

INSPIRE

Love Came Down At Christmas



MANNOFIELD CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ABERDEEN

Registered Scottish Charity SC 001680

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Ramsay and Chalmers

are pleased to have been part of the

Mannofield Church Development Project



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'ABERDEEN - THE CITY THAT CARES' FOOD APPEAL

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

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

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

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

Companies minimum £50 per month

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"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



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We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Architects
for the upgrade and
refurbishment of
Mannofield Church

MRT



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Dear Friends

One of the familiar themes of the Advent and Christmas Season is the picture created by the prophet Isaiah, of a vision of a new earth in which, *'the leopard lies down with the kid, the calf and the lamb... and a little child shall lead them.'* Isaiah 11: 6-8

The 19th century Quaker artist Edward Hicks painted 61 different versions of this scene.

One of these can be viewed at

<http://www.worcesterart.org/collection/American/1934.65.html>

Isaiah's 'Peaceable Kingdom' speaks of a vision of creation that is vastly different from the fractured, violent and bleak world of his day where relationships between the different races and classes were badly broken.

His vision, just like that of Edward Hicks, paints a picture of God's will for our earth and humanity, that contrasts so starkly with the brokenness we see too frequently in our modern world.

The rhetoric surrounding the recent Presidential election in the USA highlighted just how much the world of today seems to have become narrow in outlook.

The barriers that separate us - human being, from human being – seem as large and foreboding as ever.

This is why the season of Advent and Christmas is so important - especially for those who participate in church services during the season. We are reminded that despite the 'darkness' of the season and the reality of the world's brokenness, there are even yet signposts that seek to point us to a vision of a different world and better humanity.

This is a season in which we take the time to celebrate the good things of life. We enjoy time with friends and loved ones and can give gratitude for the blessings we do experience in life. This time of celebration and gratitude is important.

It is also important however to listen to the voices of the prophets – both ancient and current – who paint a picture for us to ponder of a world where despite the differences between us we can learn to live peacefully with each other.

I wish each one of you the blessings of the season and I hope that you might join us for the special Christmas services this year in the recently refurbished Church at the *'heart of your community'*. Best Wishes

Keith



Poppyscotland Appeal

The total collected for Poppyscotland at the Remembrance Day service was £733 plus Gift Aid where appropriate.



CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2016

| | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| Sun11 Dec | 10am | Morning Worship <i>Nativity Sunday</i> |
| Sat17 Dec | 3– 4pm | Community Carols Meet at church then various locations in Community returning to church |
| Sun18 Dec | 10am | Morning Worship Church re-dedication The Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland |
| | 3.15pm | Craigelea Gardens Service |
| Wed 21Dec | 10.30am | Midweek Service <i>Last Midweek Service until 11 January</i> |
| Sat 24 Dec | 7pm | Family Christmas Eve Service |
| | 11.30pm | Watchnight Service Carol singing from 11.15pm |
| Sun 25 Dec Note later start time | 10.30am | Christmas Day Family Service |
| Sun 1 Jan | 10am | Morning Worship |
| Sun 8 Jan | 10am | Morning Worship |
| Wed11 Jan | 10.30am | Midweek Service |
| Sun15 Jan | 10am | Morning Worship |
| | 4.30pm | Café Church |



CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Minister | Rev Keith Blackwood | kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk | 01224315748 |
| Student Assistant Minister | Alex Evangelista | alex.evangelista@ptsem.edu | 01224314730 |
| 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 |

Our First Eco Award



Mannofield Church has won its first Eco Congregation Scotland Award. It will be presented to the congregation by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, at our re-dedication service on 18 December.

The assessors were particularly impressed by “the redevelopment of the church buildings, bringing them into the 21st century with efficient heating and lighting, especially as the buildings will become an important hub in the local community”.

This achievement is due to the dedication, skill and sheer hard work demonstrated by the whole congregation over many years. Of course, it's not the end of the story, because looking after God's creation is a never-ending task.



One small step towards future Awards has already been taken. If you have been moved to achieve something for the benefit of our environment, add a wee note to the “Eco Congregation Achievements” file in the Church office. It's already starting to fill up.

Alistair Stark
Convenor
Eco Congregation Committee

Support our communities

2016 has been another memorable year for many good reasons, but it has also brought challenges to our communities and wider city area. It is a privilege to work hard and represent my constituency and the progressive communities within it.



Maureen Watt MSP

Aberdeen has faced a difficult twelve months as the oil and gas downturn has continued and local businesses have had a challenging task adapting to the changes within the local economy.

Christmas is a fantastic time of parties, fun and a bit of overindulgence on the mince pies, so remember to stay active, wrap up warm and get out and about. When it comes to planning our celebrations, it's important to take time to consider the actions we take and the impact they have on our communities. There is a fantastic drive across the city now to remind people to buy local produce and goods because when we shop locally we keep boosting the economy of our city and business men and women working hard within it.

We have a lot to plan, organise and celebrate over the next few weeks but if we put extra consideration and effort into shopping locally for our Christmas dinner and gifts for loved ones we can help make a success of the season.

Times are tough in this city, but there are more ways to support our communities than just spending within them. If money is tight, give your time to drop in on a neighbour who is on their own or a local group needing volunteer support over the coming months.

My sincerest wish is that you find peace and happiness this holiday season.

Maureen Watt

44th Boys Brigade



In September Company Section boys had a weekend away in Carrbridge. We stayed in the bunkhouse and enjoyed a number of activities over the weekend including archery and zipwire. The zipwire park was brilliant with longer and longer zipwires each time. Sadly due to the high winds the 500m wire was closed but we had extra runs on the 250m one. We also spent some time on Loch Morlich on 3 man Canadian canoes. Great fun. At Halloween we had a pumpkin carving competition and glow stick fun in the dark.



Anchor Boys have also been busy as usual and have been trying out some new games as well as old favourites like the parachute and dodgeball. Recently they made some Halloween pumpkin art using an apple cut in half as a stamp. They have also been learning about road safety and firework safety.



At Junior Section numbers are low but enthusiasm is high. Recently the boys had a Lego challenge trying to make the largest and tallest Lego structure. For Halloween the boys dressed up and decorated 'spooky cookies'. The blindfold game called 'Duckie' remains a favourite. Blindfolded boys have to locate the plastic duck as it travels around the hall by the sound of occasional 'quacks'.



Anchor Boys for boys in P1 - P3 meets on Thursday 6.00 - 7.00pm.

Junior Section for boys in P4 - P6 meets on Thursdays 7.00 - 8.15pm.

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

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

Dave Tait

Captain

44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade

Christmas a timely reminder

The past year has been a challenging time in national and global politics and the tensions of heated debate and extreme views have been seeping into our communities and creating a lot of unrest and divisiveness. A lot of this cannot be helped - many constituents wrote to me following the EU referendum to express their disappointment to see xenophobic attitudes had overtaken peaceful debate and conversation. During and after that we witnessed one of the most aggressive political campaigns in recent years ahead of the USA presidential elections. It is understandable that watching the news and reading the paper can often leave us feeling disappointed by the attitudes of our fellow man, especially in an age of such fantastic technological innovation which should make connecting and communicating easier than ever before.



Callum McCaig MP

Christmas and Hogmanay are times for celebration and joy. We will spend the next few weeks reunited with friends, family and neighbours and reflecting on the year past and what the next twelve months will bring. Personally I very much enjoyed attending the opening of the newly refurbished Sanctuary at Mannofield and seeing the hard work and commitment that went into making such fantastic improvements to the church. In the dark, cold winter months Christmas always serves as a timely reminder to be grateful for the happiness in our lives and what truly brings us joy. It can also be a time to reflect on what it means to be accepting and welcoming and generous to those with whom we disagree but seek to build a peaceful dialogue. We can even take that a step further and decide to make changes in our own lives to make our communities better and kinder places to live in.

If there has been a point over the past year when you have felt moved by a bigger issue in the community or country, use this time to look into joining a local group which you may be able to help. We all have a responsibility to recognise harmful attitudes and destructive language and to do our best to set a better example for debate and discussion.

We need to respect facts and be able to argue our point of view without personal attacks. In times of change it is easy to feel anxious for our community, our wider society and even our world but it is important to remember the best way we can improve all of that is through our own actions at home, at work and in our communities.

Callum McCaig MP, Aberdeen South

Meditation

They call it a carbuncle -
there's even an award for it.
Grey concrete box.
Rising damp and festering mould,
thirty-five floors high.
Swaying precariously in the cold east
wind.
Their own people deserted long ago,
a slum, not fit for living in.

Ugly, grey concrete box.
But for me, life on the 22nd. floor
is sanctuary, despite its apparent
ugliness.
You see, it's not Rwanda
and I no longer have to run.
Thank God.

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

With the changing seasons comes a change of author for this article. Dr Lawton has retired and now enjoys a slower pace with travel and art taking up much of his time.

Triage

Many practices now “triage” calls for on the day appointments. This is essentially asking about the problem so that the doctor can prioritise those patients who need to be seen most quickly. Triage has become necessary because of the increased workload and demand for appointments. We need to ensure that the patients who need to be seen on the day get an appointment. Those with non-urgent conditions may be required to wait longer for a non-urgent appointment or directed to other services such as minor ailment clinics at pharmacies, self referral to physiotherapy, optician or dental appointments.

In our practice the emergency triage doctor sits next to the receptionists who take the calls every day. The trained staff will ask for some information on the condition requiring an appointment and this information is shared with the GP. The GP may advise the receptionist to offer an appointment based on the information provided, other times they may need to speak to the patient in order to get more information.

Flu jab It's not too late to get your flu jab from your local practice. Over 65's will have received their annual letter from the Scottish Government. Give our practice a call to arrange an appointment. It is also helpful if you phone them to say you don't want it. Anyone under 65 who is in an “at risk” category should have received a letter inviting them to make an appointment. Give your practice a call if you are unsure if you qualify or not.

Festive preparation

GP Practices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday after both Christmas and New Year. Ensure you order any regularly prescribed medications allowing plenty of time for collection ahead of the closures. Simple remedies can be purchased from local pharmacies though you can speak to the pharmacist for advice.



Do you know the current recommended weekly alcohol limit? 14 units. What is a unit? ie 1/2 pint beer, small glass wine, single measure of spirit.

Useful phone numbers

NHS24 - **111** or for serious accidents and emergencies - **999**

General switchboard for NHS wards and departments **0345 456 600**

Do you have a bone, muscle or joint problem? Would you like advice from a physio?**0845 604 0001** or www.nhsinform.co.uk/msk

Fire Safety and Rescue – free home fire safety checks and information –
Community Action Team – **01224 618342**

Telecare – Equipment to aid living independently at home - **01224 788616**

Care and Repair – provide free advice and technical assistance regarding – home repairs, home improvement, adaptations, safety and security measures, heating, home and fire safety - **01224 251133**

Need travel advice for attending health and social care appointments?

Talk to THInc **01224 665568**

40th Guide news



We currently have a lively bunch of 12 girls on a Wednesday evening. Since the summer we have had lots of things to keep us busy.

The girls always have lots to get through in an evening. They completed their agility badge last term and we had one guide Rhiannon Walker achieve her Baden Powell (BP) badge, the highest award in guides where the girls complete a series of 10 challenges across 5 different zones.



When we have a special BP party the guide chooses what she would like to do. Rhiannon chose a film theme and we dressed as characters from our favourite films.

We have also had a Harry Potter themed party, with games of Quidditch, herbology class and potions class. The girls also made very realistic wands.

Recently we had a joint night with the Wednesday Brownies and there were lots of challenges involved there too.

We are looking forward to a Pilates evening soon and a trip out somewhere at Christmas time.

Any girls age 10 to 14 are welcome to join us.

Heather Tait

FUND RAISING FOR HAZLEHEAD ACADEMY LIBRARY I am a keen supporter of Hazlehead Academy's campaign to buy new books. I have been able to gain a few hundred pounds of public



funding for this important cause. The school is one of the largest in the city and yet has the lowest number of books. The school, therefore, aims to buy around 5000 new books. Please consider donating money either personally or through companies or organisations that you know. Donors names will be displayed in the books. A donation of £10 will pay for one book. £50 will pay for a shelf of books and £250 will pay for a bookcase of books. Please let me know if you wish to donate. You can also write to: Hazlehead Academy Book Campaign, Hazlehead Academy, Groats Road, Aberdeen AB15 8BE

MANNOFIELD CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

It is wonderful to see the completion of the Mannofield Church refurbishment project. The new interiors are attractive with a pleasant sense of space and openness. The expansion of the church premises will accommodate many diverse uses that are of benefit to residents. Our area generally has a low number of public facilities so it is especially welcome to have this excellent and impressive addition to local life.

MANNOFIELD CLEAN UP

I am really grateful to Mannofield Church for its litter-picking day of action. It was inspiring to see the people from the church out in their yellow vests taking responsibility to clean local streets. This was a generous service done on behalf of others and the area covered was large. Sadly, the large amount collected shows that more needs to be done for a better and cleaner environment. Thank you to all. Please let me know of any queries or comments and I will do what I can to help. *Martin Greig*
mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk Tel 07920806332

Hello, my name is Rob McLean and I am one of the Sergeants here at the West End and Hazlehead Community Policing Teams.

POLICE
SCOTLAND

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about "Light's Out, You're Out", an initiative currently being run by Police Scotland. As the nights get darker earlier, we are reminding you to review your home security.



Rob McLean

Although the number of thefts from homes is relatively small, these incidents still occur in the area including Airyhall, Ashley, Braeside, Broomhill, Craigiebuckler, Ferryhill, Mannofield, Ruthrieston and Seafield.

Some advice on keeping your home secure:

Use timer switches on lights and radios to make your home look occupied. Ensure all your windows and doors are secure when you leave or go to bed. If possible, use security lighting at the front and back of your property. Make sure all ladders and garden tools are locked away when not being used. Use a good quality lock on all garden sheds, garages and outhouses.

Another handy tool to be aware of is the "UK National Property Register".

This is a website where you can 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 at: www.immobilise.com and it really is very straightforward to use. If your valuable has a serial number, it is eligible for registering!

This is a resource that I and a lot of my colleagues use and it is very worthwhile. There are also methods of marking your valuables with UV pens.

My colleagues and I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and new year when it comes.

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 AiryhallBroomhillGarthdeeCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

MANNOFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Balmanno Hall

Thursday 15 December
Thursday 19 January

Lunch served 1pm,
entertainment 2-3pm
cuppa at 2.30pm

Cost: £5
All welcome



**WANTED
FOREIGN NOTES
and COINS
obsolete BRITISH
NOTES and COINS**



For the benefit of CHRISTIAN AID
and MANNOFIELD CHURCH
DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Collection Box at Mannofield Church
during months of December 2016
and January 2017.

Aberdeen's Syrian New Scots

**CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS
DAY "open-plate" offerings** will be
donated to assist Syrian Refugees
who are now settling in Aberdeen.

The donation will be made via
Aberdeen Presbytery and Partners.

*"We prayed for the victims of
persecution in Syria 19 months ago,
and now a small number of them live
in our city. We know that others will
come soon to make Aberdeen their
home.*

*Please continue to pray for them and
for those who remain behind in the
refugee camps."*

Further information available from :
[http://www.aberdeenpresbytery.org.uk/
refugees.html](http://www.aberdeenpresbytery.org.uk/refugees.html)

Prayer

Let us look beyond
the ugliness,
Take our thinking
outside
the grey concrete
box,
to a place
where our eyes are opened
and we see the opportunity,
of freedom and love,
for those
who run from
violence
and
fear
to
sanctuary.



Amen

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

Mannofield Church



Saturday 28 January

**Entry £1.00
Tea/ Coffee**



Councillor Angela Taylor

Christmas for many of us is the time when we meet up with family and friends, exchanging presents, eating well and having fun.



However, this year has been a difficult one for Aberdeen. Nearly 120,000 people have lost jobs in the oil and gas industry – we all know someone, whether it be a family member, a friend or neighbour who has sadly lost their job. So Christmas 2016 may not be a very happy time for many in our city.

Losing a job has been described as a “bereavement” – there is grief, pain, fear and emotional devastation. We often hear when we lose a job “it’s not personal” – it may not be personal to your employer, but it is to you. As an employee you believed that you were of value to the company and now they have said they can do the job without you and you are left feeling valueless. We should all be aware this year that there are many families and individuals deeply concerned about their future – and we have to be good friends and neighbours and make sure we take the time to talk to and more importantly listen, and look out for them.

Mental health is as important as physical health. All of us take comfort in structure and routine and unemployment disrupts this and can impact on our mental health.

Mental Health Awareness Week in 2017 will take place from 8-14 May and the theme is (living with) change and how we cope living in an uncertain world and how we can protect our mental health when things are outwith our control.

WINTER FESTIVAL 2016/17

By the time “InSpire” is published we will be well into the 2016/17 Winter Festival and I am sure we all will try to support our city’s winter festival and local producers by visiting and experiencing many of the great activities we have on offer this year. Last year’s Christmas Village was a tremendous success. This year we have added The Twelve Days of Christmas Wooden Sculpture Trail and the Christmas Tree Maze as well as the usual favourites of the open air ice rink, fairground rides, market stalls, live entertainment, carol concerts, refreshments, and the nativity scene.

I would also encourage visiting the award winning **SPECTRA** Festival which will take place over four nights from the 9 to 12 February 2017.

In 2017 it will celebrate the Scottish Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, exploring Aberdeen’s past through this year’s theme “A New Light”.

Audiences will be invited to engage with playful, accessible and high quality performances, spaces and works of art that marry light, sound and interactive experiences. SPECTRA 2017 will be an exciting family event bringing light into the depths of winter. Last year’s event was fantastic and I am very much looking forward to seeing what SPECTRA 2017 will deliver - and it’s free!

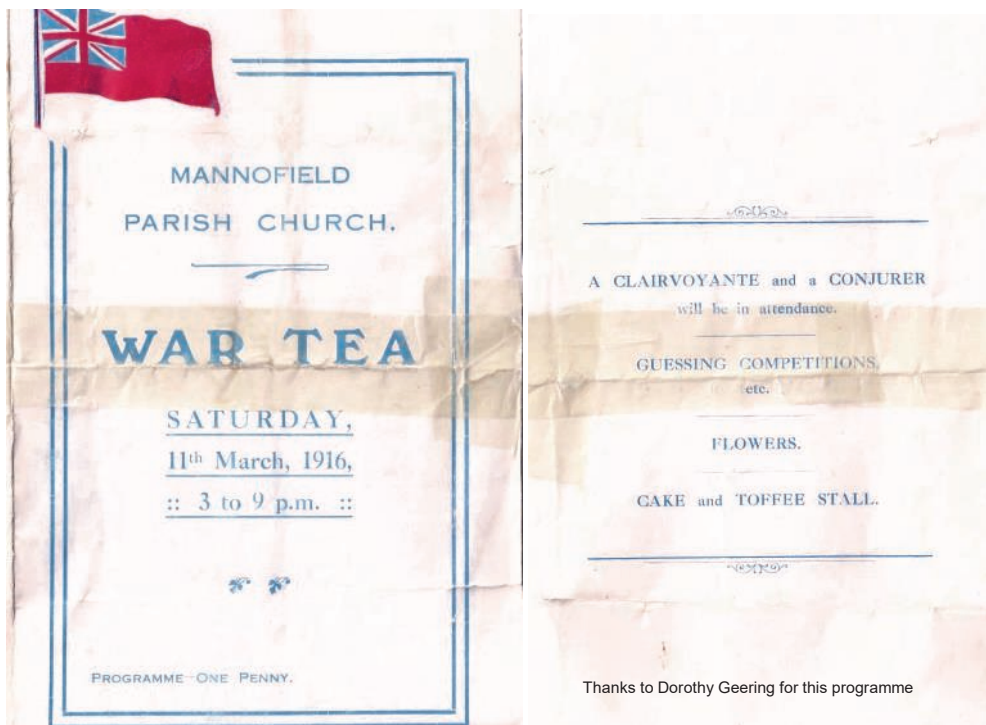
Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

If you would like to contact me, my details are:

Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Mobile 07876 748527

From the Archives



Members of [44th Aberdeen Boys' Brigade](#) along with Brownies, Guides and their leaders before parading at this year's Remembrance Service.

Along with our congregation they stood at 11am to remember those in our armed forces who

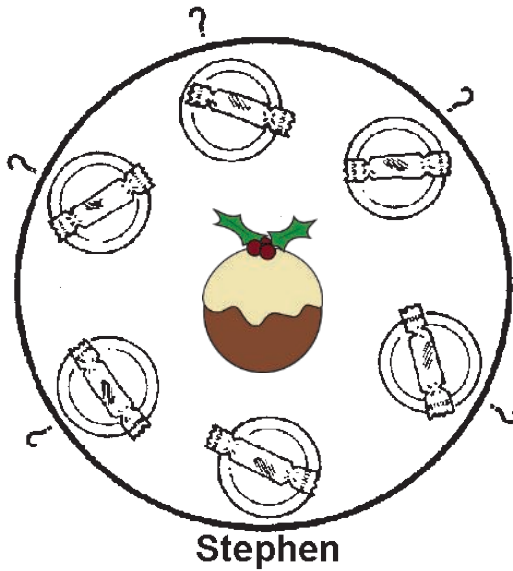
The Peace Family are sitting at a round table ready to enjoy their Christmas dinner.

Clare is two along from Eric, who is sitting next to David.
Oliver is also sitting two along from Eric.

Next to Oliver is Tanya.

Clare has Tanya on one side and Stephen on the other.

Where is everyone sitting?





Can you discover all the Christmas words by using the code?



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

smcqomqmj

kzgmol

ixzdma

jkzgm

lqmtqmei

nmlfl

gxi

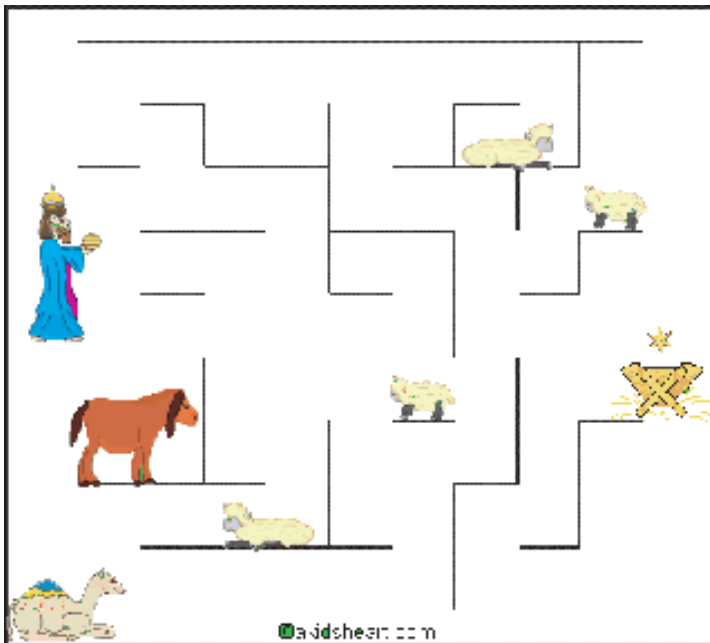
nxlmtq

ykziom

uekzdpzlymzlm

zkcpvca

lcksom



Can you help the Wise Man find his way through the maze to the manger?



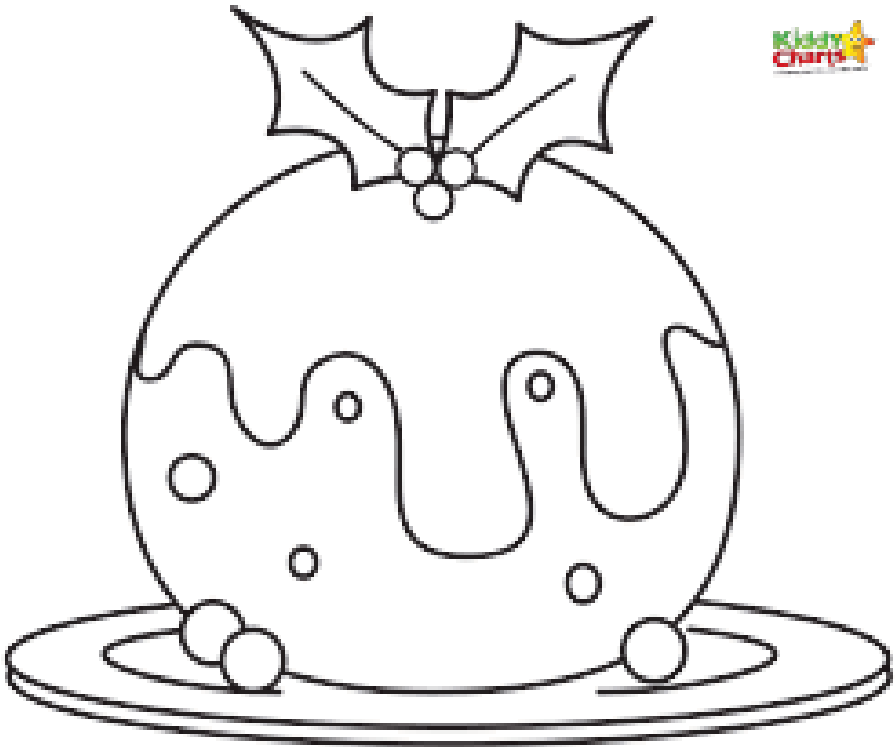
Can you rearrange the letters to give the ingredients
of a Christmas pudding?

TUGMEN
DRABNY
GAURS
LEPE

ROLUF
TEUS
NISSAIR
EPICS

KLIM
SGEG
TRANSCUR
SLAMNOD

Colour in the Christmas pudding!



Who delivers
presents to cats?
Santa Paws!

What do you get if
you cross Santa with a
duck?
A Christmas Quacker!

Christmas Word Search

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

GOLD

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

WISE

MEN

FOLLOW

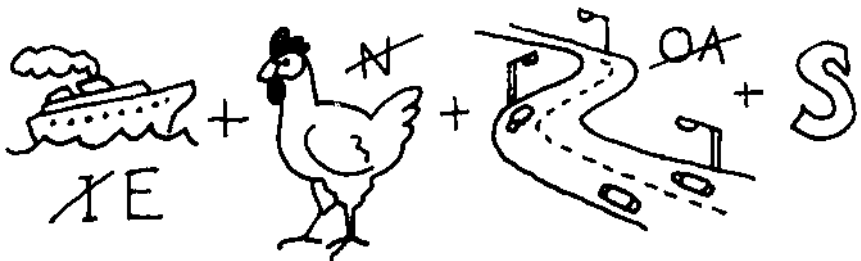
STAR

HEROD

DREAM

WORSHIP

Who heard the Good News first?



Alpha 2017 – a new experience!



The Alpha Course is a series of sessions over ten weeks exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

The Mannofield Alpha Course starts on Monday 16 January 2017, 7-9 pm

We meet in the Balmanno Hall. The evening starts with a meal, followed by a DVD and discussion.

The 2017 material is entirely new and the Alpha Team looks forward to welcoming you.

You may have seen banners featuring the adventurer Bear Grylls and as he said...

*“Finding a simple faith that empowers my life?
To me that’s been my greatest adventure.”*

Come along and find your adventure.

More information from:

Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com or 01224 681384

Church office office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk or 01224 310087

<http://alpha.org/>

Looking after our community

A group of 24 happy and willing volunteers from Mannofield Church gathered together on 23 October for a few hours to go out into the community to help tidy up around the Mannofield area.



The helpers, both the young and the old, split into 3 groups, trying to cover as much of our community as possible. One group worked at Airyhall - the cemetery, shops and library - while another group tackled the Deeside Way. The third group stayed closer to home around the Mannofield Church area and tidied around the shops, Thorngrove House and a small part of Anderson Drive. All the volunteers had fun and managed to fill over 70 black bags of litter and leaves, which Aberdeen City Council very kindly collected from the church after our event. There was a delicious bowl of hot soup and a warm smile waiting for everyone back at the church which was very welcome as everybody had worked up a hearty appetite.



Thank you and well done to all involved!

Reporting back – Councillor Ian Yuill Road safety and speeding



Cllr Ian Yuill

I am often contacted by residents worried about the speed at which some people drive on some local roads. I regularly highlight these concerns to both the police and the council's traffic management team and urge them to take action to tackle this dangerous problem - and I will continue to do this.

I was very pleased to see pupils from Airyhall School working recently with the police to "educate" drivers speeding near the school on Countesswells Road.

Great Western Road / Anderson Drive traffic lights

I am regularly contacted by people asking why it is not possible to provide right turn filters at the traffic lights on Great Western Road at its junction with Anderson Drive and South Anderson Drive. As Anderson Drive and South Anderson Drive are part of a trunk road these traffic lights are managed by a Scottish Government agency – Transport Scotland – and not the city council. Transport Scotland has consistently refused to take action to make it easier for drivers on Great Western Road to turn right at these lights.

Once the Western Peripheral Route is opened however Anderson Drive and South Anderson Drive will be "detrunked" and control of the traffic lights will pass to the city council. I have already highlighted to council roads staff that I believe action should be taken as quickly as possible to make it easier – and safer - for drivers to turn right from Great Western Road at this junction.

I am always happy to help residents with problems and complaints. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 77 Duthie Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 7PS

01224 346627 (council) 01224 310746 (home)
iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk, www.ianyuill.org.uk

Christian Today



Jokes for Christmas Crackers

Q: Who was the shortest man in the Bible?

A: Peter – he slept on his watch.

Q: Who was the first motorcyclist in the Bible?

A: David – the sound of his triumph was heard throughout the land.

Q: Who was the first ice-cream maker mentioned in the Bible?

A: Walls of Jericho.

Q: Who was the best comedian in the Bible?

A: Samson – he brought the house down.

Q: Who was the best financier in the Bible?

A: Noah – he kept his company afloat while the rest of the world was in liquidation.

Q: Where is cricket mentioned in the Bible?

A: Peter stood up with the eleven and was bold.

Q: What was the first tennis match in the Bible?

A: When Joseph served in the courts of Pharaoh.

Q: What sort of man was Boaz before he got married?

A: Ruth-less.

Q: What did Adam tell his children when they had to leave the Garden of Eden?

A: Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Mannofield Prayer Group

Prayer matters!



As the poet Tennyson said:
"More things are wrought by
prayer than this world dreams
of".

A group of us at Mannofield meets every Wednesday morning at 9.45am in the Sanctuary to discuss briefly topics of general interest, world affairs or those closer to our hearts. After that we have a short time of prayer together. Please join us if you wish.

We also have a prayer circle which is entirely confidential and we would be happy to receive a note of anything you would like us to pray for. You don't need to be a Church member to make a request. It may be for yourself, a friend or relative in hospital or someone known to you who is going through a difficult time. Look out for our prayer tree in the sanctuary and add your request to a blank leaf or leave a note at the Church office.

Mannofield Prayer Group

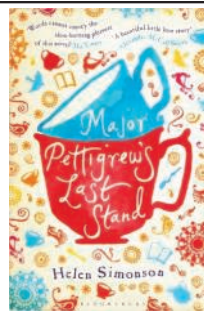
Older members of the congregation will be sad to hear that Mrs Jean Falconer, the widow of the late Rev James Falconer (Minister here 1959-1975) has died in Oxfordshire.

Our thoughts are with her daughter Frances, her son Keith and their families.

Mannofield Church Book Club

1 February 2017

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson



Major Ernest Pettigrew is perfectly content to lead a quiet life in the sleepy village of Edgecombe St Mary, away from the meddling of the locals and his overbearing son. When his brother dies, the Major finds himself seeking companionship with the village shopkeeper, Mrs Ali.

Drawn together by a love of books and the loss of their partners, they are soon forced to contend with irate relatives and gossiping villagers. The perfect gentleman, but the most unlikely hero, the Major must ask himself what matters most: family obligation, tradition or love?

Funny, comforting and heart-warming, *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* proves that sometimes, against all odds, life does give you a second chance.

For more information about Mannofield Book Group contact Niki Anderson on 01224 743484 or nnikibob@aol.com.

Flower Calendar

December

- 11 Mrs A. Reekie
- 18 Flower Fund
- 25 Miss Youngson's Legacy



On behalf of the ladies of the Flower Committee, I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Flower Calendar this year, either by supplying flowers or by donating money.

Your support is very much appreciated and the flowers which are distributed after the Church Service give great pleasure to those who receive them.

Sheila Taylor, Flower Convener.

The Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal in 2015 enabled Blythwood to gather and distribute 116,576 shoeboxes. This is approximately 10% 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 103 boxes in 2016, an increase of 31 from 2015.

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



The Late Betty Thomson

At the October meeting of the Kirk Session tribute was paid to the late Betty Thomson who died peacefully after a short illness.

Betty, together with husband Fred, had a long association with our Church and Betty for over 40 years served the congregation as an Elder. Her friendliness and compassion provided a constant source of encouragement to many in the congregation. This was particularly apparent to those in her Elder's district.

She adored her Church and was committed to the worship and activities of the Church family. This was only surpassed in her affection, by the love she shared with husband Fred and sons Ian and Alan.

We will miss Betty but her example of faithful living remains both a legacy and challenge to us all, as we seek to continue the work she played such a big part in.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Fred, Ian, Alan and their families.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptisms:

Anna Jane Dougal
Jack Steven Lowe
Kai David Williams

New Members:

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Dorothy Butler

The deadline for the February mini InSpire 19 January

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

rodgy@mcollassociates.com
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

MANNOFIELD GUILD



10 January – Alex Evangelista

24 January – John Dunn
Marine Research

GUILD COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 12 January



Be mindful of our neighbours

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. I always look forward to spending quality time with friends and family. The world is so busy, life is so busy, that the time afforded to us at Christmas to enjoy the company of loved ones is something to be cherished.

My thoughts go out to all those who cannot be with their loved ones this year, whether they are working away from home, serving our country or because of illness. With the downturn in oil and gas still being keenly felt in our community, it is important that we remain mindful of our neighbours.

With Christmas trees going up glistening with decorations and people preparing for the Christmas dinner it is too easy to forget those who are less fortunate, struggling to make this Christmas time festive and full of cheer.

The Friends of Hazlehead Park have again organised a Christmas Wonderland event. This will be the fourth year in a row that this event has been organised. This year's Winter Wonderland takes place on Sunday 18 December 12pm to 2.30pm. There will be a Santa Parade with real reindeer, a Rock choir, carol sing-along, singing from Hazlehead School choir, music from Bon Accord Brass Band, lots of craft stalls, delicious mince pies, Santa hats and face painting. It's guaranteed to be a fun-filled event for all of the family.

This time of year always makes me reflect on the year that is about to pass and what a momentous year it has been to reflect on. In May I had the absolute honour and privilege of being elected to the Scottish Parliament to stand up for our North East communities. Since May it has been an extraordinary learning curve. Whether on issues such as spending our city's council tax revenue in the Central belt, the chronic shortage of teachers in our schools and nurses in our hospitals, the woeful quality of our broadband coverage or the very poor financial settlement our city receives, there has been no shortage of challenges for our area.

It has been an incredible time to be involved in politics. We had an extraordinary Scottish Parliament election and a referendum over our membership of the EU where the ensuing political drama is in itself worthy of a television series. Despite the political divisions this year and the ongoing division over the question of independence again it is important, particularly at this time of year, for people to come together.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all 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'm always happy to help.



Ross Thomson MSP

Ross Thomson MSP

ross.thomson.msp@parliament.scot Tel: 0131 3486980



www.facebook.com/rossthomsonMSP



@RossThomsonMSP

Airyhall Primary School Report

Because of lack of space it has only been possible to include reports on the activities of Primaries 3 to 7. Editor



Primary 3

The children were very busy last term when they visited Techfest and were finding out about weather. The girls in Primary 3 joined with the Primary 4 girls to take part in an SFA football tournament to promote girls' football. They are moving on to learning about the health service this term.

Primary 4 and Primary 5

These classes have been learning about historic Aberdeen. Primary 4 pupils went on a tour of the harbour and found out lots of interesting facts. Those in Primary 5 visited the Beach Ballroom to meet author Chris Riddell. They were lucky to get their books signed and one pupil actually had a question illustrated by Chris.

Primary 4/5

Primary 4/5 have been reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. They completed lots of science experiments around the theme of the book and even visited Cocoa Ooze to create their own chocolate creations. Primary 4 and Primary 5 will be completing similar work this coming term.

Primary 5/6

Primary 5/6 have been completing science investigations and also visited Satosphere. They are now moving on to learning about music and dance from around the world. They did some Fairtrade baking for our Fairtrade café. They will also be planting purple crocuses at Slopefield allotments to raise money for and awareness of polio.

Primary 6, Primary 6/7 and Primary 7

These classes have been working closely together on the topic of World War One and they all visited the Gordon Highlander Museum last term. They created trenches and wrote amazing diary entries for soldiers in World War 1. Primary 7 have planned trips to Absafe and also Curl Aberdeen so will be very busy. There will also be visitors from the Scottish Parliament coming in to speak to the pupils about their politics topic.



Whole School

The whole school took part in the launch of our piece of public art and school aims where every child created and displayed a piece of artwork and an illustration of a school aim. The event was a great success and we are now proud owners of a beautiful piece of public art.

This term we are looking forward to World of Work week, school nativity, visits to the Scottish Opera and much, much more!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PUPILS AND STAFF

INSTAGRAM - a new social media platform being used by Mannofield Church.

In the past, Mannofield Church has taken advantage of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to make themselves known to the public. These platforms allow the public to be informed on what occurs in church life, when Mannofield meets and even see pictures of how events have gone. In pursuing a greater social media profile, Mannofield Church has opened an Instagram account.

Instagram is like Facebook, where one can post a small “status update” accompanied with a picture. For example, the first picture posted by Mannofield Church was a picture of the volunteers from the Litter pick-up day on the 23 October, with a comment explaining why we had all gathered. In the same way where you can connect with people on Facebook, Instagram functions in a similar way where you “follow” people to see their profile and all their exciting pictures.



Beginner's guide.

i. Instagram has always been an exclusive platform that only works on mobile phones. So if you do not have a Smartphone (android/iPhone), you will not be able to access Instagram. If you do, the first step is going to the mobile app market your phone has and search and download the app “Instagram.” You can register your new Instagram profile with your Facebook account or with an email.

Note: Your profile will automatically be made public, but you can change it in your settings (on the app) to make your profile “private” so only people that you have approved to follow you can see your profile.

ii. Great! Now you have an Instagram account. You can personalise your profile by adding a profile picture as well as a short biography to your page. To get the best experience of your new Instagram account, you will be asked if you would like to get push notifications from the app.

Push notifications means the app will notify your phone when someone has posted a picture, when you have received new followers, and such. If you're familiar with Facebook, it's like your notification tab, just for Instagram

iii. If you have Facebook/Twitter, you'll have the option to connect these social media platforms to your Instagram. This way anytime you post a picture, it can also be shared to these other social media platforms. The way to do this: go to settings on your profile → linked accounts.

iv. The purpose of Instagram is to share photos, so before exploring more, I suggest you test it out. Click the camera button in the centre of the Instagram navigation panel. You will have the option to either snap a picture right there and then, or post a picture you have taken in the past. You'll be able to filter and edit your photos, but this is a topic for another day. Once you have a picture chosen, click the button 'Next'. Once there, you'll have the option to write a comment on your picture, and then you'll be able to share it on Instagram and on other social media platforms if you choose to do so.

Continued on page 27

Volunteer-Be Amazed at How You Can Help

Volunteers make a fantastic and important contribution helping in communities across Aberdeen - making a real positive difference to people and our communities. In Aberdeen an amazing:

62,000 people volunteer and contribute an incredible 6.2 million hours of volunteer help annually in Aberdeen.

There are many different ways to get involved in volunteering and all help is greatly appreciated. Through volunteering people provide great help and volunteering is also enjoyable, an opportunity to use current skills or learn new ones, meet people and get involved in the community.

There are brilliant volunteers in Mannofield and the good news is that there are always opportunities for new people to get involved and join Aberdeen's team of marvellous volunteers.

For more details about volunteer opportunities in Mannofield and across Aberdeen please visit:

www.volunteeraberdeens.org.uk/www.acvo.org.uk or

tel: 01224 686076

email volunteer@acvo.org.uk



INSTAGRAM - a new social media platform being used by Mannofield Church continued

v. Now you're ready to follow other users on Instagram! When you look again at the Instagram navigation panel, you will see an icon that looks like a magnifying glass. You will see a search bar at the top where you can write in "MannofieldChurch." There you will find the church's Instagram page. When you are on our profile, you'll have the option to "Follow" us, which means you will be subscribing to seeing our photos on your Instagram feed. This is similar to adding a friend on Facebook, where you then will also be seeing their activity on your Facebook feed. You can also add any friends that you may have from Facebook. To see if they are on Instagram, go to your settings on your profile, and you will be able to see there which Facebook friends have an Instagram.



vi. You can now "like" and "comment" on photos of people you follow! In the same way you can like activity on Facebook, you can click on a photo and choose if you would "like" their picture or comment something positive. Try it out by "liking" or commenting on one of Mannofield's pictures! That is all for your beginner's guide to Instagram. Look out for a potential follow-up article where I will explain other aspects of Instagram. For now, happy picture taking!

Alex Evangelista

Gluten Free Apple Christmas Cake

Increasingly more and more people are requiring to eliminate gluten from their diet, however this does not mean that they cannot enjoy Christmas baking. This recipe is gluten free but will be enjoyed by all.



Ingredients

225 g butter , room temperature, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
150 g gluten-free white bread flour, plus a tea-spoon extra
1 ½ tbsp gluten-free baking powder
450 g bramley apples, roughly chopped
4 large free-range eggs, beaten
200 g medjool dates 100 g raisins
100 g ground almonds 1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground ginger a good grating of nutmeg
2 tsp pine nuts 2 tsp demerara sugar

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/gas 4.
2. Grease the base of a round 9 inch (23cm) cake tin and line with grease-proof paper.
3. Place the apples in a food processor with the dates, butter and half the raisins and blitz until combined.
4. Using a spatula, scrape into a bowl and mix in a third of the beaten eggs.
5. In a separate bowl combine the flour, almonds, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg. Add a third of the dry ingredients to the apple mixture and combine. Continue adding and combining the remaining beaten egg and the dry mixtures in alternating batches until all mixed together.
6. Finish by folding through the remaining raisins then pour into the prepared cake tin.
7. Combine the pine nuts, demerara sugar and extra teaspoon of gluten-free flour in a bowl and scatter over the cake mixture.
8. Bake for 50–60 minutes, until golden and cooked through. (Cover with a sheet of greaseproof paper if the top appears to be darkening too quickly).
9. Leave the cake to cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
10. Cover with marzipan and ice as desired.

ENJOY





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For full details contact June Rae:

letsmannofieldchurchaberdeen@gmail.com

May the spirit of
Christmas
bring you peace.

The gladness
of Christmas give you
hope.

AND
The warmth of Christmas
grant u love.

Happy Christmas

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**MANNOFIELD
CHURCH**
Heart of the Community

**Christmas Eve
Family Service 7pm**

**Watchnight Service
Carol singing from 11.15pm**

**Christmas Day
Family Service
10.30am**



**KEEP
CALM
AND SING
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS**

**Carols
in our
Community**
Saturday
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