at the proactive attitude shown by many and the community spirit that is clearly evident.

Having been asked to write an article for InSpire, I thought I'd take this opportunity to highlight a particular issue that is prevalent throughout my area.

As the nights get darker it is always worthwhile looking at your security arrangements for your car, sheds and houses.

Over the last couple of months we've had a number of reported crimes involving vehicles or properties that have been left unlocked. It is perhaps the downside of living in an area where people feel safe, and the pace of modern living, that security sometimes isn't always foremost in their minds.

We carried out a recent operation in the West End where we patrolled areas and visited over 600 properties to deliver security advice leaflets relating to vehicle security. During this operation we came across 4 unlocked vehicles, one of which still had the keys in the ignition! Clearly, no one wants to have things stolen from them, and our experience is that when people become the victim of a theft in these circumstances, they feel slightly embarrassed.

There is a perception that they are the only loser in this scenario, however if a thief finds rich (and easy) pickings in an area it may encourage him to return, so your lapse on this occasion may unfortunately mean your neighbour falls foul next time.

These things can be very easily overcome by some very simple tips:

1. Ensure you lock your car door. Watch the lights and listen for the click when you lock it remotely in case a seatbelt or other item has prevented the door from locking.
2. Remove valuables from within your car - think of it like a shop window for passing criminals.
3. Lock your garages and sheds and consider an inexpensive 'contact alarm' for these doors that sound if opened.
4. Always lock your house door, even when you are inside.
5. Keep car keys etc. away from the main entrances.

These very simple but effective measures at reducing crime, combined with the very overt community spirit where neighbours look out for neighbours will work very well towards ensuring you have a very nice (and uneventful) Christmas!

Ian McKinnon Inspector Aberdeen Division West End Community Policing Team

Noisy Gongs and Clanging Cymbals Meditation



Amazing: the sea of flowers, the fleet of gleaming cars, the throng of guests, the silks, the gold, the finery, the glittering rings, the feast of food on groaning tables, and yet, an emptiness in the midst of it all—and in their eyes.

Astonishing: the shiny pram, the exquisite nursery, the nanny in uniform, the school: exclusive and expensive, the designer clothes, the horse, the holidays, the gifts and yet, a loneliness in the midst of it all—and in their hearts.

Surprising: the silent advent, the simple home, the strong, skilled hands, the hidden life, the walking, the gathering, the teaching, the giving and, in the midst of it, the love, the challenge, the compassion for us all.

Prayer

Lord, why do we get it so wrong? Why do we think we need to make a noise, to draw attention to what we have when what really matters is what we are?

Noisy gongs and clanging cymbals get people's backs up. They disturb and exasperate, whereas love brings solace and peace.

Forgive us, Lord, when we forget these things, when we bluster on, all puffed up, trying to fool others into thinking we love well yet all the time we're hollow inside.

Help us to love silently, deeply, truly, as You have loved us.

In Jesus' name we ask.

Amen

Suggested Readings: Psalm 40; Matthew 6: 1-6.

This extract is taken from *Pray Now: Revealing Love* and is printed with permission. Copies of the full book can be purchased for £7.99 (£5.99 for eBook version) from www.standrewpress.com

Mannofield Church Book Club February Book

Birthday Stories: Selected and Introduced by Haruki Murakami



What will you get for your birthday this year? A chance to see into the future? Or a reminder of the imperfect past?

For his birthday, author Haruki Murakami has chosen some of the very best short story writers of recent years, each with their own birthday experiences, each story a snapshot of life on a single day. This anthology captures a range of emotions evoked by advancing age and the passing of time, from events fondly recalled to the impact of appalling tragedy.

For further information contact: Niki Anderson Tel 01224743484

WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE GUILD? - A Question often asked!

We have fun; we help others; we discuss; we share our faith; we share fellowship; we raise money and we learn.

We make things – on Thursday mornings all sorts of crafts are undertaken – from covering boxes for Blythswood Care - to making small dresses for girls in Africa - to making lavender bags and key rings for sale at our fundraising events.

We collect hats for sailors, Linus blankets for sick children, knitted goods for Nepal this year. We fill backpacks for children supported by Mary's Meals.

We collect tinned and packeted goods for Instant Neighbour. We are raising money monthly for the Church Development Fund.



Open Eyes – To those who need help.

Open Ears – Listen to others on many varying topics.

Open Handed – Give to those who need help.

Open Minded – Prepare for changes in the Church and beyond.

Open Mouthed – Give a voice to those who cannot ask for themselves.

Open Meetings - Come along and find out for yourself!

Out of Africa into Malta

Out of Africa into Malta is run by the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council and the Presbytery of Europe. It addresses issues faced by refugees escaping from a range of tragic circumstances and coming to Malta to seek hope.



The Julius Project

The Julius Project is an initiative of Scottish Churches' Housing Action recognising the problems faced and support required by people entering social housing tenancies following a period of homelessness.

These are the last 2 projects we are supporting this year. Given 6 different ones every 3 years, we choose to support 2 per year so as to cover them all.

Perhaps not the image you have of the Guild? Gone are the days of us just being useful for making tea. If any of the above catches your interest, come and see for yourself.

*Mannofield Church of Scotland Guild
Rhoda Wright*

rhodakwright48@yahoo.co.uk

MANNOFIELD GUILD

December

- 2 Rev James Falconer,
The ARI Roof Garden
- 4 Coffee Morning (Centenary Hall)
- 16 Christmas Party, Deeside Golf Club

January

- 8 Coffee Morning (Large Hall)



CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	01224315748
Parish Assistant	Phil Gunn	philipgunn106@btinternet.com	07763 135618
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	01224310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@o2.co.uk	01224322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	01224743484

COFFEE STOP Centenary Hall 9 December @ 10am



WHAT A GREAT YEAR!

To what do I refer?

The Tuesday Coffee Stop

We have made donations to:-

Church £600

McMillan £300

Indian child £200

This can only be achieved because of volunteers: baking, making tea, serving, setting up and clearing away.

However you, the customers, are the most important factor and without your loyalty and generosity we could not manage all that we do.

Many many thanks *Maureen Allan*

Christmas Sing-along

Tuesday 9 December
2-3.30 pm

Mannofield Church Hall

Free festive entertainment, refreshments and community singing led by *Rhonda McColgan*.

Tickets, for catering purposes only, can be obtained from the church office or members of the Social Committee.

Come along, enjoy friendship and a fun filled afternoon!

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths:

6 Oct Mrs Bessie Adam

13 Oct Mrs Mary Helen Tennant

1 Nov Miss Aileen M. Cattanach

Marzipan and Apple Scones

INGREDIENTS

8 ozs self raising flour

2 ozs butter

1 oz caster sugar

1 medium sized eating apple - chopped

3 ozs marzipan – grated

1 beaten egg

Recipe by
Frances Walker



METHOD

Rub butter into flour and add sugar

Add apple, marzipan and egg and mix to form a stiff dough

Knead for 3-4 minutes until smooth

Roll out to ¼ inch thickness on a floured surface

Cut out 10 rounds and place on a well greased tray

Bake at 200° for 15 minutes approximately

Serve, spread with butter and apricot jam

Healing Divisions



For much of the past two years my life seems to have been dominated by one thing – the referendum on Scottish Independence. It was like no other campaign that I have been involved in during my political career. It felt far more divisive than the usual political rough and tumble.

As I campaigned around my Constituency, I met numerous families who were split and individuals who avoided raising it with friends. This division left many of us wondering how the country would manage to come back together after the vote.

Throughout the referendum campaign, churches played an important part in hosting debates and I took part in two events in local churches. These were crucial in ensuring that local communities were able to participate and contribute to the debate as well as allowing those who were undecided to hear from both sides of the campaign.

It is also important to note that there were people of faith on both sides of the campaign. This was clear from the reconciliation services which took place in churches throughout Scotland on the Sunday following the referendum vote. These services offered the opportunity for people to come together and reflect on how best to move forward.

The one clear message during the campaign was that all Scots were united around a desire for change. I lost count of the number of times that I agreed with Yes campaigners that we need to create a fairer, more just society in Scotland – we just didn't agree on how to achieve it.

Recent reports have highlighted that there are still too many children living in poverty and we know that many people in our community will face fuel and food poverty this winter.

It seems that not only can we heal the divisions created during the referendum campaign through our shared values but we can also come together to build a more prosperous Scotland. That's why it is now time for all the main political parties to work together as part of the Smith Commission to get the best settlement for Scotland.

Dame Anne Begg MP
October 2014

**The deadline for the
EASTER 2015 issue of *InSpire*
is**

19 FEBRUARY 2015

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

rodody@mccollassociates.com
office@mannonfieldchurch.org.uk



'**ABERDEEN - THE CITY THAT CARES'** **FOOD APPEAL**

Aberdeen's biggest charity providing free food, furniture, household goods and clothes to the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable people of the city working with over 80 city agencies and providing for thousands of families, children, pensioners and individuals every year.

Food is the desperate need for many families in Aberdeen and there are children verging on starving – hard to believe in the oil capital of Europe.

Somebody Cares runs Aberdeen's biggest food bank providing food to thousands of adults and children every month...but we need your help.

The demand is huge and to enable the food appeal to meet the need we ask the people of Aberdeen to partner with us.

Companies minimum £50 per month

Individuals £5 per month or one off donations

"HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED"

Somebody Cares Trust UK

Tel: 01224 313453 Or Tel: 01224 317704 (old Dobbies Garden Centre)

Hazledene Road, Aberdeen, AB15 8QU Tel: 01224 317704

Web: www.somebodycaresuk.org

Got questions about life

**ALPHA & ALPHA PLUS
COURSES STARTING
19/01/2015 7-9PM**

ALL WELCOME!

CONTACT THE ALPHA TEAM

☎ 01224310087



Alpha

**#TryAlpha
Alpha.org**



Fiona Irvine
Fitness. Wellness. Beauty.

We can help you

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- Drop some excess weight
- Get toned or ripped
- Lead a healthy lifestyle
- Improve Sports Performance

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07764861134 or enigma.hb@btinternet.com

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Written details on request

Tel: 01224 641402

(4 lines)

39 Huntly Street, Aberdeen AB10 1TJ

e-mail: law@lindsayandkirk.com

Fax: 01224 639974



We can be of assistance to you when changing circumstances require locally based arrangements to be made for your elderly relatives

The range of services we offer is tailored to your requirements. These include:

- ◆ Sensitive house clearance
- ◆ Action following hospitalisation
- ◆ Care home assistance
- ◆ Downsizing and practical organisation

Allow us to be the local 'surrogate family' for your elderly relatives

Please contact us with your immediate, short term and long term requirements

Disclosure (Scotland) and PVG registered

Maureen Drummond and Alison Lobban

Tel: 07794 464 938

Email: info@nearestanddearest.co.uk

Web: www.nearestanddearest.co.uk

Nearest & Dearest



*O Come
all ye
Faithful*

TO OUR

COMMUNITY

Carols

OUTSIDE
MANNOFIELD CHURCH,
GREAT WESTERN ROAD, ABERDEEN

SUNDAY 14th DEC.

5.30pm to 6.15pm

DRINKS & MINCE PIES

all welcome

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM EVERYONE AT

all welcome

