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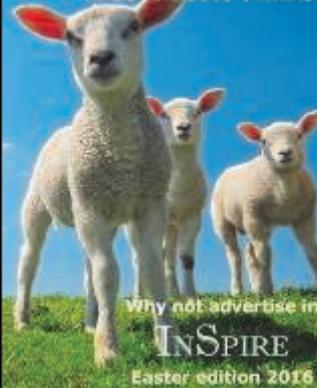
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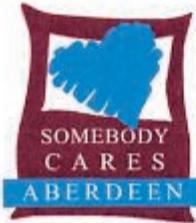
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# CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2015

Sun 6 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
	3.30pm	<b>Blue Christmas Service</b> <i>Remembering those we have lost</i> 
Wed 9 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 13 Dec 	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Carols and Reflections <i>Next Sunday Evening Service 10 January</i>
Wed 16 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship <i>Last Midweek Service until 13 January</i>
Sun 20 Dec	10am	Morning Worship <i>Nativity Sunday</i>
	3.15pm	Service in Craigielea Gardens
Thurs 24 Dec	7pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service Carol singing from 11.15pm 
Fri 25 Dec <b>Note later start time</b>	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>	Christmas Day Family Service
Sun 27 Dec	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 3 January 2016	10am	Morning Worship

**The deadline for the  
EASTER 2016 issue of *InSpire***

**is**

**11 FEBRUARY 2016**

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

[roddy@mccollassociates.com](mailto:roddy@mccollassociates.com)  
[office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk)

## MANNOFIELD GUILD

The first meeting of the year will be on 19 January at 7.30pm when Sheila Harris will be the Speaker on the Guild's 'New Projects'.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

Dear Friends

'Come and join the Celebration' is the first line of a popular modern Christmas hymn. It continues by inviting us to 'share in jubilation, see the shepherds and gaze in wonder at the Son of God, for God is with us'. The Christmas Season is, I think, one BIG INVITATION. The world is invited to pause for a short while and contemplate that maybe things are not just the way they so often appear; that somehow there is a reason to be more hopeful and optimistic than we sometimes feel; that all does not need to lead to human struggle and the sense of hopelessness experienced by so many. Christmas tells us that in a heartbeat God changed things forever. From that moment life and the world had the potential to be very different.

Christmas invites us to draw close to something awesome. It sends a message out to the world that all are welcome to 'Come and celebrate'. More than that it invites us to linger for a while and ultimately stay permanently within the promise and hope of a better world for all.

This Christmas Mannofield Church invites you to 'come and celebrate' and stay a while with us, as we journey to Bethlehem with the shepherds and allow the spirit of the season to impact on us.

It will be different this year of course as the contractors have moved in and the work of refurbishing our building has started. Worshipping in the Large Hall will create a different ambience but the traditional Christmas services, as you will see from the Church Calendar, will continue as normal. Space is tight and not so salubrious perhaps but very fitting as we consider the setting of the birth of Christ. No room at the Inn we might joke? Hopefully for us - just enough but there will be a place for you!

Expectation is mounting for the completion of the building work sometime in 2016 and for a new era for everyone. Our focus is to make sure Mannofield Church becomes a place that belongs very much at the heart of the community; a place where many will come and feel at home and experience something of the goodness of God. 'Come and join the celebration' could, and should, become the invitation that is sent out not just at Christmas but every day of the year. As we utilise the gift of space we have many will experience a sense of community within our building and the spirit of God that is always uplifting.

All good things come to those who wait. For now, don't let Christmas pass you by. Receive the invitation that comes along with my heartfelt best wishes to each and every one of you. 'Come and join the celebration', 'gaze in wonder' at the gift God brings us.

Let us together sing the song, 'God is with us', for 'there's a new King born today' and this really is - Good News for us all.

Best Wishes and Happy Christmas

Keith [minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk)



### Poppyscotland Appeal

The total collected for Poppyscotland at the Remembrance Day service was £455.86.



## Online Sermons

If you would like to follow Keith's sermons when you are not able to attend church, you will find that most weeks they will be published on his blog **revkeithblog** on the hosting site [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com).

The easiest way to find them will be through the link on the church Facebook page. If you are on Facebook then please search for Mannofield Church then 'Like' the page and that way all posts made on that page will be visible on your Timeline.

If you are not on Facebook don't worry – the church Facebook page appears on the Home page of the Church website [mannofieldchurch.org.uk](http://mannofieldchurch.org.uk) under 'Latest News and Events' - and you don't have to be a member of Facebook to read all the Facebook posts or follow the links to articles such as Keith's sermons.



## Diesel or Petrol – Which is Better?

There's been a lot of discussion recently about the harmful effects of diesel fumes, especially in congested town centres. This has raised the question of whether we have been wise to buy more diesel cars in preference to petrol. The rarely-mentioned complication is that whilst petrol exhausts are less immediately harmful, they also produce more CO2 than equivalent diesels. So, at first glance, the choice is simple – imminent serious health hazards in town centres, or faster world-wide climate change?

But hang on a moment, there's more to this question. Craigiebuckler and Airyhall people have discovered the hard way that bus services will be withdrawn if very few people use them. At the same time there's a proposal to add 1,000 car parking spaces at Union Square, even although Market Street is already one of the most congested and polluted places in town. The facts are not unrelated; it's too easy to jump in your car rather than hop on a bus. Yet one reasonably full bus probably takes 30 or more cars off the road. Improving the quality and frequency of bus services is one way to go and there are already some good (and a few bad) examples in Aberdeen. And just try walking through a shopping centre car park - you'll feel very vulnerable. Another possibility is to make walking and cycling safer and more pleasant, bringing massive health and cost benefits for the user and a cleaner environment for all. So the answer to the question of diesel or petrol is, neither. Next time you reach for the car keys, think about the effect you are about to have on

your own health, on the atmosphere and on those who are forced to rely on public transport. Love your neighbour!

*Alistair Stark*

Convenor

Eco Congregation Committee



## Be mindful of neighbours

Happy Christmas to all!

I love this time of the year. It can be difficult to find the peace and joy this season can bring with the demands our modern world places on time and money, but I cannot help feeling the simple excitement of being with those I love.

I am greatly looking forward to enjoying time with family, friends and festivities in the city centre. Many of you will also be looking forward to the city centre lights, shopping and the winter festival.

However, the holiday season may be a sad and lonely time for some. As the days get longer and colder, pensioners may struggle to get out of their homes and feel isolated. I would encourage you to be mindful of neighbours. If the inclement weather has created icy and slippery pavements please use the grit bins or contact the council to help make conditions safer for those with mobility concerns. That way we can all get out and enjoy this lovely time of year.

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



Maureen Watt MSP



A number of Company Section boys and staff spent a weekend at the end of October at BB Headquarters, Carronvale near Stirling. Despite the colder time of year we enjoyed quite a few outdoor activities. We visited Blair Drummond Safari Park and were rewarded with some unexpected close encounters from lions, meerkats, elephants and giraffes. We climbed the 246 steps to the top of the National Wallace Monument to get some stunning views over Stirling and the surrounding area. There are several exhibition floors on the way up covering the history of both William Wallace and the tower.

In the evening we went to The Kelpies which were illuminated to great effect. The colour changed every few minutes and despite the cold we spent quite a while walking around these magnificent sculptures. They are much larger than you think close up and looked stunning, illuminated against the clear night sky. After a private karting session in Perth we finished off the weekend with a trip up Dundee Law on the way home. Carronvale is a brilliant venue providing comfortable accommodation and tasty meals. I don't think it will be too long before we are back again as we had a very enjoyable weekend!



## Creative Worship

The latest edition of ***“Spill the Beans”*** takes Creative Worship through the Christmas season and into February.

As before, it follows a theme in a creative way, with items being added to our little tree, each symbolising the topic of each week.

The aim of the creative worship group is to add variety to our worship and at the same time offer everybody an opportunity to contribute in some way. Sometimes it might be making one of the symbols, participating in a reflective reading with several others, a quiz or even, from time to time being part of a brief drama. There might even be a juggler and a ‘flash mob’ presentation.

There are lots of possibilities, so look out for what's happening each week.



The tree symbol will be replaced for the New Year, as we move through a series on New Beginning, New Wine and New Growth, drawing from Mark's Gospel. The creative worship group draws from the input and suggestions of over 40 of our members and the number of churches in Scotland and globally now using ***“Spill the Beans”*** continues to rise.

We are fortunate to have one of the writing team in Mannofield – our Minister, Keith!



## Mannofield Church Heart of the Community Project Update November 2015



We are now a month into our refurbishment and we're settling in to our temporary Sunday accommodation in the Large Hall.

People seem to be really enjoying the mood of worship and there is a real sense of excitement around the place. If you've not managed along please come and join us soon.

Christmas is just round the corner and it certainly is going to be a memorable one. Our traditional Christmas Services will continue as normal - Advent Communion, Carols and Lessons, Nativity Sunday and our usual services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The New Year will bring in a year that will herald the arrival of our refurbished building.

### Now for the technical bit from Doug



Where has the office gone?

The Large Hall temporary works have been completed to allow the area to be used as a sanctuary and as a meeting venue for church and external organisations while refurbishment in the other parts of the building continues. A cabin beside the Centenary Hall is being used as a church office. It also contains a meeting room, small kitchen and toilet.

All areas of the buildings excluding the Large Hall have now been handed over to the main contractor, Burns

Construction (Aberdeen) Limited which fully controls these areas from the contractor's site at the front of the church.

At the time of publication 95% of the internal strip-out has been completed and internal structural works have commenced.

External scaffolding will be erected to allow works to progress depending on weather conditions and the works schedule. Regular site meetings have been arranged. These will be on going to agree all the details for the refurbishment. A further update will appear in the February Mini InSpire.



*Doug Marnoch, Project Leader*

### Historical information

When the linings were being removed from the sanctuary there was found half of the front page of the Aberdeen Evening Express for 13 March 1882, the year the church was constructed. The price was one halfpenny. This document will feature in the interactive historical display that is forming part of our refurbished church and buildings.



As I sit at my desk in the surgery looking at blue skies, sunshine and beautiful autumn colours it seems difficult to believe that we are rushing head long towards winter.

### **It's the 'flu jab season!**

Winter and early spring is really busy for the health service. Our admin staff and nurses spend a lot of time running the seasonal 'flu campaign. At our practice we target more than 3,000 patients! Most practices will invite you to attend and I would encourage you to take up the invitation as the more people in the community who have immunity to the 'flu the less chance there is of a major 'flu out break.

### **How else can you help?**

To cope with the increased demands we have more points of contact for the patient but very often this needs some kind of signposting. Of course we would always encourage folk to manage the simple things themselves. For example simple colds and upper respiratory conditions almost never require antibiotics and are best dealt with by fluids and simple pain killers. It is useful to have some of the common "over the counter" medications available at home.

### **Who can you turn to?**

The important thing is getting the appropriate help from the appropriate person. You can get a lot of advice from your Community pharmacists who may be able to provide you with simple treatments. If they think it appropriate they may ask you to contact your GP.

If you have a dental problem the person best placed to deal with this is your dentist.

There is now a large number of NHS dentists in and around Aberdeen. Your GP cannot advise on dental health issues and because of the risk of complications will refer you back to your dentist.

In Aberdeen we have a network of community opticians who can provide advice, assessment and treatment on issues of eye health including red eyes, dry eyes and visual disturbance. You can contact your local optician and they will arrange to see you and help with your eye health problem.

Your GP is probably your most regular point of contact with Primary Care. Many practices now "triage" calls. This means that we screen calls coming into the practice to assess urgency; you may be given phone advice or a prescription; you may be offered an appointment within a few days or an appointment to be seen the same day.

Finally, out of hours there is the NHS 24 on 111 who will provide you with advice in an emergency and who will arrange for you to see the appropriate professional for your problem.

The Accident and Emergency department should be for accidents and emergencies and should not be a substitute for a GP appointment.

In truth I have found the best source of advice in most households is Granny!

Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Ken Lawton*



## Mannofield Church Youth Group

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

1 Timothy 4:12

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

We have a youth club running on Sunday evening for ages 11+. Sundays involve some games, food and discussions.

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

Helping me to run these events is Andrew Cattanach. Between us we have several years of volunteering with young people. Andrew has been involved in Young Church and I am an officer in our 44<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade Company Section.

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

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



For 2016 we will be offering Youth Alpha at Mannofield Church!

What is Youth Alpha I hear you ask? It is a series of interactive discussions designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment, created specifically for young people aged 11+. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

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

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

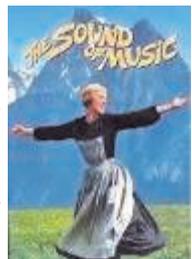
Ryan Webster, Youth Volunteer [ryan.webster87@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.webster87@gmail.com)

## Mannofield Church Social Committee offering opportunities for fellowship throughout the year

As the church development is ongoing, we are taking our New Year's social to the Theatre.

Those of you with tickets for **The Sound of Music** don't forget to mark the date in your new diaries!

**Saturday, 16 January at 2.30pm.**



See you in the Stalls!

Look out for more opportunities in 2016 for ALL

## MANNOFIELD PASTORAL CARE GROUP

As I am coming to the end of my time as Convenor of the Pastoral Care Group, I would like to pass on my grateful thanks to the Committee and the Visitors who look after our 'Friends' by visiting them, taking them out and in so many other ways. Many thanks to those involved in the organising of the car service, the compiling and distributing of the Church Service CDs and the distributing of the church flowers. I am so indebted to you all for the time and dedication you give to the 'Group', helping to meet the needs of our Congregation and Community.



From **1 January** Mrs Lesley Reid will be taking over from me.

I trust you will continue to give her the support that you have given to me over the past three years.

*Jean Anderson*

It is that time of year again when everyone is preparing for the festivities and looking forward to a relaxing and fun time with their families.



Since the nights are dark and long, it's a good time to review your security arrangements around the house to make sure you're doing everything you can to deter would-be thieves and keep your property protected.



**Ian McKinnon**

The first thing to look at is your usual routine - do you lock the car and house door behind you when you come home?

Believe it or not, this is the single most effective means to prevent thieves. Simply finding a locked door is often enough to deter them.

Secondly, look at physical security features around the house and garden. Keep outside lights on to make your home less attractive and stow away ladders and the like. Consider lights on timers inside your home. Fit a good strong lock to your shed with anti-tamper screws and a simple shed-alarm. Also fit a solid ground anchor to secure your bike.

Thirdly, be observant and look out for your neighbours. After a while you become accustomed to the people that use your street and if any person or vehicle appears unusual, then phone the Police. We'd rather check out ten innocent well-intentioned calls than have one family affected by theft - trust your instincts.

The West End CPT area is a very safe place to live and you are very unlikely to have crime occur in your street, but I promise you these small changes can make all the difference. For more information visit [www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/) for lots more practical advice and suggestions.

Finally, I wish you and your families all a very safe and Happy Christmas and a great New Year from all of us here at the West End Community Policing Team.

*Inspector Ian McKinnon, Aberdeen Division*

## Who Am I?

You will know that I am coming from the jingle of my bell, but exactly who I am is not an easy thing to tell.

Children; they adore me for they find me jolly, but I do not see them when the halls are decked with holly.

My job often leaves me frozen, I am a man that all should know, but I do not do business in times of sleet or ice or snow.

I travel much on business, but no reindeer pull me around, I do all my traveling firmly on the ground.

I love the time of Christmas, but that's not my vocational season, and I assure you that is because of sound economic reason...





What do snowmen  
have for breakfast?  
Snowflakes!

## Three Square Find The Word

Find the nine-  
letter word in  
each square,  
beginning with  
the centre letter  
and working  
clockwise.

1. A bird of the pheasant family.
2. A jar containing expensive perfume.
3. Jewish religious and working leaders.
4. Christ's offering of himself.

1

T	R	I
R	P	D
A	E	G

2

A	S	T
B	A	E
A	L	R

3

E	S	A
E	S	D
C	U	D

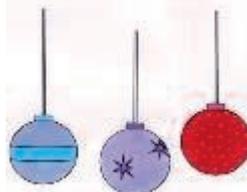
4

I	F	I
R	S	C
C	A	E



What do you drain  
your carrots with at  
Christmas?  
An advent colander!

# WORDSEARCH



*Luke 2:8-12*

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

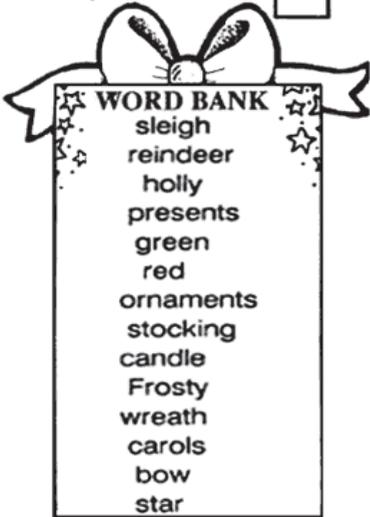
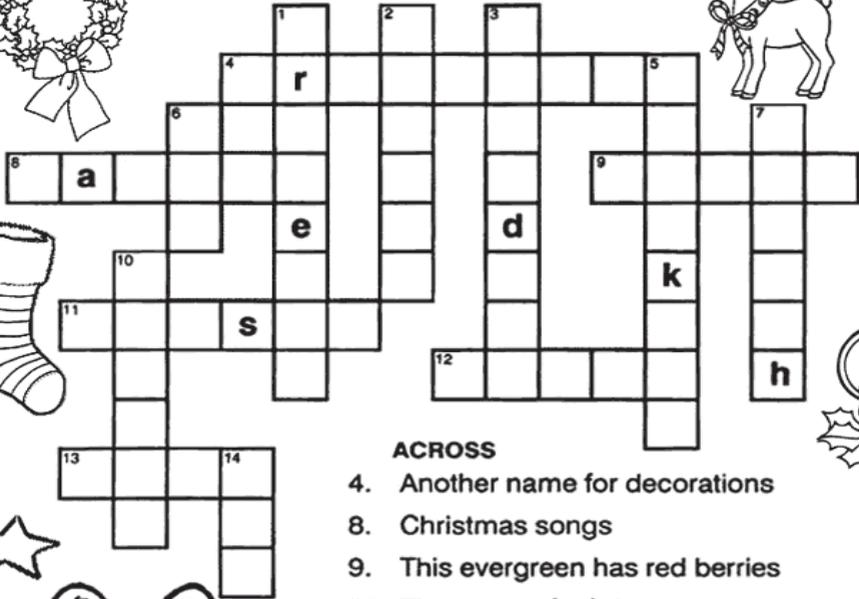
## Find the underlined words

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born for you: he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

# Complete the crossword then colour it in



## Christmas Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

4. Another name for decorations
8. Christmas songs
9. This evergreen has red berries
11. The name of a famous snowman
12. A traditional Christmas color
13. Bright heavenly body visible at night

### DOWN

1. Another name for gifts
2. Made of wax, this gives off light
3. Santa has eight of them
5. Hang this over your fireplace
6. A decoration made with ribbon
7. Horses pull this over the snow
10. A decorative ring hung on doors
14. The color of Rudolph the Reindeer's nose

Sep/Oct Answer: 2592 feet. Since the building contains 10 odd nodes a complete tour will require 5 separate journeys. This means that 4 back-trackings will have to be made.

## Poverty can be a lonely state to live in

For most of us, Christmas is a time to join together with our family and friends to celebrate each other's company and enjoy the last days of 2015 before ringing in Hogmanay. It's how this time of year should be spent and for those of us with plenty to look forward to, it's a great reminder to take stock of everything we are grateful for.

Sadly though, for many people this time of year presents a lot of challenges as some families struggle to make ends meet and keep food on the table, let alone put presents under the tree.

Whilst many of us will be heartily indulging (for far longer than just Christmas Day) in our share of mince pies, turkey dinners and selection boxes, there will be families across the city forced to turn to charities to keep from going hungry. It is a distressing fact that as 2015 comes to an end thousands of people within our city, perhaps even neighbours of ours, will be turning to food banks in order to make sure they can eat on Christmas Day as they might on any other day.

Affluent communities and large properties within them often mask the struggle of social issues facing the people living within them. It is worth remembering that two houses that look the same on the outside can often look very different within. I know from experience that people who need with cutbacks in welfare would have most of us struggling and feeling desperate.

I read in last month's InSpire Reverend Keith Blackwood's message about the importance of checking on those who may feel at their loneliest over the dark winter season. I want to echo his message of showing compassion to those who may be experiencing harsher lives than our own. Poverty can also be a lonely state to live in, especially for those who may feel they want to hide it.

Harsh austerity measures amidst an economic downturn continue to impact the 'working poor,' as well as older people who perhaps could not foresee financial challenges ahead when they retired years ago. At Christmas time it is easy to spot our neighbours dressed to their best as they head out to a Christmas service, but it's important we keep an eye out for those who may be struggling beneath a façade.

Time and time again over the past seven months I have heard from people struggling to make ends meet and becoming all too reliant on their friends, families and charities for support. I and my colleagues will continue to fight drastic cuts to welfare, but until we have a fairer society a great responsibility faces us all personally to do what we can for our neighbours in need.

Please, if you can, support local food banks and charities this Christmas in their efforts to make sure the most vulnerable people in our society, city and neighbourhoods are not neglected this winter.

*Callum McCaig MP, Aberdeen South*



Callum McCaig MP

## Christianity in Action - Caring Christmas Trees see advert on Page 27

**Bethany sells Caring Christmas Trees across Scotland to support its work. You can buy online from the start of November up until the second week in December. Caring Christmas Trees are freshly-cut Grade One Nordman Firs, sustainably grown in Scotland.**



As well as being a centrepiece for your home that you can be proud of, you can enjoy Christmas knowing that you have changed someone's life over the winter. Sales in Edinburgh directly support the Winter Care Shelter which is a lifeline for those with nowhere to go during the coldest months of the year. Sales in Glasgow, Fife, Dundee and Aberdeen directly benefit vulnerable individuals and families who need our support.

Many people are lonely, isolated or breaking under financial pressure at Christmas and your decision to buy a Caring Christmas Tree is a simple way to help out. Thanks to the thousands of supporters who buy a Caring Christmas Tree every year. <http://www.caringchristmastrees.com/>

## **Councillor Martin Greig**

**Airyhall Library** is the busiest local library in the city. We do not have many Council facilities in the area so I have been strongly in favour of improving



this important resource. I am pleased that the library has now been refurbished and will have some extra hours added on to the opening times. It is only right to try and enhance such a popular library.

The reduction in the local bus service has hit many people hard. Not everyone has access to a car. I am fighting on behalf of residents against this downgrading of the bus service in the area. Public transport is a basic need and it is not fair to isolate communities. I continue to campaign on this important issue.

### **Against the hotel and conference centre in Hazlehead Park's Green Belt**

Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in trying to stop planning permission for a hotel and conference centre in the Green Belt land of Hazlehead Park. This is a treasured local space enjoyed by countless visitors. The pressure on the wider roads network from such a development will be considerable. I proposed that the Council should reject this application but we lost the vote by 28 to 7. I regret that it was not possible on this occasion to stop the development and so protect this lovely green space for future generations.

**Proposal at former Dobbies Garden Centre.** A proposal has been submitted to the Council with a view to constructing 55 houses, shops, medical buildings, etc. on the site of the former Dobbies Garden Centre in Hazledene Road. More information is available on the Council's planning pages. The reference is 151526. Public consultation will be organised over the coming weeks. I would welcome any comments.

*Martin Greig* [mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Tel 07920806332

## **Alpha Courses**

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



*No pressure. No follow up. No charge.*

The 2016 *Alpha Course* starts on Monday 18 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.

Due to the Church refurbishment programme our format is different from previous years, as we need to share accommodation with other users, so we'll meet at the Palm Court Hotel in Seafield Road, at 7pm. We have agreed with the hotel that participants can order a light main course at a reasonable rate. Then we'll go down to the church hall where we can have some coffee or tea and view the DVD. The evening will finish at 9pm. We also have an 'away-day' planned for Saturday 27 February.

For 2016 we intend to use 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 [Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com](mailto:Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com), or [louise@barrack.org](mailto:louise@barrack.org) so we have an idea of numbers attending, no later than 11 January.

*Many thanks the Alpha Team.*

## Councillor Angela Taylor



It doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing an article for 2014's Christmas Edition of Community Inspire and such a lot has happened since my Easter article. The following are a few examples:

### TEACHER SUMMIT

In the Easter Edition I wrote about the issue Aberdeen City Council had with the recruitment and retention of teachers. On 30 September we held a Teacher Summit at the Beach Ballroom with the Cabinet Secretary, Angela Constance, in attendance.

We have called on the Scottish Government to provide an action plan to address the issues raised at the Summit which included: a proposal to introduce a North or North East weighting allowance; a response to reviewing the allocation of funding to authorities under the annual financial settlement and a commitment to amending the national agreement on teacher numbers so that Councils which have vacancies but are unable to recruit teaching staff are not penalised.

Hopefully, the Scottish Government will address these issues and realise that Councils alone cannot address them.

### BIG NOISE

As many of you will be aware, I am Convener of Education and Children's Services. This year I was extremely proud to be part of the Administration which delivered the "Big Noise Torry" in partnership with Sistema. The Big Noise in Torry is aimed at using music to encourage a positive change to children's lives. The initial findings from studies, where this has been used in Raploch and Govanhill, have shown that this represents a good investment for society in helping to raise the aspirations of children and young people.

I can already see the difference it is making to children and young people in Torry.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

[Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

M 07876 748527

### ARCHIE IN AFRICA



In April 2015 Joe Mackie, Chairman of The Archie Foundation, made his first ever journey outside the UK to Uganda to open the first operating theatre and ward dedicated for use in operations on children. The first part of his Report was published in the September/October *InSpire* and can be read on the church website at: <http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk/magazine.html>

This is the second part of Joe's fascinating and humbling experiences during that journey.

'Life in Uganda is so different to what we have here in Aberdeen. However there are some, but few, similarities. The temperature I experienced never dropped below 23 degrees and rose another 10 degrees during the day.

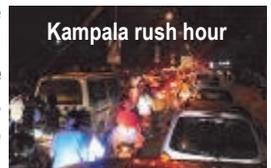
There is high poverty, unimaginable pollution, huge populations in the cities, thousands of motor bikes with very few traffic regulations and irregular driving to say the least. The list goes on.

However there are some similarities: green grass in places, lovely trees and generally a greener landscape than I had expected.

From an environmental aspect the air was anything but green especially as people and vehicles exited Kampala in the afternoon.

Boda bodas, (motor bikes to you and me) all 300,000 of them are mostly extremely old reminding me of the motor bikes in Dad's Army. They seem to provide a taxi service, probably unlicensed and show little respect for any traffic regulations if there are any!

I stood outside the hotel for a few minutes watching the traffic go by and almost one after the other a motor bike stopped to pick me up. Needless to say I declined the offer!!



Kampala rush hour

## ARCHIE IN AFRICA

There were always two on a motor bike, more often there were three and the worst I saw was four; three on the saddle and one, a young baby lying up front between the head lamp, the handle bars and the fuel tank. No one wears a crash helmet or any real protective gear and some of the ladies in dresses ride side saddle.



Apparently 1.5 million people come into and leave Kampala every day. This I believe having experienced travelling in the evening exit as we headed to the airport. I have never experienced air pollution like it.



The daily wait

Hospital facilities are stretched beyond belief.

Every day several hundred people turn up in the off chance they can be seen by a

doctor or nurse at the Outpatients.

They walk miles for this hopeful opportunity. The queue starts in the upper corridor, snaking down the stairs to the massive open foyer then outside and half way around the building. No one complains about the wait as that is the system. Some clinics take place outside in a make-shift place under the walkway to another part of the hospital. I saw very few nurses when I was there. It seems that the mums did the nursing and looking after the cleanliness of the children. Many women were at the back of the hospital washing the children's clothes then washing the children.



We complain about potholes in the roads and blocked drains. There, it is craters in the road and if the cover over the drains gets broken then it is most unlikely it will be repaired

There are of course the nice parts if you can afford to go there.

We visited Lake Victoria, the second largest lake in the world which edges on three countries.

Here we found nice hotels, beach resorts, beautiful beaches with golden sands and palm trees, people sun bathing and swimming in the lake. There are also



lovely golf courses. We had fish and chips, with the fish caught in Lake Victoria. I have never seen fish on a plate like it. (*Editor Joe, have you not been to the Ashvale?!*)

The journey from Kampala to Entebbe Airport was an experience of a life time. We were in what must be the longest most densely vehicle populated piece of road in the world.

Thousands of buses, cars, motor bikes, cyclists and pedestrians making this daily journey out of the city to their homes. The rush hour lasts from 3.00pm until 9.00pm.

Traders are positioned at all the real bottle-necks selling pictures, bananas, multi-pack toilet rolls etc. all part of the economy !

At one point in the journey there was an emergency vehicle behind us with blue lights flashing, siren sounding, going absolutely no where in a hurry. It was stuck in the traffic, like the rest of us with no one giving way to let it through. For at least thirty minutes the siren sounded and the blue lights flashed but there just wasn't anywhere to come off the road to let it pass.

Not sure what the response target time is for them !!

Uganda is not a holiday spot but it is a place to visit to make a reality check on life and be a little more appreciative of what we have at home.

Would I go again ?

Yes I would, to monitor the small but worthwhile difference The Archie Foundation has made to the plight of the children in Uganda, born in to an extremely challenging and uncertain life.

*Joe Mackie, Chairman  
The ARCHIE Foundation*

## Bus service cuts increase isolation

All too often people assume that, in the age of the car, bus services are no longer a necessary service.



Cllr Ian Yuill

The truth is very different. Around a third of households in Aberdeen do not have access to a car and for them, and for others who prefer not to drive into the city centre, a reliable bus service is an essential link.

The loss of a bus service can dramatically increase the isolation of people who depend on that bus service to get to services and shops.

Very sadly that is what has happened in our area with First Aberdeen's changes to local bus services.

At a stroke people in Airyhall and Braeside can no longer catch a bus to and from the pharmacy, optician, bank and shops at Mannofield. Journeys home from the city centre now take much longer thanks to the changes in the route of service 15.

I met the Managing Director of First Aberdeen in early October to emphasise just how big an impact the service changes would have on many residents of our area and, if the strength of feeling was in any doubt, that was surely confirmed by the turnout of over 250 people at the public meeting held in Airyhall School.

As a private company, First Aberdeen is free to provide, or not provide, whatever bus services it wishes. It is responsible only to its shareholders and not to its customers, the council or government. Having said that, I will do whatever I can to persuade First Aberdeen to think again.

I will also be arguing for Aberdeen City Council to reintroduce the scheme which allows it to contract with bus companies to provide services which are socially necessary - such as the link from Airyhall and Braeside to the Mannofield shops and beyond.

Ian Yuill

01224 346627 (council) 01224 310746 (home)  
[iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:iyuill@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
[www.ianyuill.org.uk](http://www.ianyuill.org.uk)

## Its a cracker!!

Good King Wenceslas phoned Heavenly Pizzas for a pizza.

The salesgirl asked him:- 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'

\*\*\*\*\*

What is the purpose of reindeer?  
It makes the grass grow, sweetie.



## Pickled Cow Open Night

Although the stage has gone as part of the development the young people were determined to keep something going even although we can no longer put on the same large scale productions we have in the past in the Large Hall.

At our meetings we have continued working on a variety of weekly projects including imaginative adaptations, drama games and improvisation exercises.

We are preparing a short, more intimate Open Night style event to replace our normal panto performance. It will be a one night only selection of short sketches and drama games on **Friday 11 December**. We have some new younger members and they were keen to be involved in a lower key production. We hope our regular congregational support will continue.



## Prayer

When the day ahead seems  
full of uncertainty,  
be the firm ground on which I  
can step, O God,  
and the path to guide my feet.



Help me to put my trust in You  
to guide,  
and guard,  
and grant me safe passage  
as I walk through the waters of life.

When feet stumble  
help me to regain my balance,  
When legs are weary  
help me to complete the journey,  
And at the end of the day  
let me rest in the knowledge  
that You have been my travelling  
companion.  
Amen.

Acknowledgement: This extract is taken  
from "Living Stones: Pray Now 2015" and  
is used with permission. "Living Stones"  
publications are available from  
[www.standrewpress.com](http://www.standrewpress.com)

## M A N G O

**Mannofield Gospel Choir** is not just a  
church choir.

It is the opportunity for people in the  
community who enjoy singing and who  
would like to feel the buzz of singing in  
a choir to come along and have some  
FUN.

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

Rehearsals resume in the  
New Year.

For further information please contact  
the church office 01224310087.



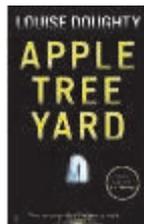
## Mannofield Church Book Club

Mannofield Book Club continues to meet  
on the first Wednesday of the month. We  
have recently been delighted to welcome  
two new members and would love to  
hear from anyone else who would like to  
join us. Our Club has been meeting for  
just over six years now and over this  
time we have read a wide variety of  
books. Discussions at our monthly  
meetings are always interesting and  
thought-provoking particularly when  
there are conflicting views about a book!  
We do not meet in January as everyone  
is busy over Christmas so our next book  
will be discussed at our 3 February  
meeting. If you would like any more  
information about the Club please  
contact Niki Anderson on 01224 743484.

### February's Book

#### Apple Tree Yard

*by Louise Doughty*



Yvonne Carmichael has  
worked hard to achieve the  
life she always wanted: a  
high-flying career in  
genetics, a beautiful home,

a good relationship with her husband  
and their two grown-up children. Then  
one day she meets a stranger at  
the Houses of Parliament and, on  
impulse, begins a passionate affair with  
him – a decision that will put everything  
she values at risk.

At first she believes she can keep the  
relationship separate from the rest of her  
life, but she can't control what happens  
next. All of her careful plans spiral into  
greater deceit and, eventually, a life-  
changing act of violence.

*Apple Tree Yard* is both a psychological  
thriller and an insightful examination of  
the values we all live by and the choices  
we make, from an acclaimed writer at the  
height of her powers.

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

We have fun; we help others; we discuss; we share our faith; we share fellowship; we raise money and we learn. We make things – on Thursday mornings all sorts of crafts are undertaken – from covering



boxes for Blythswood Care - to making small dresses for girls in Africa -to making lavender bags and key rings for sale at our fundraising events.

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

Neighbour.

*Open Eyes – To those who need help: Open Ears – Listen to others on many varying topics: Open Handed – Give to those who need help: Open Minded – Prepare for changes in the Church and beyond: Open Mouthed – Give a voice to those who cannot ask for themselves: Open Meetings -*

*Come along and find out for yourself!*

### Church of Scotland Guild Projects 2012 -2015

Comfort Rwanda, Building a Better Rwanda -	£109,596.72
Crossreach, Heart for Art -	£155,917.03
Mary's Meals, Making a difference in Liberia -	£134,109.22
Ministries Council (Priority Areas), Passage from India -	£108,994.33
Scottish Churches Housing Action, Julius Project -	£130,808.15
World Mission Council, Out of Africa into Malta -	<u>£135,651.45</u>

**Final three-year total £775,076.90**

Since the beginning of the new six project model in 2012 we have now surpassed £4 million pounds and since 1969, when the projects began, the total raised is now £6,014,158! Thank you to all whose hard work and dedication have helped generate these incredible totals, allowing the Guild to impact many lives both in this country and much further afield.

### 2015-2018 Projects

Street Pastors: Christian Aid: Care for the Family:

Feed the Minds: Mission International: Prospects

Find out more about 2015-2018 projects by visiting

[www.cos-guild.org.uk](http://www.cos-guild.org.uk) or contacting me

Rhoda Wright Mannofield Church of Scotland Guild T 01224 324415



## Flower Calendar

### December

- 6 Mrs M. Hunter
- 13 Mrs A. Reekie
- 20 Mr. MacCaskill
- 27 Miss Joan Youngson's Estate



The Flower Committee thanks all those who have contributed in any way to the church flowers over the past year. The flowers are very much enjoyed by those who attend Church and much appreciated by those who receive them after the Service. The Flower Calendar will be available from the end of November for those who wish to contribute to 2016's list .

Sheila Taylor , Flower Convenor

# CHURCH CONTACTS

[www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk)

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

## Chocolate & ginger refrigerator squares

This is a quick and easy fridge cake — always useful at Christmas.

### Ingredients

- 300g ginger nut biscuits, roughly crushed
- 300g plain chocolate
- 140g crystallised stem ginger
- 100g butter, diced
- 100g golden syrup

### Method

Line a 20 x 30cm tin with baking parchment.

Mix the biscuits with most of the ginger then set aside.

Melt the chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally, until smooth and glossy. Pour this over the biscuit and ginger mixture and mix together well.

Tip the mixture into the prepared tin' sprinkle over the reserved ginger and then flatten the top lightly – it doesn't need to be completely smooth. Chill for at least 2 hrs, or overnight, before cutting into small (Editor Surely LARGE ) squares.

These will keep in an airtight box in the fridge for up to one week or in the freezer for a month.



## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### **Deaths:**

Mrs. Isobel Spalding, 22 October

### **Change of Address:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Fieldhouse

Mr. Jim Halliday

### **The Late William (Bill) Sutherland**

Graeme, our family and I wish to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards, support and prayers. Sincere thanks to Rev. Keith Blackwood for his thoughtful and comforting words during Dad's funeral.

Mum and Dad became members of Mannofield when we moved to Aberdeen in 1956 and we were all involved in many activities and social events.

Dad loved his time at Mannofield especially as an Elder and Captain of the 44th. Coy. BB.

He would have been delighted to (at last) witness the commencement of work on the refurbishment of the church buildings - even if this meant his funeral being switched to Craigiebuckler Church!!

Dad valued your friendship especially over the past few years and we are indebted to all of you for enriching his life.

*Bruce Sutherland*

## INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

It is a sad fact that many people in the UK increasingly find themselves relying on food banks. Aberdeen, despite its wealth and status as the Oil Capital of Europe, is no exception.

Instant Neighbour has provided emergency food parcels to individuals in serious need for over twenty years. Whenever someone requests a food parcel, we carry out a brief, informal assessment of their needs – What has brought them to us? Why do they need a parcel? - and provide a food parcel containing tinned and non-perishable food to last several meals.

Individuals can come to us for a food parcel once every two weeks if required. We provide food parcels only to individuals in particularly difficult circumstances and do what we can to refer clients on to other agencies which may be able to help them through their difficulties.

From speaking to our clients, there are many reasons why someone comes to us for a parcel. These reasons may include:- late benefit payments; waiting for the first payment under new benefit claims; stopped benefit payments due to sanctions imposed; waiting for the first wage from new employment and increased heating costs during the winter months.

Regrettably many of the problems encountered by individuals coming to us are becoming more, rather than less, prevalent. As such, we expect demand for food parcels to continue to increase.

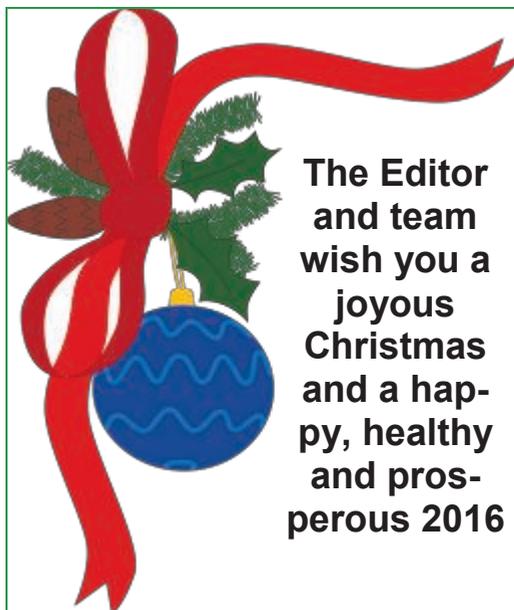
**2012**-1,346 food parcels to 485 different clients. **2013**-3,051 parcels to 970 different clients. **2014**-3,640 parcels to 1,383 different clients. **2015** - estimated 4,000 parcels with 1,777 given out by the beginning of July.



Due to the increase in numbers and the need to do whatever we can to help people out of poverty, we regularly have advisers available at our food bank to speak to clients and provide them with practical assistance to overcome their difficulties. This allows us to do what we can to deal with the causes that bring clients to us in need of food assistance.

If you can help us to continue to deliver this vital service, Instant Neighbour and our clients would be grateful. Thank you.

**Donations can be handed into the church office.**



**The Editor and team wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016**

Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the baby brother  
but what I prayed  
for was a Puppy  
Joyce



## Airyhall Primary School



Term one at Airyhall has been a busy and exciting term and we are now getting ready for Christmas and the festivities and events that are coming up. **Nursery** has been busy developing the outside play area. There are lots of exciting developments and new equipment appearing. Watch this space! **Primary 1** has been learning about the senses and the body and the pupils have settled well into primary 1 life. They also took part in some science experiments on the topic of 'in the kitchen'. This term they have been exploring Granny's Attic and comparing new and old toys. **Primary 2** was getting visits from an exciting visitor last term. This exciting visitor left riddles and tasks, related to various fairy tales, for the pupils to solve. The pupils have been very excited about helping Mr Mouse to get back to the enchanted forest.

**Primary 3** has been learning about the rainforest. This term they are learning about the body and even have their own hospital corner in the classroom. The class is going to be dancing at the St Andrew's Day Ceilidh and also performing Christmas Carols at Beeches Gate Retirement Home. **Primary 3/4** have also been learning about the rainforest. The Primary fours have organised the Ceilidh and have also been taking part in some philosophy lessons.

**Primary 4** recently made jam from the strawberries picked from the Slopefield allotment. Last term they were learning about Wallace and Bruce and went on a trip to Stirling Castle. **Primary 4/5** was learning about Wallace and Bruce. They have been learning about the Scots language and even presented their own tour guide video to describe their visit to Stirling Castle.

**Primary 5** also visited Stirling Castle to help them learn more about Wallace and Bruce. The class got a real scare when they met a knight dressed in armour, who showed them round the castle. They were very excited to meet him. The class was also able to explore the biodiversity of Slopefield allotment when they visited the site and even got their photo in the paper. **Primary 5/6** was learning all about Australia last term. They even had a go at playing the didgeridoo! This term they are learning about the body and are going to Satrosphere to attend a workshop all about digestion.

**Primary 6** was very busy last term. They were learning about the Victorians and completed the Urban Studies walk around Aberdeen to visit significant Victorian buildings and examine artefacts. This term they are looking at the retail industry and have already visited John Lewis to find out more. We will need to look out for the shops which are currently being designed and displayed in the classroom. **Primary 7** has been learning about the Titanic and pupils delivered excellent talks to their classmates on significant people involved with the Titanic. The class has also been learning to ride their bikes safely on the roads. They are also trying their hand at curling at Curl Aberdeen. As well as continuing to visit and maintain the school allotment at Slopefield we have just added a polytunnel to the playground. This will allow us to grow more fruit and vegetables. Last term the classes used the produce grown at Slopefield to create soups, salads and even jam. We are also very proud to say that Airyhall achieved third prize in the Aberdeen in Bloom garden competition. This is a great way to finish off a fantastic year!



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE PUPILS AND STAFF**

# Nearest & Dearest

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

Services include:

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

Please contact us and let us be the local 'surrogate family' for your elderly relatives

Disclosure (Scotland) and PVG registered

Maureen Drummond and Alison Lobban

Tel: 07794 464 938

Email: [info@nearestanddearest.co.uk](mailto:info@nearestanddearest.co.uk)

Web: [www.nearestanddearest.co.uk](http://www.nearestanddearest.co.uk)

# Lindsay & Kirk

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  - Quotes

*Written details on request*

**Tel: 01224 641402**

*(4 lines)*

39 Huntly Street, Aberdeen AB10 1TJ

e-mail: [law@lindsayandkirk.com](mailto:law@lindsayandkirk.com)

Fax: 01224 639974



## caring christmas trees



Buy a tree and change  
a life this Christmas.

Every Caring Christmas Tree provides vital  
services for homeless people in Aberdeen.

Order your Christmas tree now

[www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com) >

call **0845 111 8733** to order a tree for  
your workplace, church or school.  
Delivery options available.

**Collection Point**  
Curl Aberdeen  
Eday Walk

Caring Christmas Trees is a social  
enterprise operated by Bethany  
Enterprises Ltd, Company no 142143.  
Bethany Christian Trust is a registered  
charity and limited company registered  
in Scotland, Charity no SC003783.

★  
JOY  
LOVE  
PEACE  
BELIEVE  
CHRISTMAS

For ages 11-18. Contact Ryan Webster for more info.  
Ryan.webster87@gmail.com 074446 015279



youthalpha

EXPLORE THE MEANING OF LIFE



Mannofield Hillwalking Club 2015

For further info contact Peter Stewart

T: 01224 313721

E: P.Stewart1@btinternet.com