



To The New



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN

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CHURCH CALENDAR MARCH/APRIL2016

Sun 13 March	10am	Morning Worship					
	4.30 pm	Café Church NEW TIME and PLACE "Circles @ Mannofield" Coffee Shop					
Wed 16 March	10.30am	Midweek Service					
Sun 20 March	10am	Palm Sunday Family Service					
Wed 23 March	10.30am	Morning Worship					
Thurs 24 March	7.00pm	Maundy Service at Craigiebuckler Church					
Fri 25 March	7.30pm	Good Friday Service at South Holburn Church					
Sun 27 March	10am	Easter Sunday					
	3.15pm	Service in Craigielea Gardens					
	6.30pm	Traditional Evening Worship					
Wed 30 March	10.30am	Midweek Service					
Sun 3 April	10.00am	Morning Worship					
Wed 6 April	10.30am	Midweek Service					
Sun 10 April	10am	Morning Worship					
	4.30 pm	Café Church NEW TIME and PLACE Circles @ Mannofield Coffee Shop					
Wed 13 April	10.30am	Midweek Service					
Sun 17 April	10am	Morning Worship					
Wed 20 April	10.30am	Midweek Service					
Sun 24 April	10am	Morning Worship					
	3.15pm	Service in Craigielea Gardens					
	6.30pm	Traditional Evening Worship					

Rev. Keith Blackwood

THE MANSE

Dear Friends

Although I have been aware that this year marks the 10th anniversary of significant events at the close of my ministry in Bearsden, I still can't quite believe how quickly the last 10 years of my life have passed by. In the past few weeks I have received two invitations to attend anniversary events in Bearsden later this year.



The first is to attend a meal recognising 10 years from the date of the establishment of a new congregation out of the existing one to I ministered to. Baljaffray Church was formed after years of steady growth. Much hard planning in the later years was needed to ensure a suitable structure was in place for the congregation to go-it-alone and become a thriving parish church. After a year of ministering to this congregation I was called to Mannofield.

The second invitation is to attend an anniversary service at the end of 2016. This will mark 10 years of Bearsden Cross Church which was formed after the Union of the remaining part of the congregation with its sister congregation in Bearsden. Again the planning was endless but all designed to allow a congregation of strength and potential to be formed which could thrive through appropriate outreach and mission. These invitations have naturally led me to reflect on my past ministry. I share them in InSpire not to encourage sentiment and dwelling in the past, but to encourage us to look forward as the congregation of Mannofield to a future where we too might thrive.

In both cases my Bearsden experience demanded a deep level of courage and faith for the Kirk Sessions and Congregations to process the opportunities for changing their futures. '*Confidence Building*' and '*Stimulating Vision and* Faith' were important parts of the contribution I made as Minister. Many people asked me 'Can we do this?' and the answer after years of observing the situation, listening to God and of course careful planning was, 'Yes you can and you (we) will!'

Over the last few months I have built up a 'Plan for the Future' that I see as relevant and needed for Mannofield as we prepare for a new future in our refurbished building. As before, I have observed carefully the circumstances of our Congregation and listened prayerfully to God who has revealed the opportunities that are before us for doing things differently and so fulfilling the potential we have to be a thriving church for years to come. The Kirk Session encouraged me to progress these plans and after a number of meetings with the Conveners of our Session committees, I presented a plan and timetable to Session in the middle of February that was backed by Session and so the exciting work of progressing these ideas in an organised way now begins.

Details will follow through this year as the different areas of what is '*planned*' get under way. I am thrilled by the enthusiasm of the Kirk Session. We are looking to generate a contemporary feel to the way we do things that will interest those who have lost touch with the Church. If you feel that way or know of anyone who does, please join us—we would love to see you. We look to widen our sphere of outreach and mission as we play a more notable role within Parish life. We look to utilise our buildings in a variety of new worship and social ways as we fulfill our ambition for the church building to become a Hub of activity that enhances people's experience of life and their opportunity to find fulfillment.

In all of this I believe God will be leading us, as He promises to do. He '*Wills*' us to thrive as a congregation and be successful in influencing as many people as possible with His Gospel of Love. It is our job to be faithful in listening to Him and relentless in the pursuit of the sharing of the Kingdom Values. I am excited about what lies ahead and I hope as a congregation and as a community you will likewise be encouraged.

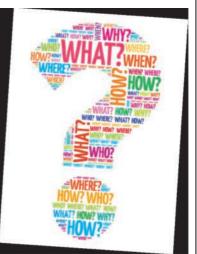
I wish you all a "Happy Easter". I hope and pray you find a way to be happy in the light of what God has done for you and what God continues to do in the world, day by day, generation by generation and person by person. *Keith*

Creative Worship March 2016

We continue to add flavour to our worship through the contributions of the Creative Worship Group. The purpose is to add variety to what we do and help build themes within our journey through the stories of the Bible which are enhanced through visual presentations, drama and reflective monologues and dialogues.

This Session as we study the Gospel stories of Jesus towards Easter we feature a large question mark which will allow us to journey through the season reflecting on questions like

Who do you think you love? Who do you think you are? What do you think you own? What is it worth? What awaits? What next? How do we go on?



Many of the congregation take part in Creative Worship through the production of crafts and also taking part in presentations on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in being part of this, look out for details of the next planning meeting that will take place at the end of April or beginning of May.

Morning Prayer

For those who will visit foodbanks today, for those who will struggle to meet debt payments, for those who cannot heat their homes, for those who will rise hungry, and for those whose bed was a doorway, we offer these our prayers that today might be a better day. AMEN

Evening Prayer

For those whose bellies will be full tonight, for those who will sleep easy, for those whose life is well balanced, for those with a portfolio, and for those who snuggle into the eiderdown of plenty, we offer these our prayers that tomorrow might bring a sense of thanksgiving and an understanding of those less fortunate. AMEN *Acknowledgement :This extract is taken from "Living Stones : Pray Now " and is used with permission. "Living Stones" publications are available from<u>www.standrewpress.com</u>*



For nearly a century Jerusalem has been under Roman rule – 100 years where any hint of dissent has been brutally crushed, 100 years where hope has withered for the people, the future is dark.

It's Passover time in the city. A time to remember better days gone and to hope for better days to come. And this year the city is in a state of excitement. A man called Jesus has entered the city claiming to be the Messiah. These are momentous times. But the two men who have all the power – the Roman Governor Pilate and Chief Priest Caiaphas – conspire to snuff out the threat they see in Jesus. But will this also snuff out the hope that had grown in the city?

As Jesus lies dying on the cross surely the hope of a nation lies dying too?

But this is a hope undefeated, a life unbroken, a light undimmed.....

Following the successful 2012 & 2014



productions, The Aberdeen Passion returns to the AECC for a third time with a brand new production featuring original songs written by Christian musicians, including David Lyon, the Scottish Christian recording artist.

The Aberdeen Passion is a non-profit theatrical production drawing together over 100 amateur performers from across the North-East of Scotland. This year the production is supporting Teen Challenge North East Scotland's campaign to raise funds for the purchase of the building housing their female addiction recovery centre, Benaiah.

Tickets available from smallwoodenplatform.com; info@smallwoodenplatform.com

Mannofield Church Social Committee

During this stage of the refurbishment of the church and halls our committee has not been very active. However we got together a group of twenty who thoroughly enjoyed a trip to HMT to see the Sound of Music in January. It was a powerful performance and, of course, a wonderfully sociable outing. Thank you to those who supported this trip. Now it is time to start preparing a programme for when the construction work is completed! Look out for forthcoming attractions. Also, do feel free to give us any ideas which you would like to see us undertake, after all we hope to promote opportunities for congregational and parishioners' entertainment and fellowship. Contact any member of the committee or Jean in the office will be delighted to pass along a message. *Sheila Towns Convener*

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. Despite some restrictions due to the development work we are operating almost normally.



Anchor Boys, for boys in P1- P3, meets on Thursdays from 6 to 6.50pm. Anchors are a lively and enthusiastic bunch enjoying a variety of sports, games, crafts, stories and competitions each week. Recently they had a giant painting night, enjoyed junior unihoc and are planning to take part in a Fun Day (including team games, crafts and a bouncy castle) with Anchors from all over Aberdeen.

Junior Section, for boys in P4-P6, meets on Thursdays from 7.00-8.15pm. Juniors may be small in number but they are full of energy. They also participate in a variety of sports, games, activities and a weekly joke session. Recently they had a mini Burns Supper, investigated weather and the Chinese New Year. They have just started work practising their figure marching routine for the Bisset Trophy. Always trying new games the new blindfolded game 'Ducky' is now a firm favourite!





Company Section, for boys in P7- S6, meets on Fridays 7.45– 10pm.

The oldest section enjoys a huge variety of activities, challenges and sports including unihoc and dodgeball. Although gymnastics has had to take a bit of a back seat during the development the boys were still able to make some human pyramids and practise a jump style routine with the trampette. Recently they started an Airfix model making class and are learning RC skills with two remote controlled

cars. The Section also has outdoor adventure activities including mountain biking and hill walking. Last summer we climbed Lochnagar.

Each section also 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 <u>info@40four.co.uk</u> or visit our website at <u>www.40four.co.uk.</u>

Elders Long Service Certificates Along with Ellen Smith and Alan Marr (both In Absentia), Doug Marnoch, John Allan and Les Black (back row) Neil Paterson and Alan Harper (front row) were each awarded a Long Service Certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly at the annual Presbytery Service in Holburn West Church on 5 February.



Special mention must be made of John Allan's certificate. Whereas the other Elders each received a certificate recognising their 30 years service to the church John was ordained on 29 May 1966 and is in his 50th year as an Elder!

Thank you all for your dedication to the affairs of Mannofield church.

Food poverty is a national concern and it is increasing alarmingly. Foodbanks are even needed in "wealthy" Aberdeen.



It's not the work-shy, the drug

addict or the alcoholic who get food parcels, certainly not when we have been delivering! The needy, the working poor, single parents and those made redundant can all receive help.

You don't have to wait until a Sunday or be a church member to donate. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Leave anything there and we'll take it to the depot.

PLEASE keep the Instant Neighbour box filled. Anything goes as long as it is long dated and non perishable. **THANK YOU** for your donations so far. Much needed and much appreciated!! *The Instant Neighbour Team*

Eastertide Prayer

Lord -we pray this day and every day



day that the lost may sense Your footsteps, that the fearful may stand firm in You, that the lonely may recognise You. **Lord**- we pray this day and every day for cold hearts to be warmed, for quiet courage to confront evil, for life in all its fullness to fill us and to set us free.

15 – 21May

It'll soon be time for Christian Aid week, a week when more than 20,000 churches unite



to achieve incredible things, a week when we follow in Jesus' footsteps, a week when we love every neighbour.

Last year saw millions fleeing conflict in the Middle East. Working through experienced partners Christian Aid was able to provide humanitarian supplies and psychological support to thousands.

Flooding is a central theme for this year's campaign – something that has come close to home for some of us recently. The campaign features Feroza whose home in Bangladesh had been swept away by floods **seven** times. Help from CA has enabled her to raise her home on an earth plinth keeping her family safe.

Last year Christian Aid raised £11 million. More than half was from door-to-door collections – so look out for the red envelope we'll put through your letterbox in May and the volunteer who'll follow to collect it.

Mannofield volunteers covered 46 streets last year, raising an amazing £5191.

If you'd be willing to help out this year please contact Ann Kindness on 01224 319336 or ann@aohs.uk.com

Spring is in the air

The population is growing and I don't mean in numbers but size. The average women's dress size has increased from 10 to 14 in the past 3 decades and men should not feel too complacent. Our average waist size has increased by 4 inches. One third of the adult population is obese, having a body mass index (BMI) of greater than 30, a healthy BMI being less than 25.

Why is this happening? Simply we are eating more of the wrong things and exercising less. These habits start in childhood. Fast foods and ready access to high calorie cheap snacks, sweets and drinks. We now see sugar as the new enemy to health. It is not just the sugar we see, but also that which is hidden in ready meals and other prepared foods. Children are more likely to slump down in front of the computer or TV. They are less likely to go outside to run around with friends or play sports.

Why is it important? Well, what we do know is that people who are overweight are more prone to illness particularly type 2 diabetes. This can remain undetected for many years. If left untreated it can cause vascular disease, including strokes and heart attacks: cause blindness; cause kidney damage and damage to nerves. In America, as a result of diabetes, we are seeing for the first time a decrease in life expectancy and children dying before their parents.

Being overweight can make joint problems such as arthritis worse. Your body's weight is taken directly through your hips, knees and ankles. The heavier you are the greater the strain

Dr Ken Lawton

on the joints and the more likely it is that you will develop osteoarthritis It becomes a vicious circle-the heavier you are the less exercise you take and the less energy you burn.



What can we do about it? "Do I need to go on a diet Doc?" "What about the 5 and 2; Atkins....... (insert latest fad!)?" Not really.

It is simple. We put on weight when the amount of energy we take in is more than the energy we expend! at times of famine. At times of plenty our bodies are designed to store food and energy in the form of fat, to help at times of famine. Fortunately we do not see famine often in Aberdeen so we just keep piling on the pounds!!

Eat less, exercise more, read the labels and look out for hidden calories and sugar. Exercise does not mean an expensive gym membership - walking is good enough and you get some fresh air. Start with achievable targets and you will be surprised how quickly you start to feel better, healthier and lighter.

Don't become obsessed with the scales; weighing once a week is enough. Finally only stock healthy snacks and leave them at the front of the cupboard. Beware of diet foods. Very often they are just smaller portion sizes but contain the same amount of sugar and fat.

Have a Happy Easter but stick to boiled eggs rather than the chocolate kind!!

Make a neighbour feel welcome!

After a challenging winter across the North East of Scotland, I think it is safe to say we have all welcomed the spring season with open arms and the finer weather it brings. It seems long ago now that news reports across the city and shire were dominated by torrential floods damaging homes and affecting the lives of thousands of people. If we pause to think about it though, these events took



place only a few months ago and the effects are still being felt by many families and individuals today.

While most of us are fortunate enough to have the chore of spring-cleaning our homes and dusting out winter cobwebs, so many folk in our communities are having to rebuild with the added stress of worrying if such devastation could hit them again. Although the seasons have changed and we can move from winter festivities into Easter celebrations we can't leave behind us the sense of care and compassion we are all reminded of over Christmas and New Year.

When taking the time to organise our own homes and exciting plans for summer breaks, we can easily consider how to help those in need whether it be through a simple clothing and food donation or dedicating a few summer days to volunteering for a local charity. It is never too late to make a neighbour feel welcome, whether it is someone we have known for years or a newcomer to our country making their own new home in Scotland.

Indeed, just as many Scots were afflicted by storms of nature, the time will soon come for us to welcome people fleeing devastating conflicts in their homeland who desperately need our help to survive. We are fortunate to live in an age of information and global communication which has allowed us to see for ourselves the amazing impact we can have by extending our neighbourly compassion beyond borders and language barriers.

During my years as an elected representative I have observed the positive impact community engagement has during times of trial and crisis. Of course we need our local and national government support at all times, but we should never underestimate the emotional and spiritual lift that can be felt from a considerate neighbour.

I am happy to read Mannofield Church's refurbishment is nearly complete and the congregation has plenty to look forward to from Reverend Keith Blackwood's positive direction for the church.

I have every confidence that the good people of Mannofield will be inspired in an improved building to continue the spirit of progress and goodwill throughout the year.



Historical Exhibition

As the church refurbishment progresses so too does the work to create a historical exhibition delving into the history of the church and surrounding area. The exhibition will take the form of an interactive touchscreen through which visitors can navigate their way through a range of topics. It is hoped there will also be a walking tour of points of interest within the church and grounds as well as updated content on the website.

The Church was built in 1882 against a backdrop of rapid expansion of the city and population of Aberdeen. An imposing building standing on the corner of Great Western Road and Countesswells Road, the church was once described as "standing as a sentinel at the gates of a great city".



The history of the church and surrounding area is rich with influential local entrepreneurs, none more important than Robert Balmanno whose development of farmland established the population in the area. Later saw the development of industries such as granite quarrying at nearby Rubislaw and the necessary infrastructure developments such as the advent of trams and buses.

The history of Mannofield Church has featured many progressive ministers who introduced activities to broaden the appeal and reach of the church to great effect. Throughout the church's history it has continued to evolve with society's changing needs whether this be in the building renovations or new initiatives.

It is hoped that the exhibition may provide the springboard for the formation of a local heritage group. This group may arrange tours and events based on the exhibition, add to the historical information featured and develop relationships with other local heritage groups or venues in the area. If you would like to get involved with this initiative please contact Roddy McColl for more information. **201224 313473 E: roddy@mccollassociates.com**

Technical Update A few more ladder steps and scaffold lifts along the way!!

The roof scaffold is complete and the steeple scaffold should be completed shortly as weather allows. Additional roof slating and steeple pointing work has now been agreed with relevant parties which will allow the slater work to progress. The substantial external builder work (including stained glass window repairs) is making good progress.



Internal work is progressing nicely with electrical and plumbing work well in hand. The new kitchen, offices and meeting rooms are all framed and wall sheeting will commence in due course. The Sanctuary decoration has started and all materials and colour schemes are now being agreed with the architect. Overall progress is slightly behind the agreed programme but all efforts will be made to get back to the time table.

FIFTY YEARS OF WOMEN ELDERS

The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald looks back on the 35year debate that led to women being admitted to the Eldership of the Church of Scotland in 1966.



"In May it will be fifty years since the General Assembly of 1966 finally opened the eldership to women. I say 'finally' because it took a while.

In 1931 the Assembly received a petition calling for eldership and ministry to be open to women. The petition asserted that 'the continued exclusion of women from these offices is contrary to the mind and teaching of Christ and limits the operation of the Spirit of God.'

The following Assembly received two petitions. One asked that a number of women be granted corresponding membership of the Assembly, with a right to speak but not to vote. The other proposed that, rather than considering eldership and ministry, the Church should seek to develop existing opportunities for women.

All three petitions were referred to the intriguingly named Committee on the Place of Women in the Church. The Committee reported back in 1933 recommending eligibility for eldership but not ministry. The recommendation was referred to presbyteries but failed to secure the necessary support.

The following decade brought the Second World War and in 1940 the Assembly appointed a Special Commission, convened by Professor John Baillie, 'for the Interpretation of God's Will in the Present Crisis'. During those dark years the Commission presented a series of reports and the one brought in 1944 included a recommendation that eldership should be open to women. The proposal was referred to presbyteries and was approved by a margin of 39 to 27. However, the 1945 Assembly was persuaded to send the matter back to presbyteries with a specific instruction to consult with Kirk sessions and congregations. The outcome was a complete reversal of the vote with 44 presbyteries opposed and 22 in favour.

The debate continued and in 1960 the Assembly learned that 27 presbyteries were now in favour of women elders, 14 against with 23 undecided. Sensing some movement, the Committee brought an Overture with enabling legislation which was sent down under the Barrier Act. The outcome was a dead heat with 34 presbyteries For and the same number Against. Under the rules the measure fell."

Fifty Years of Women Elders continued

"The focus of attention then shifted to women and the ministry, with a petition from Mary Lusk (subsequently Levison) brought before the 1963 Assembly. This was remitted to the recently formed Panel on Doctrine.



The following year the Panel reported that it reserved

its position with regard to ministry but was strongly in favour of women elders. This led to an enabling Overture in 1965. In that year's Assembly the convener, Dr Roy Sanderson, stressed that the Panel was not presenting a negative argument that there was no compelling doctrinal case against; rather, he presented a positive case based on the nature of the Church and the privilege of baptism.

It is interesting from today's perspective to hear some of the arguments advanced against women elders in that 1965 entirely male debate. One commissioner upbraided the 'fathers and brethren', suggesting that the men of the Church should be ashamed that women might need to take on the duties of eldership. Another suggested that 'it was no compliment to women to make them little imitation men'. A third asked if the Panel might not consider creating a new order for women, separate from the eldership; and someone, with a long memory, recalled what had happened in 1945 and moved an amendment to have the Overture sent also to Kirk sessions and congregations.

In the end the Overture was approved and sent down under the Barrier Act where it received the approval of 45, with 17 opposed. This cleared the way for the General Assembly of 1966 to enact the legislation.

The terms of General Assembly Act 28 of 1966 could not be clearer: 'Women members of a congregation shall be eligible for election and admission as elders on the same terms and conditions as men members of a congregation.' However, right from the start, the interpretation of the new law became muddied. Given the division of opinion there was no expectation that every Kirk session would have women elders overnight. As a consequence an impression emerged that the legislation was entirely permissive.

In 1991, the Board of Practice and Procedure, of which I was convener at the time, expressed concern that, 25 years on, a number of ministers and kirk sessions were still treating the legislation as permissive. It stated: 'The fact that a Kirk session has always chosen men from the total number of those available is not in itself a breach of the law'. However, it then advised that 'if, as a matter of policy or principle a Kirk session had deliberately restricted its choice to men, and thus denied the eligibility of women, the law has been contravened.' The General Assembly upheld this view.

The latest figures available (31 December 2014) reveal a total 31,146 elders, of whom 16,373 are women and 14,773 are men. At last year's General Assembly 174 of the 341 Commissioners from the Eldership were women. The first woman to be elected Moderator of the General Assembly was an elder – Alison Elliot in 2004."

This is an abridged version of a feature from January 2016 Life and Work.

A Hymn for Gardeners

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small All things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention though gardeners know it's true Is when He made the goodies He made the baddies too!

All things spray and swattable, diseases great and small All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, The maggots on the peas, Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.

All things spray and swattable.....

The fungus on the goosegogs, The clubroot on the greens, The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.

All things spray and swattable.....

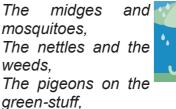
The drought that kills the fuchsias,

The frost that nips the buds,

The rain that drowns the seedlings,

The blight that hits the spuds.

All things spray and swattable.....





from the Archives

The sparrows in the seeds.

All things spray and swattable.....

The fly that gets the carrots, The wasp that eats the plums, How black the gardener's outlook, Though green may be his thumbs.

All things spray and swattable.....

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers, And pray what hits our neighbours will somehow bypass ours.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small All things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all.

This appeared in the Press & Journal about 10 year ago and in the March 2008 InSpire. Try singing it when doing your least favourite but necessary summer garden task. This should at least cheer up the neighbours - perhaps you as well!

Can you form a cross out of the following shapes?



THE FIRST EASTER MORNING

Read the story in John 20. Then tick which you think is the right answer in each section below. The bible references given in brackets will help.

When Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb of Jesus, she saw: (John 20:1)

- 1 A Roman centurion guarding the tomb
- 2 The stone had been removed from the entrance
- 3 Crowds were gathered round the tomb

After she had told Peter and John that the tomb was empty, she: (John 20:12)

- 4 Decided to go home
- 5 Remained outside the tomb and spoke to two angels
- 6 Went inside the empty tomb

What happened when she thought she met the gardener? (John 20:16)

- 7 She asked him who he was
- 8 As he spoke her name, she knew he was Jesus
- 9 When he spoke she thought he was a stranger

What message did Jesus give to Mary? (John 20:17)

- 10 That she should go and tell the disciples the news
- 11 That she must say nothing to anyone
- 12 That she should wait a while before saying anything

What did Mary of Magdala do next? (John 20:18)

13 She stayed behind to talk with Jesus

Happy Easter

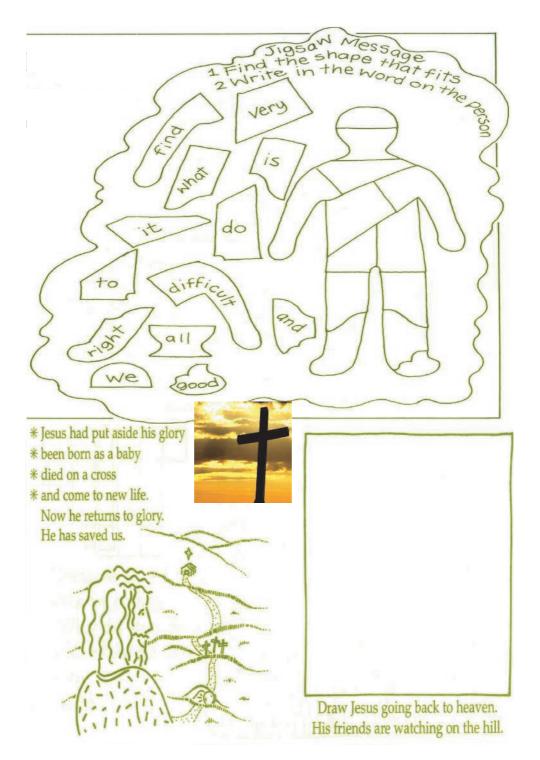
- 14 She decided to tell the disciples the news
- 15 She preferred to keep silent

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.



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Easter Word Search

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APOSTLES MARY REDEMPTION CHRIST CROSS RESURRECTION CROWN RISEN CRUCIFIXION ROMANS HOLY ROOSTER JESUS SACRIFICE KING SALVATION LAMB SAVIOR LOVE THORNS

September/October answer: 2592 feet. Since the building contains 10 odd nodes a complete tour will require 5 separate journeys. This means that 4 back-tracking journeys will have to be made.

Earth Hour - an extraordinary event

Seen from space, Aberdeen (and no doubt Mannofield) glows in the dark. Many lights are unnecessary, just burning fuel and increasing energy bills for no good reason. WWF wants to draw attention to this. Here's what it suggests you do about it.



At 8.30pm on Saturday 19 March hundreds of millions of people from across the world will switch off their lights to show they care about the future of our brilliant planet. It's always a memorable and spectacular event with cities, communities and landmarks across the globe going dark for the hour.

The future of our planet is at risk, particularly from the effects of climate change. Many of the world's most threatened species like tigers and orangutans live in areas that will be severely affected by climate change – and it's not just species that will be affected. Many of the expected impacts of climate change will also affect people in communities who are already living in the most vulnerable situations.

It's important we care about climate change, and most of all that we act on reducing its impacts – that means us as individuals as well as governments and businesses.

To create a future where people and nature thrive, WWF is working to help people, wildlife and their habitats adapt to the effects of climate change. It's not just about coping with the immediate impacts, it's about anticipating and planning for future change. As well as creating a symbolic and spectacular display that reminds us that together, we have the power to make change happen,

WWF's Earth Hour is all about celebrating our brilliant planet."

For more information, go to <u>www.wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour</u>

If you are reading this before the event, switch off your lights at 8.30pm on Saturday 19 March and help spread the word. *Alistair Stark*

Eco Congregation Committee

Convener.

Nannofield Guild SPRING FAIR Saturday 2nd April 2pm - 4pm Crafts Cake and Candy Chocolate Stall - Raffle In aid of Guild Projects Refreshments by donation *Alpha* is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

The 2016 *Alpha Course* is meeting in the Palm Court Hotel whilst the Church is being refurbished. The hotel has been very supportive and we have enjoyed good food and service in a pleasant setting. It has also meant we are out into the wider community, raising awareness of the church's activities.

We're using the most recent *Alpha* material with a variety of speakers. We're also looking forward to the new *Alpha* Film Series launching globally from 14th April. Featuring stories from all around the world with people from all different backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities, as well as top-notch visual illustrations and motion graphics, the series aims to take the audience on a journey exploring the basics of the Christian faith in a way that everyone can relate to. The *Alpha* Film Series is made up of 15 sessions, each episode lasting 30 minutes. There will be a series of launch events across the UK. The Aberdeen one is planned for 21st April.. More news later......the *Alpha Team.*

Stay grounded in politics

Alph

It's been a joy to work on your behalf over this parliamentary term. Over the last five years I have been involved in a very wide range of activities. I've



supported the AWPR as it finally becomes a reality and successfully called for improved train services at Portlethen station. I voted to provide the money both for a new academy in the South of the city as well as the emergency care centre at ARI, and worked across Scotland as Minister for Public Health, promoting services to help people live longer, healthier lives.

As all parties get into election mode, it's nice to stay grounded in what politics is really about. I've campaigned for improved bus services in Mannofield, putting the case on behalf of constituents for better facilities. It's a frustrating fight against a public transport system which should never have been placed in private ownership.

Helping constituents with their problems is at the heart of what politics is for and I'm proud to have assisted thousands of people over the years. If you have anything I can help you with, please do get in touch .

APPEAL FOR SCRAPS OF FABRIC



EXCITING NEWS!

Α

TAPESTRY OF MANNOFIELDis being planned and we require scraps of fabric.
[Any colour, except black or white].
If you can help, please hand your fabric into the church office – the yellow cabin on Great Western Road!
The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Alternatively if you can't manage to hand in your fabric please call the office on 01224 310087 at the above times, to arrange collection. Thank you Are you sitting comfortably?



CHAIRITY EVENTS

Mannofield Church will soon have a new lease of life where we can experience uplifting worship and enjoy a variety of events within our modern sanctuary.

We will be installing comfortable and attractive seating and to help meet the cost of £31,000 we are launching a series of **CHAIRITY EVENTS**.

These will be specifically for the seating and will take place between February and June.

Events in the pipeline are:

- •CINEMA NIGHT
- •CHARITY SHOP 12 -18 June 346 George Street, Aberdeen
- •FISH & CHIP NIGHT

Look out for details and dates.

Please support the forthcoming events or maybe you have your own idea for fundraising.

Donations can also be made directly to the *Mannofield Church Development Fund.*

We look forward to the fun and fellowship these events will offer and to the eventual completion of our new sanctuary.



MANNOFIELD CHURCH at the heart of the COMMUNITY



Once again we would appreciate your support to help us achieve our goal of providing modern, local facilities for worship and friendship.

The Charities Shop at 346 George Street will be open for us from 12 -18 June

We need donations of good quality, reusable CLOTHES: BAGS: SHOES; CASES; CURTAINS; SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; TOYS; BOOKS; DVDs etc.. [we cannot accept bed linen, towels or electrical items]

Collection details will be available nearer the time. Please check our website www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk or look out for posters.

Put the dates in your diary, save your goods for us and......don't forget to come along and grab a bargain!

For further information call Ellen 01224 867028

Airyhall Primary School ECO Update

At Airyhall Primary School we have been very busy with our ECO agenda recently. We have been working really hard on our three main areas for ECO schools, which are marine litter,

food and the environment and sustainability. We would like to share some of the projects and work that the pupils have been taking part in.

Aberdeen In Bloom

Airyhall Primary School entered the 'Aberdeen in Bloom' garden competition in 2015 and in September we were presented with the 3rd prize in the 'Other Displays' category. This was for the effort that the pupils had made to make the school grounds more attractive for pupils and for wildlife in general. We are continuing to make improvements in the school grounds this year. We have rebuilt our mini-beast mansion and have even managed, with the support of the PTA, to erect our very own polytunnel. You can see the polytunnel from the Community Centre. We plan to start growing various produce over the summer months.





As well as the new additions to the school grounds we have been taking part in lots of ECO initiatives in the playground recently. The pupils have been hanging bird feeders in the playground and going bird watching with our resident expert Mrs Hendron. This was so we could take part in the RSPB 'Big School's Bird Watch'. We also took part in the Pod 'Under Your Feet' project where we counted minibeasts in the soil in our playground. We are also encouraging more wildlife and making the grounds look even better by taking part in the' Aberdeen Schools' Bulb Competition'. We have planted our bulbs in recycled wellies and each class will have a display outside their classroom.

Slopefield Allotments

At Airyhall we are very pleased to have a partnership with Slopefield Allotments and the Hutton Institute. Pupils visit the allotment in the autumn, spring and summer months to plant, grow and harvest various produce. This is with the support of Sue Callen and Terry Stott, also an 'Aberdeen in Bloom' nominee. The pupils take part in the whole growing process and get to reap the benefits of their hard work, as well as learning about the science of growing and the environment. This year we plan to grow some of our own bulbs and enter them into local



competitions and we are planting an assortment of other produce. We are hopefully going to receive information from the Hutton Institute on 'The Year of the Pulse' and we will be trying to attract more insects into the gardens by planting wild flowers.



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Whatever the colour, flowers are a wonderful addition to our Sunday Service. They are then distributed to and are greatly appreciated by members who are ill, unable to get to church or just need cheered up. I found this Article in another church's magazine and thought it would interest you.

Sheila Taylor, Flower Convener

Blue flowers represent tranquillity and harmony and give a sense of stability, confidence, honesty and security. True blue flowers are difficult and often expensive to come by.

Green flowers traditionally are said to bring good luck with emerald leaves, apple tinted blossoms and chartreuse stems representing a zest that's associated with harmony and stability.

Orange flowers suggest flamboyance and really fiery blossoms convey confidence and kinship. Orange floral arrangements are thought to be ideal for places where people meet to discuss ideas.

Pink flowers represent fresh beginnings and gentle passions. The colour pink conveys both youth and emotional maturity while different

shades convey different meanings - pale pink suggest a feminine energy that's an ideal tonic for emotional healing and inner calm, while bright shades of pink suggest friendship, fun and cheeky romance!

Red flowers are intense and dynamic. They are considered magnificent inviting passion. Red roses are a fantastic traditional romantic gesture though a little expensive at Valentine's Day!

White flowers represent peace and purity and if they are given as a gift they are a gesture of respect. White is the colour of the circle of life. Across the World, white is used on significant occasions, conveying innocence at a birth, truth in love, purity of union and tranquillity at death.



Yellow flowers represent hope and happiness particularly in a golden coloured floral arrangement or given as a token of courage and cheerfulness.

By permission of Mastrick Parish Church

Pumpkin Savoury Biscuits

Ingredients

6 oz Wholemeal SR flour

- 2 oz Porridge oats
- 3.5 oz butter (diced)
- 2 oz finely chopped pumpkin seeds
- 1 tablespoon caster sugar
- 6 tablespoons milk



Method

Rub butter in to flour and stir in pumpkin seeds, sugar and milk mix to a dough

Roll out to 1/8 " thickness and cut in to rounds with 2 1/2 " cutter

Transfer to greased tray and brush with milk

Bake at 180° C in oven for 15 mins



40th Aberdeen (Mannofield) Brownies

2015 was partly spent learning about the Patron Saints of the United Kingdom. We had lots of activities including quizzes, puzzles and games to help us improve our knowledge. We also spent some time working on our Cook badge and our Brownies' Traditions badge.

For our Cook badge we learned about kitchen safety and we had a Big Brownie Bake Off! The Bake Off was in three stages. The first challenge for the Brownies was to bake a batch of Fairy Cakes and the second was to practise decorating a sponge cake. The scores were tied at the end of the two challenges and the final stage took place during our Pack Holiday where the Brownies had to bake a Victoria sponge cake and decorate it in accordance with the holiday theme, but more on camp later.

For part of the Brownies' Traditions badge we had a Scout Leader from Ferryhill come along to our meeting and teach us how to tie different knots. I think the brownies found it easier than some of our Young Leaders!

Our Pack Holiday was in November and we went for the first time to Fyfe House. It wasn't easy to find but once there, everyone had a great time. The theme was a Witch Academy and all the girls had to take part in classes such as flying lessons, potions and care of magical creatures. It snowed while we were at Fyfe House and the Quidditch match was cancelled. However, the Brownies had lots of fun building snowmen, while some of the leaders got their cars stuck going up a snowy hill. Luckily the neighbours were friendly and much more experienced driving in the snow than us!

So far this year we have been working on our Artist badge and our Agility badge during which we discovered that only one of the brownies and none of the leaders can spin a hoop around their waists for more than 20 seconds. We are looking forward to doing some Day trips later on in the year and I certainly hope that we will have another camp!

Sarah Jamieson (Guider in Charge) 40aberdeenbrownies@live.co.uk

At present there are 11 girls aged from 5-7 in Rainbows though one will be going to Brownies after Christmas. There are several on the waiting list and there will be a termly intake as usual when places crop up.

> Last term the Rainbows chose to work towards the "Roundabout Rainbows" badge which they enjoyed, as well as some activities celebrating the Queen being the longest reigning Monarch. We have made cupcake hedgehogs, remembrance poppies and did some Christmas crafts. Finally we ended the term with a "Christmas Jumper" themed party night. *Helen Keith (Leader)*





Rainbow





MANGO

Mannofield Gospel Choir, better known as MANGO, has been enlivening the occasional Sunday service for a couple of years now.

We welcome new recruits. Although we could do with a few more male voices right now, that should not deter the ladies. MANGO is not limited to church members and no special skills are needed, just willingness to enjoy this special type of singing with an established group.



Incidentally, we are also looking for a piano accompanist and have a modest budget set aside for the right recruit.

Rehearsals are on (most) Monday evenings from 6:30 until 7:30pm at Mannofield Church.

If you are interested in singing or accompanying, or just want to know more, please phone our conductor Alistair Stark on 201224 318536.

I have just started as one of the Sergeants here at the West End **POLICE** Community Policing Team and I'm delighted to be working in such a great area with a proactive and productive team.

I most recently worked within the Violence Reduction Unit looking at preventative and sustained measures to deal with repeat, violent offenders and how to curtail their offending. I have maintained a keen interest in home security and the various ways in which a home can be made safe from would-be thieves.



Although the number of thefts from homes across our CPT is relatively small, these incidents do still occur.

In most circumstances, thieves will use the minimum amount of effort in order to steal. Meaning, if your door is unlocked and they can sneak in and steal car keys or other personal belongings they will. Without a doubt, the easiest way to deter thefts from homes is to ensure that you keep your doors and windows locked and keep all belongings out of sight and make the premises look lived in.

Installing good lighting, a strong lock and perhaps a simple 'contact' alarm at your garage door will help to ensure that expensive items like bikes, tools or sports equipment stay with you.

A handy tool to be aware of is the "UK National Property Register." This is a website where you can easily register your valuables so if, in the unlikely event that they're stolen, there is a much higher chance you will get reunited with them. The website is found here: <u>www.immobilise.com</u> and it really is very straightforward to use. If your valuables have serial numbers, they are eligible for registering.

Personally, my mobile phone and even my drum kit are registered on the site along with 35 million other items in the UK.

I'd like to wish you all a happy Easter as we (hopefully) see in the better weather. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have an issue, either via our national '101' number (it's still '999' in an emergency) or by e-mail for non-crime related enquiries at <u>AiryhallBroomhillGarthdeeCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.</u> Councillor Ross Thomson <u>rossthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u> 2 01224 346618 M 07876754618 web: <u>www.rossthomson.net</u>

Bus Service Changes

Since the public meeting I held in October on the decision by First Bus to re-route the no:15 and withdraw the no:5 I have continued to



lead the campaign against these changes. I am pleased that a one-to-one drop in session was secured on 13 February to allow residents the opportunity to raise concerns directly with First Senior Management and the Council's Public Transport Unit. Further, I will organise another public meeting. You may recall that the purpose of the follow-up meeting was for both First and the Council to report on progress. I want to ensure that any meeting is productive with both sides reporting on solutions rather than people attending to hear the same thing as last time. In order for the Council to do this it needs to have approved its budget and agreed to support a local service. At the time of writing the Council budget will be set on 25 February and I am already working on dates for a follow up public meeting with First for beginning/mid-March. Please be assured that I am working as hard as I can to secure a positive solution for our community.

Friends of Johnston Gardens

We do not currently have a Friends Group set up for Johnston Gardens, a real hidden gem which could benefit from a local group of volunteers. Friends groups play an extremely valuable role in the community by helping with the upkeep and enjoyment of our parks and green spaces. We are blessed with both Johnston Gardens and Hazlehead Park on our doorstep. It is tremendous to see how local people have rallied together to form Friends of Hazlehead Park, Friends of Walker Dam and Friends of Denburn in our community. A Friends group here would not be to undertake huge renovation projects and raise millions of pounds but to help the park with some little and often TLC. I organised a public information evening on the 18 February for interested residents. If you would be willing to help and get involved please do not hesitate to contact me.

Here to Help

If there is ever anything that I can do to help you and your neighbours please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

I hope that you have a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Ross Thomson



Mannofield Book Group - Meeting Wednesday 6 April In 1779, driven out of his home, Calum MacDonald sets sail from the Scottish Highlands with his extensive family. After a long, terrible journey he settles his family in 'the land of trees', and eventually they become a separate Nova Scotian clan: red-haired and black-eyed, with its own identity, its own history.

It is the 1980s by the time our narrator, Alexander MacDonald, tells the story of his family, a thrilling and passionate story that intersects with history: with Culloden, where the clans died, and with the 1759 battle at

Quebec that was won when General Wolfe sent in the fierce Highlanders because it was 'no great mischief if they fall'.

For further information contact: Niki Anderson Tel 01224743484

NOTES & NEWS

Gift Aid

Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convener, wishes to thank all who



have forwarded Gift Aid payments in the current tax year.

He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, either deposited in the Church plate or church office in a clearly marked envelope by 5 April 2016.

MANNOFIELD CHURCH OFFICE OPEN: 9am-12 noon Monday, Wednesday, Thursday CLOSED: Tuesday and Friday

FLOWER CALENDAR

MARCH

6 Mrs. A. Thompson (Miss Youngson's legacy)



- 13 Mrs. J. Anderson
- 20 Mrs. M. Craighead
- 27 Mrs. R. Robertson

APRIL

- 3 Mrs. R Wallace
- 10 Miss Youngson's Legacy



Mrs. Audrey Milne
 Mrs. Margaret Insch

The deadline for the MAY issue of *InSpire* is 21 APRIL

Material for *InSpire* should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to: roddy@mccollassociates.com office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Obituary for Arthur McCombie

Arthur McCombie was born in 1928 and lived for the most part of his life in Aberdeen entering Robert Gordon's College from Ashley Road Primary in 1940. He went on to Aberdeen University, graduating with an MA in 1950.

He moved to Elgin in 1952 where his first main teaching post was History and Geography at Elgin Academy. In 1955 he became principal teacher of History, but he returned to his beloved Aberdeen in 1961 to take up the post of Principal History Teacher at Aberdeen Grammar School.

The remainder of his teaching career was to be spent at Aberdeen Grammar becoming Deputy Rector in 1973, a position which he held until his retirement in 1990.

Arthur married Vaila in 1961, a very happy marriage which was regrettably cut short when Vaila passed away in 1984, after a long illness.

Arthur was also very committed to the Church and was ordained as an elder of Mannofield Church in 1966, resulting in his being one of the longest serving elders in the history of the Church.

He was the editor and a major contributor to *One Hundred Years of Mannofield* - published in 1982 at the Centenary of the founding of Mannofield Church.

His knowledge of the local history of Aberdeen was widely acknowledged and his many public speaking engagements were enlivened by his pawky humour.

He is survived by his sister Elizabeth, his son lain, daughter Fiona and grandchildren Jack and Max.

CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Rev Keith Blackwood Phil Gunn Jean Sharman Nick Youngson Bob Anderson

kblackwood@churchpfscotland.org.uk pgunn@churchofscotland.org.uk office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk nick.youngson@o2.co.uk Nnikibob@aol.com

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Disjunctions:

Mrs. Alison Farquhar Mrs. Sheila Willox Mrs. D. Somers Mrs. M. Milne Miss M. Milne Ms. P. Milne

Deaths:

12 January Mrs. Elizabeth Laing 2 February Mrs. Roberta Runcie 8 February Mrs. Jessie Duncan

Change of Address:

Mrs. I. Forsyth Miss M. Archibald Mrs. L. Ellington Miss Daphne Monkman Mr. D. McLaren Sheila Quinn

MANNOFIELD GUILD March



- 1 Jenny Robertson
- 4 World Day of Prayer, Holburn West
- 9 Spring Meeting, Midstocket Church
- 15 'English as she is spoke', Pam Wells
- 29 Nordic Adventure, Donald Graham

April

12– AGM

2nd April DAFFODIL TEA 2- 4pm, Hall ALL WELCOME

Obituary for Alastair Macdonald

Alastair Macdonald was born in Buckie in 1930 where he was raised and attended school. On leaving school he undertook National Service and served as a Scribe in the Navy. On his return he joined Aberdeen Journals and quickly became established as а Sports Journalist. He covered a wide variety of sports through his career, travelling the world covering Aberdeen FC and Scotland. He became Sports Editor and Sports Executive before retirement which dave him the opportunity to watch more sport and play golf at Royal Deeside.

Alastair married Irene in 1957 and together they were an active couple within the life of Mannofield Church along with their children Calum, Shona and Morag. Alastair was an Elder of the Kirk for many years receiving a Long Service Certificate and was involved in numerous church projects.

He edited InSpire magazine and after this he was responsible for the magazine's 'Session Report' which he attended to with much skill, enthusiasm and care.

Alastair contributed greatly to the life of this congregation. After a long life he is at peace and prayers go to his family and friends who shared much of his journey through life with him.



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.

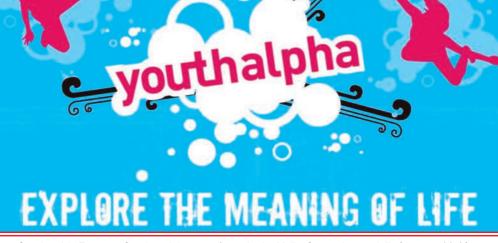
The demand is huge and to enable the food appeal to meet the need we ask the people of Aberdeen to partner with us.

Companies minimum £50 per month

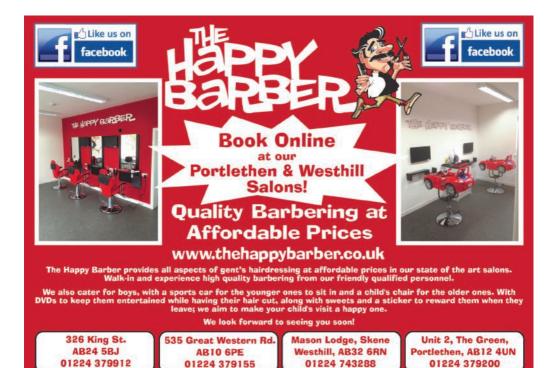
Individuals £5 per month or one off donations "HELP US HELP THOSE IN NEED"

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



Starting this Easter - Sunday nights at 7.45pm in the Hall - Created especially for ages 11-18 Food and drink available - Short video followed by a discussion - Contact Ryan Webster to register your interest before the **end of March** 207446 015279 <u>Ryan.webster87@gmail.com</u>



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STRENGTHENING

5 WEEK COURSE

THE PARENTING CHILDREN COURSE

O TO 10 YEAR OLDS

This course is for any parent or carer of children. Whether they consider themselves to have strong parenting skills or are struggling and whether they are expecting their first child, are a single parent or a step-parent. Guests can come alone or as a couple. The practical tools of the course are applicable to everyone who has responsibility for a child or children up to 10-years-old.

THE PARENTING 11 TO 18 TEENAGER COURSE YEAR OLDS

The parenting teenager course is for any parent or carer of children aged 11-18. Whether they consider themselves to have strong parenting skills or are struggling and whether they are parenting as a couple, as a single parent or a step parent. Guests can come along alone or as a couple. The practical tools of the course are applicable to everyone who has responsibility for a child or children in this age group.

courses are

Starting 3rd May 2016 - 31st May 2016 | Every Tuesday - 7:15pm to 9:15pm Mannofield Church, Great Western Road, Aberdeen BOTH COURSES ARE ON OFFER AND RUN FOR 5 WEEKS







Spaces are limited so please call to secure your place on Tel: 01224 310087 (Mon-Thurs 9am-12noon) or Email: office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk For more information about the courses, please visit

www.relationshipcentral.org