Vol.LV No. 7 DECEMBER 2017



INSPIRE

Love The Giver Not The Gift



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN Registered Scottish Charity SC 001680



Carols in the Cafe Sunday 17th December 2017

4pm for 4.30 start







The Happy Barber provides all aspects of gent's hairdressing at affordable prices in our state of the art salons. Walk-in and experience high quality barbering from our friendly qualified personnel.

We also cater for boys, with a sports car for the younger ones to sit in and a child's chair for the older ones. With DVDs to keep them entertained while having their hair cut, along with sweets and a sticker to reward them when they leave; we aim to make your child's visit a happy one.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Andrew J. Leith Newsagent

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3 Forbesfield Road

Aberdeen

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CHATTAN OUALITY MEATS



Orders Now Being Taken for

Christmas

Fresh Free-range White Turkeys

From Hig (95) (Feeds 6-8) to 10(g (225) (Feeds 18-22)

Also Boneless Turkey Breast

From Dg(2.20) (Feetb.2-3) to 2.5kg(5.3k) (Feeds.5-4)

All festive trimmings available-stuffings, chipolatas, pigs-in-blankets, etc.

Also available: Duck, Goose, Pheasant, Capon and our usual Roasts and Ribs of Reef and Pork

Can't get here? ... then we'll come to You! CQM offers a free delivery service to your door-just phone and ask.

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Aberdeen AB10 68B

A traditional family butcher in the west end of Aberdeen



Dear Friends

What you see is what you get

Planning the hymns for the Christmas season leads me to ponder on the fact that although hymn composers of the 20^{th} and 21^{st} centuries have indeed written hymns



and praise songs with Advent and Christmas in mind, the clear majority of the hymns that people wish to sing during the month of December are the familiar classics, originating in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Looking in detail at the words of the new hymns/songs, I see nothing wrong with the theology and sentiment. In addition, some of the tunes are quite 'catchy'. Yet, they don't come close in popularity to the traditional favourites. People in churches and beyond are content with hymns that speak very much to the basics of the Christmas Story. We want to sing of Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men and the journey of Mary and Joseph (by donkey) to the stable and of course to the manger full of hay. We enjoy the 'booming' melodies of these hymns played out on church organs and by orchestras.

Our liking of continuity of course goes beyond church music. Popular culture creates Christmas traditions as well. I can think of additions to the season such as Christmas adverts from our big stores, bands and artists jostling to be proclaimed Christmas No. 1 and the Christmas edition of the Radio Times. Along with the annual climb into the loft to get the Christmas decoration box, we recognise that as a society we enjoy repetition of the familiar in this season.

We can't escape the fact that much of this is sentimental. It's nice to do and leaves us feeling happy but there is something deeper going on too.

So much of life is about the things that are modern and trendy and sophisticated and fast paced. We believe in the need for rapid change and innovation to keep striving for perfection. The plethora of 'ideas', new trends, enlightenment pathways, business streams and the self-help guides that promise better physical and emotional well-being, all speak to the rapidity of change and opportunity within our modern society.

However, for one month in the year it seems to me that people enjoy adopting the option of continuity with the past and the opportunity for a time to dwell with the familiar.

Our Christmas Hymns speak of a very straightforward story. We might say it is raw and unsophisticated. It is not a story that tries to be clever and trendy. There is not much to interpret in this story for what you see is what you get. It is a story of: 'Angels and Promise', 'Shepherds and the message that all men and women are equal', 'Wise Men and the adoration pointing to a true King' in 'the birth of a baby and of Love that reveals God is with us'.

In this story so beautifully re-told in our familiar carols we discover a set of values for the human condition that will forever stand the test of time.

As we look forward to another Christmas, may each one of us join in with the opportunity to rediscover the 'Joy' of Christmas in the music of the season, in the church services we attend and the traditions in which we participate. Let us enjoy the continuity and the simplicity.

I pray you find 'Peace' in the message that the incarnation of God's Love made available for all is a gift that God has made for you!

With season's greetings and blessing for you all.

Keith

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

Sun 3 Dec	10am	Family Service
		Advent Communion
Wed 6 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
	2- 4pm	Blue Christmas Service - a Reflection with tea
	2 -1011	and cake to follow
Sun10 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
		. 🔊 🗊 🏄
	6.30pm	Lessons and carols
Wed 13 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 17 Dec	10am	Nativity Sunday
	3.15pm	Craigielea Service led by Margaret Stewart
	4.30pm	Carols in Café Connect
Wed 20 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
		Last midweek service until 10 January
	40	
Sun 24 Dec	10am	Morning Worship - Family Service
	7pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Mon 25 Dec	10.30am	Family Christmas Worship
Sun 31 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
Sun 7 Jan	10am	Morning Worship
Wed 10 Jan	10.30am	Midweek Service
	10.000	

CHURCH CONTACTS		www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk		
Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk	01224315748	
Parish Assistant	Dot Getliffe	dgetliffe@churchofscotland.org.uk	07766910171	
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	01224310087	
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@gmail.com	01224322239	
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	01224743484	





Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

Mulled wine and Mince pies 11pm Watchnight Service 11.30pm

> Christmas Day Family Service 10.30am

Carols in our Community

Sunday 17 December



Meet at Mannofield

Church at 3pm, then set off together to various locations within the Parish to sing, returning to the Church by 4pm.

All are welcome.

Bring family and friends for an hour of neighbourly singing.

Come and join us

KEEP CALM AND SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

44th Boys Brigade

At the 44th Boys Brigade all sections are enjoying the new session, and growing with many new and enthusiastic boys having started since the summer. Parent recommendations and boys moving between sections means we have nearly 50 boys with us.

Anchor Boys has split into dinosaur themed teams this year and have enjoyed some dino activities and games. We have had a special visitor for the past month, Terry the giant inflatable T-Rex who has been taking part and watching some activities. Boys are enjoying the variety of games and crafts including dino

painting, unihoc, football, dodgeball and the parachute.

Junior Section has more than doubled in size with a new intake from Anchors. They are enjoying the JS format and throwing themselves into traditional Juniors' activities like figure marching, which is not as easy as it sounds. This year the Junior Section in the BB is 100 years old and there is a special set of 100 challenges for the boys to work through. Some also took part in a

special Battalion event at Aberdeen Sports Village.

Company Section has been enjoying a selection of new games, variations of old favourites and new activities to freshen things up this session. They are making little remote control robots at the moment and recently we turned the hall into a giant Pac Man game with boys taking the roles of the Pac Man and the ghosts - great fun! We tried volleyball with a giant beach ball and blind football with a special 'jingling' RNIB ball. This year we have 7 young men working towards President's and Queen's Badges, some of whom are helping younger sections at our own and other Companies.

Anchor Boys for boys in P1 - P3 meets on Thursdays 6 - 7pm. Junior Section for boys in P4 - P6 meets on Thursdays 7- 8.15pm. Company Section for boys in P7 - S6 meets on Fridays 7.45 - 10pm.

For more information or to join, email <u>info@40four.co.uk</u> or visit our website at <u>www.40four.co.uk</u>.

Dave Tait Captain









YOUTH ALPHA Explore the meaning of life

After a fantastic first ever Youth Alpha at Mannofield Church last year we are running again in 2017! The content has been refreshed by Alpha with the addition of some new presenters but still keeping the previous presenters involved.



Youth Alpha is an interactive series exploring life, faith and meaning. Each session has a specific topic involving a video and interspersed with discussion points. It is relevant and engaging for teenagers today. The fun is really well balanced alongside the more important aspects.

Since it began Youth Alpha has been run in 49 countries and translated into 19 languages! To see what all the fuss is about search for "Youth Alpha" in YouTube.

As well as the video series we aim to run occasional games/fun nights with the group. If you would like some more information please get in touch.

- Starting soon
- Sunday nights @ 7.30pm
- Video, discussion series and games
- Food and drink available

Created specifically for ages 11-18

Contact Ryan Webster for more information or to register your interest

07446 015279 Ryan.webster87@gmail.com

We have completed several challenge badges over the year, having fun looking at oceans (Ocean Challenge) and deciding to "Rise to the Challenge" constructing marshmallow and spaghetti towers. We also completed some Rainbow Roundabout challenge badges with the



themes of "Get Healthy" and "Festivals". We also had a joint meeting with the Friday Brownies which was enjoyed by all.

This year has been a special year for Rainbows as we have celebrated our 30th birthday. For this, we undertook various activities on a mermaid theme to get a special commemorative badge. We also had a Halloween fancy dress party where the Rainbows had to do trick or treating to get their sweets!

CRAFT FAIR Mannofield Church 4 November



This was indeed a 'Feast for the eye'.

Many people came to admire the beautiful crafts and to buy treats and gifts.

It was a very happy and successful occasion and a big THANK YOU goes to all who helped in any way and to those who came along to support the event.



Hope to see you all on Saturday 3 November 2018!!!

From the Archives

Brownies 1949?



With thanks to Dorothy Geering - 1st in back row on LHS. Miss Geering recollects that the girl by herself on the left is Ann Henderson and that the Brown Owl (not pictured) was Nora Bain. The Minister at the time was Mr. Kellas while Miss Horne was the Sunday School teacher.

40th Guide news

We came back after the summer to a unit almost doubled in size, as we welcomed 10 new girls. This takes our total number for the moment to 21, which is great and certainly keeps our 3 leaders busy.

We have enjoyed lots of varied activities over the last few weeks - lots of games and craft activities with a variety of themes.

The girls have been working towards 'Go For It' badges. This involves a number of activities on a given theme chosen by the girls. On one

evening we had cookie making, a party in one corner, a tent and chill event in another corner and a yoga session in the other corner of the hall!

At the end of September we went to Fyfe House near Inverurie for a weekend camp. Our theme was a Year in a Weekend. This started with a Hogmanay ceilidh, Big Ben countdown and a 2017 quiz on Friday night. We finished with Christmas morning and a Christmas dinner on Sunday.

We also celebrated Shrove Tuesday, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, a summer *shorts and shades* Highland games, Halloween and Christmas Eve!!

A certain man in a red suit accompanied by his elf woke the girls up on the Sunday morning!

Heather Tait











It's almost hard to believe the dark mornings and nights are upon us again. I could have almost blinked and missed this year it seems to have gone so fast.

I understand everyone is busy and almost always fast moving but I would like to ask everyone to slow down and just take a minute to consider security around our homes, sheds and cars.

I have been in the Police for over 13 years and love my job. However I don't love telling people their house has been broken into or their car stolen.

To that end I would ask you to consider the following:

Check and then double check your car is locked. Have you taken all personal belongings in from the car?

Once within your home have you locked the doors? Do you know where your keys are? Are they safely stored away in a place only you and the family are aware of?

Do you have external house lights? Are they in good working order and do you use them?

In my experience following these simple steps will reduce the chances of you being the victim of a crime.

One of the most satisfying parts of working in this area is the fact people are very quick to assist the Police by phoning in when they see something that does not look quite right-an unusual car or persons hanging around. Please keep phoning with this information so that we can check out the situation and keep this a safe, low crime area.

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>

Best Wishes for the Festive Period and the New Year from all of us at the Hazlehead and West End Policing Teams.

David Cowie, Sergeant







David Cowie

Evening Prayer

Lord, at the end of this day we worship You. At the day's beginning we



had our fears and anxieties, but You were with us through it all. At the day's beginning we had our hopes,

and some of those came to pass.

Lord, at the end of the day we are sorry for our sins,

our failures and our shortcomings. We thank You for the promise of forgiveness to those who confess sin and turn from it.

Grant us the grace of repentance and the assurance of cleansing and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Lord. accept us in Christ Jesus. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Guide our paths. Amen.

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

FOREIGN and OBSOLETE NOTES and COINS



THANK YOU to all those who donated notes and coins this year.

£367 has been raised !!

This will be divided equally between CHRISTIAN AID and Mannofield Church Development Fund.

Any further notes and coin donations may be handed into the Church office.

Mannofield Church Balmanno Hall



Saturday 20 January Saturday - 17 February Saturday - 31 March

> 10am - noon Admission free

CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY "open-plate" offerings will be donated to the Scripture Union Scotland and Barnabas Fund

" We each have our own calling, uniquely suited to our own situation and gifts. Let's be sure that we follow not a Christian we admire, but our risen Lord."

© Scripture Union, Encounter with God April - June 2017, Annabel Robinson.

Poppyscotland Appeal



The total collected for Poppyscotland at the

Remembrance Day service was $\pounds 842$ plus Gift Aid where appropriate.

Alpha at Café Connect

Explore Life Faith Meaning



Everyone has Questions

Exploring is good. We are built for it. Explore more about life, faith and meaning with *Alpha*.

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

The 2018 *Alpha Course* starts on Monday 15 January and runs on Monday evenings for ten weeks. The evening starts with a meal, followed by viewing a short DVD and having a brief discussion.

In addition, we are also running an *Alpha Plus Course* at the same time, using different material.

We meet at Café Connect at Mannofield Church, at 7pm. The evening will finish at 9pm. We also have an 'away-day' planned for Saturday 3 March.

For 2018 we're using the most recent *Alpha* material with a variety of speakers.

We have offered *Alpha* for a number of years now and feedback indicates it is popular with Christians and non-Christians alike.

In fact, 27 million people have done *Alpha* in 169 countries and 112 languages!

The *Alpha Team* would be pleased to see you, and it would help if you could contact the Church office, or email <u>Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com</u>, or phone 01224 681384 so we have an idea of numbers attending, no later than 10 January. Please contact us for more information. Many thanks, the *Alpha Team*.

Councillor Douglas Lumsden

2017 has been a busy year for me and one that I will always remember. I have lived in the city all of my life and with my family growing up I wanted to become more involved with the local community, contribute to the community and hopefully make a positive difference for the residents. I feel really



honoured to have been elected as one of the Councillors to represent the Airyhall/ Broomhill/ Garthdee Ward.

As well as being a Councillor, I am also Co-Leader of Aberdeen City Council and Convener of the Finance, Policy & Resources Committee. I very much have a multi role; to represent the views of my constituents, the views of the residents of Aberdeen and also to do the best for the council and the city as a whole.

From chatting to constituents I noted recurring issues being reported regarding road safety and speeding, especially on Craigton Road and North Deeside Road. I understand these issues have been discussed on many occasions but I have now taken these issues onboard and will endeavour to get the Council and Police Scotland to take these matters more seriously. Time has passed so quickly since the local elections back in May and it is hard to believe that the festive season is upon us. Aberdeen City Council has many festive events planned for this time of year and I hope that you will find time to go along and enjoy them. I myself am looking forward to attending these events as well as those planned in the local communities.

Finally, please do get in touch should you wish assistance with any council related matter and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Councillor Douglas Lumsden <u>dlumsden@aberdeencity.gov.uk</u>

TRAIDCRAFT

Every day we are made aware that somewhere in the world millions still live in absolute poverty. They need the help Traidcraft can offer. Traidcraft offered the first fairly traded tea, coffee, sugar and



chocolate. Support is given to farmers and crafts people all over the **TRAIDCRAFT** world to trade their way out of poverty. A helping hand is there to

individuals and communities who would struggle to produce the volume of products required by "big business". Gradually the range of new fairly traded products has increased considerably and Traidcraft supports like-minded organisations and sells their goods as well.

On the first Sunday of every month Mannofield Church has a Traidcraft Stall in the Balmanno Hall after the Morning Service.

It stocks a variety of goods and other items can be ordered from the catalogues available. Every purchase helps farmers and crafts people all over the world to trade their way out of poverty.

Please buy from Traidcraft and support Mannofield Church's participation in the fight against worldwide poverty.



Christmas Dinner

Two mums and 2 daughters went out for Christmas dinner. Each ate one portion, yet only three portions were eaten in total. **How is this possible?**



Christmas Wordsearch



Angels Bethlehem Inn Jesus Joseph Kings Mary Shepherds Stable Star





WEIGHT CARRIED

BREAD

RICH SOIL

TO RAMBLE

HIGHWAY

TO STUDY

BACK

NOT FAR AWAY

TIDY

BIRDS LIVE HERE

TROUBLESOME PERSON

ENDED

PORTION

TOWN WITH HARBOUR

STRONGHOLD

BAPTISMAL VESSEL

PART OF BODY

CARROT

BIRD

CHRIST'S CROSS



GOOD



How many word can you make out of:



MERRY CHRISTMAS

There are over 150 different words!



September answer: 24. An elephant = 4, a pig = 2, a camel =6.

Mannofield Church Christmas Card Covers 2008/2016



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN



IANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN





Smile Scotland was established in 2014. We are a charity, but you'll discover as you enter our premises in Broomhill Road that you are not in a charity shop.



We support any young person who is, or is soon to be of

employment age and any adult of employment age, with or without dependants. In particular, we support those who may be, or are, finding it more challenging to enter into or sustain employment.

These challenges could be, but are not limited to, lack of education, training, knowledge, skills and experience; detrimental lifestyle choices e.g. drug and alcohol misuse, criminal activity; mental and physical health issues; homelessness; additional learning and support needs; lone parents; ethnic minorities.

The people we support get real work and business experience in a retail shop with delivery and pick up driving and in our coffee shop which we hope to open early next year.

Whilst with us they are learning to:

- gain and improve their skills, knowledge, experience and confidence.
- improve their employability.
- gain qualifications and employment references.
- have improved CV's, interview techniques and employment opportunities.
- be supported into employment for as long as they need additional support to sustain their employment.
- reduce their level of discrimination and poverty.
- improve their life choices, and health and well-being; which may lead to improved family life styles.

We always welcome new volunteers if you have some time to give and good quality donations that include collections too. You'll always get a warm welcome so get in touch today at 122 Broomhill Road, on Facebook, or by emailing <u>angela@smilescotland.org.uk</u>.

The Bible in 50 words!

God Made. Adam bit. Noah arked. Abraham split. Joseph ruled. Jacob fooled. Bush talked. Moses balked. Pharoah plaqued. People walked. Sea divided. Tablets guided. Promise landed. Saul freaked. David peeked. Prophets warned. Jesus born. God walked. Love talked. Anger crucified. Hope died. Love rose. Spirit flamed. Word spread. God remained.

Mannofield Church Book Club



At Mannofield Book Group we have been delighted to welcome 3 new members this year.

We continue to have interesting discussions about the books that we read and, as with previous years, we have included a mixture of fiction, non fiction and autobiographical books in our reading list. Listed below are the books that we are reading over the next few months.

We are always happy to welcome new members so if you are interested in joining us please contact Niki Anderson at <u>nikima62@gmail.com.</u>

6 December	The Speaker's Wife Quentin Letts
7 February	Sapiens
	Yoval Noah Harai
7 March	A Man called Ove
	Frederick Batman
4 April	Small Great Things
	Jodi Picoult
2 May	A Woman's Life
-	Guy de Maupassant
6 June	The Quaker Cafe
	Brenda Bevan Remmes

Flower Calendar

December

- 3 Mrs M. Hunter
- 10 Mrs M. Gourlay
- 17 Mrs A. Reekie
- 24 Miss Youngson's Legacy
- 31 Flower Fund

Once again, the ladies of the Flower Committee would like to express their thanks to all those who have contributed to the beautiful flowers which decorate the Sanctuary each Sunday. We know these are very much appreciated by those who attend Church and also by those who receive them after the Service. The Flower Calendar for 2018 will be available at the end of November. Anyone who wishes to contribute can place their name beside a vacant date. Thank you again for your continuing support. Sheila Taylor, Flower Convenor **The Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal** in 2016 enabled Blythswood to gather and distribute 121,474 shoeboxes.

This is approximately 4% more than 2014. The shoeboxes received last year were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Mannofield Church Guild and friends filled 86 boxes in 2016, an increase of 31 from 2015.

Thank you to all who helped support this most worthy cause.

Christian humour at Christmas

Cryptic Christmas Card



A man sent his friend a fryptic Christmas card. It

said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. In July he received the explanation on a postcard: "No L."

Inn Full

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from house to house knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back, "YOU SHOULD HAVE BOOKED!" bringing the house down.

Didn't You Get My E-Mail? As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths:

22 October – Mrs Muriel Anderson

27 October – Mr Fred Thomson

29 October – Mrs Sheila Campbell

The deadline for the February mini InSpire 18 January

Material should be deposited in the Church Office or emailed to: <u>roddy@mccollassociates.com</u> <u>office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk</u>

7 Dec: Coffee morning, Balmanno Hall, 10am

- 9 Jan: Dot Getliffe
- 11 Jan: Coffee morning, Balmanno Hall,10am



23 Jan: Cross Reach, Rebecca Tennant



88 boxes filled THANK YOU

Ross Thomson MP

Christmas is my favourite time of year. I always look forward to being able to spend quality time with my friends and family. Too often working life takes over and time spent with loved ones gets less. The wonderful thing about Christmas is the time afforded to us to enjoy the company of loved ones and this is something I have always valued.



During this festive season, we should all of us perhaps spare a thought for those who are not so fortunate to be surrounded by their loved ones. There are many people who will be working away from home this Christmas. Some are serving our country in far-flung places across the globe or some due to illness will not have that quality time with family and friends.

I would like to pay tribute to the many carers who selflessly look after some of the most vulnerable people in our society and above all those working tirelessly in our hospitals and in our emergency services. They are always on duty so that we can all feel and be safe during this festive season.

As always at this time of year, you cannot help but reflect on the year that has passed. 2017 has been another dramatic year in politics. In June, I had the true honour and the privilege of being elected as your Member of Parliament for Aberdeen South.

Since June I've hit the ground running: meeting ministers to make the case for Aberdeen. For example, I've met with Philip Hammond, the Chancellor to discuss decommissioning and the need for Transferable Tax History to extend the life of mature oil fields. I've met with the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, around the sale of blades and how we can tackle knife crime. I've raised our woeful quality of broadband coverage with the Digital and Culture Minister Matt Hancock. In Parliament, I regularly raise questions and stand up for Aberdeen South on the quality of life issues that affect our community every day.

I hold regular surgeries, and since June I've helped hundreds of constituents with their concerns. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my constituents and readers of InSpire Magazine a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

As always please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can help you with any problems, address any issues or answer any questions. I am always happy to help.

Ross Thomson MP Email: <u>ross.thomson.mp@parliament.uk;</u> Tel: 01224592229 Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/rossthomsonMP</u> Instagram: <u>https://www.instagram.com/rossthomson_mp</u>

Airyhall Primary School Report October 2017

Because of lack of space it has not been possible to include reports on the activities of all Primaries — Editor

Early Stages

The Early Stages classes have been completing comparative studies between the rainforest and our local woodland areas. They learned all about the different wildlife and different types of plants found in the contrasting settings. The classes also looked after their own potted plants in class. Primary 3 was also very fortunate to have a visitor from NesBrec to discuss the local wildlife that can be spotted around the North East and we have been encouraged to send in any sightings of local wildlife to their website.

Primary 4

Primary 4 started the term by welcoming the Commonwealth Baton Relay to Aberdeen. They visited the Aberdeen Sports Village, took part in a number of sports activities and with everyone managing to all hold the baton before it headed off for the rest of the relay. They spent the rest of the term learning about Childhood in World War 2 and the Victorian times and making comparisons to the current day.

Primary 5 and Primary 6

The pupils in the P5, P5/6 and P6 classes have been learning about the Jacobites. They wrote letters to the Chief of the MacDonald Clan from Bonnie Prince Charlie and also wrote Newspaper reports on the Battle of Culloden.

Primary 6 and Primary 7

The pupils in P6/7 and P7 have been learning about Victorians in Aberdeen. They followed the Victorian trail around Aberdeen and took part in a Victorian School Day on the last day of term. They also completed homework where they created their own Victorian living space in miniature dioramas.

Citizens of Airyhall Community

At Airyhall School we have a huge commitment to our community and we wish to ensure our pupils grow up to be responsible citizens within their local community. As part of this we take part in initiatives like Eco Schools, Rights Respecting Schools, Junior Road Safety Officers and Fair Trade.

We have been very busy with our Eco Schools commitment and have recently achieved our fifth Green Flag award. In order to achieve this we have engaged with Slopefield Allotments on a yearly basis and work closely with Terry Stott, ACC and the James Hutton Institute to deliver high quality learning and teaching in the area of sustainable living. As part of this our Eco Group pupils made presentations to Beautiful Scotland and the It's Your Neighbourhood teams. We were very fortunate that we supported Aberdeen City to get their Gold award from Aberdeen in Bloom and also achieved 'Outstanding' in our It's Your

Neighbourhood Award.

In October, the Rights Respecting Group hosted a whole school charity event to raise money for the Charity 'Habitat for Humanity'. They raised a total of £695 for the charity by hosting a games event in the school hall. They will also be collecting shoes for the charity 'Shoe Share' (a collaboration between UNICEF and Clarks) this term.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PUPILS AND STAFF







THURSDAYS @ MANNOFIELD



If you would like to have an afternoon out to meet and chat with friendly folks and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a *fine piece* then *please* come and join us.

THURSDAY FLY CUP Mannofield Church 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Put the dates in your diary First Thursday every month...... 4 January, 1 February, 1 March 5 April and 3 May

There will be different fun activities to enjoy each Thursday, perhaps a quiz, table games, demonstrations or DVDs. These are a few suggestions and you can also let us know what you would like to do. The activities will of course be followed by the fly cup!

COME ALONG EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Need transport? Call the church office 01224 310087 to arrange.



You may have seen us out and about...

On Sunday 5 November, 21 volunteers from Mannofield Church, both the young and not so young, embarked upon the miahtv challenge of clearing the pavements of the copious amount of leaves - a particularly difficult task at this time of year! The fallen leaves, whilst beautiful on a dry day, can become guite slippery underfoot when wet. As we have a number of older residents living in the Mannofield Church area, we thought it would be good for us to focus our efforts on the footpaths, thick with leaves.

The volunteers worked hard to clear away the leaves and approximately 90 bags of litter and leaves were collected in total. A huge thank you and well done to everyone involved, especially the BB's for all their efforts.



A big thank you to Aberdeen City Council too, for their assistance. They very kindly provide the essential equipment for the volunteers and then removed all the refuse bags which is a great service.



Let Someone Else Do It

Not much to cheer about on the climate change front these days. On the bright side, we've had less winter snow and it almost got warm for a few days this summer. That's fine, but our Aberdeen weather is hardly a speck in the panoply of global climate, is it?



The latest news seems to be that if sea temperatures continue to rise at their present rate, seals, cod, haddock and herring will no longer be found in these parts. Just a minor irritation compared with the possibility of real hurricanes reaching these shores.

Others are already suffering much more than we are, whether from drought, flooding, scorching heat, forest fires, rising sea levels-you name it. What might all that lead to – famines, mass migrations and wars.

So climate change really is a serious worry. I've heard some people say that since Scotland contributes to only 2% of the problem, any effort we make would be irrelevant. This is absolute nonsense. If everyone took that attitude, then no-one would do anything. Norwegians, Spaniards, Israelis, New Zealanders and anyone else could apply the same flawed logic to themselves until, I suppose, things got too hot to handle.

It's not good enough to leave it to governments, either. Each one of us has a personal carbon footprint that's capable of being reduced. We all know that's possible but it's easy to find excuses.

To quote Patrick Geddes (a famous environmentalist and Ballater loon), "Think global, act local". Or in Luke chapter 6, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."



Alistair Stark, Convenor Eco Congregation Committee

Mannofield Ringers

Recently there was a guest appearance at our regular Wednesday morning meeting - the HRGB (Handbell Ringers of Great Britain) teddy bear! He has been visiting all the handbell groups in the UK to mark the Golden Jubilee of HRGB. He was also present at our Scottish Autumn Gold rally in



Bankfoot, near Perth, in October where over 100 Ringers from all over Scotland gathered for a mass ringing session under the direction of the musical director of the American School in Paris.

Teddy was also pleased to see our new sanctuary at Mannofield Church which will be hosting the annual Spring Rally on 24 March 2018.

Come along and listen on that date at 3.30pm and hear the many teams ringing together. It's quite an amazing sound!

LifeGroups are taking place at various times throughout the week.

If there is not a LifeGroup available at a time that suits you, don't be put off. It may be possible to start one up at a time that will suit you.

For more details please contact: Church Office on 01224 310087

Alternatively, check the church notice board for regularly updated information about the LifeGroups, or by looking on the Church Facebook page www.facebook.com/mannofield.church

Monday in the Manse: 7pm-8pm Monday: 7.15pm-8.45pm Tuesday: 1.30pm-3pm Thursday: 11am – 12noon (in Sanctuary)

Dot's Ditties

deaconpink.blogspot.co.uk

A taster ... a day in the life of your Parish Assistant

Coincidence???

Last week my Line Manager sent me a list of older folks in Residential Homes for me to visit before the rush and bustle of the C word or A word for Advent. So I decided to go to a lovely Care Home to see 4 residents to pass on greetings from Mannofield church and to deliver a current church magazine.

I only managed to see 2 out of 4 folks, because at 2pm (unbeknown of course to me) there was an Activity Session/Discussion in the Common area. The Manager kindly foisted upon me a welcome cup of tea. I chatted to one resident, before moving on to another room where Resident 2 lived. She was having personal care at the time so I went back to the foyer with my tea and texts.

After a few moments, a member of staff informed me that Resident 2 was ready to see me. She was lying very still in her bed (there were very helpful photos on the room doors of each resident so I knew what he/she would look like). There wasn't a lot of response but for a gorgeous smile as I waved goodbye. Several minutes later I left.

Fast forward to Saturday in Balmanno Hall in church, and I noticed the Church Officer pointing at my Body Shop stall (selling off one of my daughter's surplus beauty products) and me.

"Yes, I was the Parish Assistant who had left her card at the Home, and yes, I'd be happy to speak to the gentleman in the vestry."

Turns out, how timely that visit to his wife (Resident 2) had been. She had often been very ill during her residency, and her health had now greatly deteriorated. The gentleman said how thankful he was that I'd been to see his wife, and would I kindly do the funeral when the time came. I felt so grateful to God for that God-incidence that had led me there two days before.

These encounters greatly encourage me that I am in God's will and in His time, even when I don't realise it till later! Dot Getliffe







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Advent Diary



2 Dec Saturday Advent Bazaar	2-4pm	Santa's Grotto,	Heart of the Communi	
	f	ood tastings, crafts, games		
	C	Christmas tree lights switch	on and Carols	
3 Dec 1st Sunday in Advent	Fami	ly Service including Advent	Communion - 10am	
6 Dec Wednesday	"Blue"	Christmas Service - 2pm		
	A <i>Reflection</i> for those who find the Christmas period difficult- tea and cake to follow			
7 Dec Thursday		mas "Sing - a - Long" - 2pm with tea and a <i>fine piece</i>		
10 Dec 2nd Sunday in Advent	Servic	e -10am; Evening Service 6	5.30pm	
		Lessons and Caro		
17 Dec 3rd Sunday in Advent	Family	VNativity Service - 10am		
KEEP	Carol	singing around the Parish		
CALM	(starti	ng at 3pm at the Church)		
AND SING		Come and join us		
CHRISTMAS		Church - Christmas Special		
CAROLS	Carol	s in Café Connect - 4pm for	4.30pm	
21 Dec Thursday	Lunch Club - 1pm: Entertainment 2 -3 pm Cost -£5		2 -3 pm	
24 Dec 4th Sunday in Advent	Family	Service - 10am		
	Christmas Eve Family Service - 7pm			
		Night Service - 11.30pm d wine and mince pies 11pr	n)	
Christmas Dav	Fami	ly Service 10.30	am	





How do I do it?

It's easy, rather than treating yourself everyday, treat someone who really needs it. Simply get a bag and each day of Advent add a new item. See the items in the calendar above for suggestions.

Then what?

After you have filled your bag with items, bring it to Mannofield Church or Cafe Connect between December 24th and January 8th. We'll distribute the goods to help families in the New Year.



