

Vol.LIV No. 2

MARCH 2015



INSPIRE



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	 <p>Jumping Castle</p>

Contact Shona Krugel on 07545 345 352
Email contact: partyboxabn@gmail.com



CHURCH CALENDAR MARCH/MAY 2015

Sun 29 March Palm Sunday 	10am	Palm Sunday Praise Service with Youth Organisations
	6.30pm	Café Church (tea and coffee served prior to Café Church)
Tues 31 March	7.30pm	Guild Easter Service
Wed 1 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 2 April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service– Communion
Fri 3 April	7.30pm	Good Friday Joint Service see Page 5
Sun 5 April Easter Sunday 	8.30am	Easter Sunrise Service-Communion Followed by Breakfast at 9am
	10am	Easter Family Service Sacrament of Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Worship-Communion
Wed 8 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 12 April	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 15 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 19 April	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 22 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 26 April	10am	Morning Worship
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 29 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 3 May	10am	Morning Worship

CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

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

Easter labyrinth - the journey to the cross

This Holy Week we are creating something different at Mannofield to help people think about Christ's suffering as he journeyed towards the cross. Labyrinths, as designs, have appeared throughout history and typically have been associated with 'faith meditation'. They are similar in some respects to a maze but with the major difference that there is no way to 'get lost'. The labyrinth takes a person on a journey during which that person can spend time in reflection as they move through step by step.



Our Holy Week Labyrinth will help us reflect on Easter, our own personal life and focus thought on the people who are suffering in the world today. The 'stations' along the way are designed to help us pray, think and meet God. For young and not so young, for families and individuals, no membership is needed. Please join us. This is for you.

There are 12 stations and visitors will be directed from one station to the next, following the route between each station guided by 'footsteps.' The start is through the main sanctuary doors and leaving by the Countesswells door.

The Labyrinth will be open on the following dates and times during Holy Week:

Tuesday 31 March 6-7pm
Wednesday 1 April 11-12am and 6-7pm
Thursday 2 April 6-7pm
Friday 3 April 6-7pm
Saturday 4 April 11 am - 1pm

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

Keith minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Good Friday Joint Service

We will welcome Craigiebuckler, South Holburn, Kingswells, Ruthrieston West and Garthdee congregations who will join us for the Good Friday Service at 7.30pm

Eastertide Prayer

Lord,
we pray this day and every day
that the lost may sense Your footsteps,
that the fearful may stand firm in You,
that the lonely may recognise You.

Lord,
we pray this day and every day
for cold hearts to be warmed,
for quiet courage to confront evil,
for life in all its fullness to fill us
and to set us free.

Lord

we pray for Eastertide,
for the turning of the tide,

for the love inside us
to grow and to go with You. Amen.

This amended extract is taken from *Pray Now 2013: Daily Devotions on the Theme of Generation to Generation* and is used with permission. This and more recent editions including *Revealing Love and Living Stones* are available from www.standrewpress.com.



Dear Friends

It feels as though we are moving Mannofield Church slowly but surely in the direction of a change that will revitalise and re-energise all that we are able to provide as a Church.

After four years of fundraising and planning for the Development I am pleased to report that very soon we hope to commence phases 1 and 2 of the conservation and modernisation work to our buildings.

Raising £1.2 million has been no easy task in these challenging economic times but the congregation and other supporters have worked extremely hard and the generosity of people has been astounding. People clearly support the vision that we have for making our building more accessible to all-comers and a more pleasant place to visit..

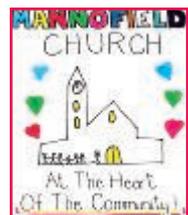
Hopefully the work will be starting in the summer. Inevitably we will need to work round the construction work but as we do so we will no doubt be fuelled by the excitement of the finished product being not too far away.

Although the building improvements must be viewed as benefiting the worship, outreach and mission of the congregation we have been busy planning changes to the way we operate. in We want to bring new vigour to what we offer.

In addition to the district reorganisation (see page 22) which has been undertaken to provide better pastoral care, friendship and communication between us all, we have been creatively making changes to the way we worship.

The 'creative talent' of the congregation is being utilised as we add different flavours to our Sunday morning worship. On Sunday evenings we have introduced Café Church which replaces traditional worship on the last Sunday of the month. This more informal style of worship takes place in the large hall and allows us the opportunity to explore together some of the big questions of life and faith.

Mannofield Church is certainly a place of optimism and energy at this time and we aim to keep building on the start we are making. We can't do this however, without your support and involvement. Don't miss out! If you've not been to church for a while I think now is the time to make plans to come along if you are able can make to your life.



Best wishes

Keith minister@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

44th Boys Brigade



Each week the Boys' Brigade works with thousands of young people in the UK, many of whom have no other connection with the Church.

The 44th Boys' Brigade Company at Mannofield is a vibrant, busy group and is looking for new members in all sections.

Anchors are an enthusiastic bunch enjoying a variety of sports, crafts, stories and fun each week. Recently they have made Valentine cakes, done some 'Despicable Me' colouring in, tried some new dodgeball and tag games and enjoyed a movie night.

In Junior Section too they enjoy a variety of sports, games, craft activities and the weekly joke session. Recently they had a Burns night with the boys addressing the haggis. They have made weather charts and taken part in a national postcard design competition. Line tag is the favourite game of the moment as well as dodgeball and of course football.



Our oldest boys enjoy a varied selection of activities, challenges

and sports including football, unihoc and volleyball. Weekly gymnastic sessions on the Company vaulting horse are popular as well as outside trips including a burger 'n' bowling night, beach cookout and the annual camp. Up and coming events include a Dark Night (games in the dark) and a boys vs men challenge night. This year we have trips planned to Glasgow and Stirling as well as a programme of outdoor summer events.

Overall we provide a balanced selection of fun activities for children and young people from 5 to 18 through all our sections. Run by a dedicated team of people our staff are fully qualified BB leaders and are all cleared to work with children and young people by Disclosure Scotland.

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

Junior Section for boys in P4 - P6 meet on Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15pm.

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

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

Your adventure could start here - come and join in.

Dave Tait, Captain



The Scandal of the Growth in Food Banks

Dame Anne Begg MP February 2015



A number of Churches and charities, including Oxfam and Church Action on Poverty (CPAG), have launched campaigns to raise awareness of the growing number of people living in food poverty and having to use food banks. I think that most people are aware of their growth in recent years.

And the figures bear this out. Trussell Trust reveals that over 71,000 people across Scotland were provided with three days of emergency food and support in 2013/14 compared with just over 14,000 in 2012/13 – that’s a 500% increase. The most recent figures from the Trussell Trust show a 124% annual increase in the use of food banks in Scotland covering the period between April and September 2014.

It is also very concerning that a recent report by a cross-party group of MPs and church leaders (Feeding Britain) found that the single biggest reason given for food bank referrals is problems with the benefit system - including escalating delays in payments. This was also a conclusion reached in a further report by the Trussell Trust, Church Action on Poverty, the Church of England and Oxfam. In the UK Parliament, the Work and Pensions Select Committee, of which I am Chair, has also been looking at this issue as part of our wider inquiries into the operation of Jobcentre Plus and the Government’s increasing use of sanctions. As a result of changes in the Welfare Reform Act 2012, more and more people are finding their benefits stopped for increasingly long periods.

It is clear that the UK and Scottish governments urgently need to address this. They need to tackle spiralling food and energy bills and ensure that the social security system supports those who need it. I welcome the proposals put forward by the Smith Commission to devolve responsibility over some elements of the welfare system to the Scottish Parliament. I believe that devolving power over benefits such as the Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment, Cold Weather Payments, and Discretionary Housing Payments, as well as giving the Scottish Parliament the power to create new benefits in devolved areas, will give the Scottish Government the opportunity to alleviate the necessity for food banks. I hope that it is an opportunity which they will take.

I also believe we need to do far more across the UK to tackle food poverty and low pay and address benefit delays.

I will continue to press the governments in both Westminster and Holyrood on these extremely important issues.

See Page 23 Instant Neighbour plea

A **Young Christians Group** has recently been set up at Mannofield with the intention of bringing together Christians between the ages of 18 and 40 in Aberdeen. We aim to run social events every couple of months. To date we have been for a hillwalk, a meal, 10 pin bowling and most recently a quiz night. As it stands we have around 14 people involved and we would be happy to hear from anyone else who is interested.



We believe Christian networking is very important to all, particularly with those of a similar age. The group is relaxed, and an ideal way for young adults to make new friends, have fun and be encouraged in their faith. Our next event will be an Easter walk and picnic at Crathes Castle, including egg-rolling. We're just big kids really! For further information contact Ryan Webster ryan.webster87@gmail.com 07446 015279

Volunteer! Be a Star! Be Amazed at what you can do!
There has never been a better time to volunteer.



Volunteering brings many benefits both in terms of the great support volunteers provide in local communities such as Mannofield and with respect to people gaining skills, confidence, CV development, employment links, new challenges, personal development and helping improve health and wellbeing through volunteering. For more information please search through the latest volunteering opportunities and information at: www.volunteeraberdeens.org.uk and www.acvo.org.uk or contact ACVO on: 01224 686076 / 01224 686078 e-mail VolunteerCentre@acvo.org.uk

Mannofield Church Social Committee

Mannofield Church social committee brings opportunities for fellowship and fun several times a year. The varied events planned throughout the year are open to the whole parish and their friends as well as the congregation, so please check the notice boards outside the church and elsewhere in the community to see what entices you. In the future we hope to plan one or more joint events with Craigiebuckler Church and support each other's ideas. We look forward to your continued support.

Meantime, there will be the annual **Bus Run** in late summer. We use a special bus to enable those who have difficulty with steps to be able to participate. Last year we went to Kellockbank for afternoon tea and an enjoyable browse in the emporium. It was extremely popular and the bus was full.

In early December we will host a **Christmas Sing Along** with festive entertainment and refreshments. (The stars of 2014 were our very own sparkling ballroom couple who gave us a treat as they twirled around the dance floor. They even got a "10 from Len"!)

We have just had our February event, a delightful **Musical Evening** featuring two well known local entertainers, Jim and Marisha Addison. We also enjoyed a delicious stovies supper!

What will next year hold- a family ceilidh, a Burns' Supper, a Scottish evening?

Watch this space!

Sheila Towns, Convenor

**LAUGH
DANCE
and
CEILIDH
ON!**



Pickled Cow Drama Group



Following the success of our Christmas pantomime when audiences were treated to a humorous version of the Nativity story we are performing an Easter show for the first time in our 12 year history. It's a short sketch show where we get a different take on several aspects of the Easter story from a news reporter interviewing people who have witnessed events to a funny sketch highlighting the reason why the chicken, egg and bunny aren't really part of the Easter story. The show runs for 2 performances at the end of March. For details see the poster below.

After that we are hoping to do a murder mystery show for our summer performance and would welcome anyone who is interested in drama to come and be part of it.

Joining is free and is open to anyone in P6 and above. If you don't want to act there are opportunities in production and backstage roles. We meet at Mannofield Church on Thursday evenings from 7.15 - 9.30pm. For more information, to join or for tickets please contact us at thepickledcow@hotmail.com



THE PICKLED COW Drama Group
Proudly Present

The Egg-cellent Easter Sketch Show

An assortment of original sketches with an Easter theme.

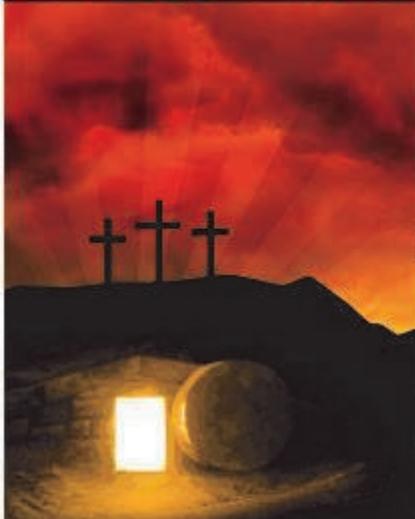


Featuring a court case, Kay Burley and the egg, the chicken & the bunny.

Friday	27th March	@ 7.30pm
Saturday	28th March	@ 2.30pm

On stage at Mannofield Parish Church

Tickets are available from the Church office or by emailing thepickledcow@hotmail.com



AN ORDINARY FAMILY HISTORY



My great, great, great grandfather, a farm labourer, was born in 1787.

In those days, we didn't do wholesale damage to our environment, but life was hard except for the privileged few. Families were large and many died young.

One of his sons started life as a farm labourer. When the railways reached Montrose in 1848, he became a railway porter. The industrial revolution helped the economy, but life was still hard for many.

My great grandfather, born in 1860, followed his father onto the railways. In his 20s, he moved to Springburn in Glasgow, which then manufactured 25% of all the world's trains. A few years later, he was working in the Govan shipyards.

It was an era of rapid change. Heavy engineering swallowed massive amounts of coal and iron, while pumping equally massive amounts of smoke and carbon dioxide into the air. Travel was transformed, although nobody realised just how much this would harm the atmosphere. Another unintended consequence was that new technology changed warfare so much that it became global - twice.

However social and economic conditions were improving. People could expect to live longer – many into their 80s. My grandmother was born in 1890 and married in 1920. Her husband was lucky to survive the Great War as a prisoner, only to

suffer the 1930s depression and the Second World War. Of their two children, my mother lived to pass her 93rd birthday.

We know that pollution and depletion of natural resources are not good ideas. We must change our ways.

However we are hooked on economic growth, so opinions are divided and entrenched. We have to seek a compassionate way of using our economic strengths and skills to support those in need, while avoiding the mistakes of the last couple of centuries. We can't stop economic growth, and wouldn't want to, especially in the Third World.

The church's role in helping to look after our planet is nothing new – we can trace it right back to Genesis. It must be able to communicate well with governments and in an increasingly secular society, ask them to be compassionate and to care for our planet.

And that's why you've read my family history in a Church magazine!

Alistair Stark

Convenor, Eco-Congregation Committee

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



16 April & 21 May

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!

Cost -- £4

Need transport?

**Contact: Mhairi Clark
tel. 01224 317982**

Spring is in the air, although as I write this a further “cauld blast frae the North” is being predicted by Carol Kirkwood.

It is not just the crocuses and snowdrops that are waking up, many of us are too. Winter for many of us means long nights and generally slowing down of everything apart from our calorie intake!

How many of us made New Year's resolutions and how long did they last? Personally I find that trying to change our habits early in the year is really difficult, all we want do is hibernate.

Easter is a much better time, as a time of renewal, new life and a positive future. The season of Lent is behind and many of you I am sure gave up something - chocolate, smoking or alcohol. It needn't stop then.

So what can you do to spring clean and refresh your life? How about some of the following?

More exercise! It doesn't need a gym membership or any fancy kit, just a good pair of shoes. The current recommendation is 10,000 steps a day. I do not know where this comes from, probably the manufacturers for those fancy pedometers! Personally I would say have a walk each day; walk to the shops or round the block. It is better for you and the environment. Increase the distance you walk each day and you will be amazed how much fitter you feel after a couple of weeks. You will lose weight, you will sleep better and your mood will improve as your feeling of general wellbeing increases. Eat more of the right things!

Never a week goes by when we are not bombarded with the “latest medical research”. I find it confusing so I am not sure how my patients find it. Simple message is everything in moderation. That includes butter now, which is great news for the Lawton household. Our bodies are designed to cope with a mixture of foods from the 3 major food groups protein, carbohydrates and fats. All are important in healthy diet. Unfortunately many of the fats we eat today are manmade or altered. These are more damaging to our blood vessels.

So what can you eat? Well, look for foods that are rich in fats of plant origin e.g. olive oil, rapeseed oil and food that is high in omega 3. The good news is that this includes most oily fish. These are foods that are high in good fat. Yes there is such a thing and will help protect against heart disease.

Many people ask about vitamin supplements. With a balanced diet you should not need any unless you have a proven vitamin deficiency such as pernicious anaemia or need supplements such as vitamin D with osteoporosis. As a general rule all these products are very similar. A basic multi-vitamin is as good as one with fancy packaging and even fancier names. If you do take supplements do not exceed the recommended dose. It will not be any better for you and may even be harmful.

Have a happy and healthy Eastertide.



Garden Notes

As the days grow longer, it's time to think about the garden. Not quite barbecue weather yet, but a couple of hours outside will save work later in the year and help to shift those extra Christmas kilos!

Using a spring tine rake, clear away winter debris and thatch to allow aeration, raising the grass ready for mowing. Electric scarifiers or mower attachments can be a bit savage and are best used in autumn. Gardening books often suggest March as the first mowing month but in the north-east we can often leave this until April. A good lawn feed (spread evenly to avoid scorching) can wait until late April or early May. With clay soil and the presence of trees, my own garden is plagued with moss in winter but I prefer not to use moss-kill in the mix. The resulting blackened patches can be overtaken by weeds. By raking, feeding and mowing (on a high cut to begin the season), grass will soon overcome any obstacles. Neatening the edges with a spade or half-moon cutter will finish the job.



Prunus serrula

Before you think about summer, how were your borders in winter? Now is the time to take stock. An Aberdeen winter can be long, with frosts possible until late May, so a bit of structure will help to provide interest all year round. Evergreen shrubs or small trees look wonderful with a sprinkling of snow.

Our native rowan can be too tall for the garden but sorbus vilmorinii, much smaller with pale pink berries and beautiful autumn colour does well in the north-east. The birds will be grateful too!

Prunus serrula, with its peeling cinnamon bark or the ghostly white birch, betula jacquemontii are other options.

For shrubs, daphne retusa makes a lovely dark green mound with the bonus of pale scented flowers in spring.



daphne retusa

Rhododendrons, such as Cunningham's White, deserve a place in any garden and for those who don't have much time for gardening, many can be grown in large pots. Certain bamboos and tall grasses such as miscanthus also do well in pots, if fed and watered regularly.

These look great when grouped on an area of pebbles or broken slate. Such areas should be flattened and covered in weed-smothering membrane before spreading stones, slate or bark on top.

Although Fox Lane Nursery is no longer in our parish area, a trip to their premises in Westhill is well worth the effort (As are other garden centres in the area! *Editor*). They have a large selection of bedding plants to give you summer colour but remember those late frosts. Harden the plants off outside during the day, but protect them at night until the risk of damage is past.

"Cast ne'er a cloot ere May be oot" is a warning for gardeners too!
Happy gardening!

Ladies Accessory Fashion Show !!

Tuesday 28 April 2015

Mannofield Church @ 7.30pm

**Tickets £6 – including Refreshments
available from**

Church Office, Countesswells Road

Mon-Thurs mornings

Or call Ellen 01224 867028

Or Jane 01224 315144

**Come and join us with KAGA for a
Ladies Accessory Fashion Show !!**



**A New Shopping Experience showing Ladies Handbags, Scarves, Jewellery &
Accessories**

We are raising funds for Mannofield Community Project

All Ticket and Raffle monies and Sales commission will go directly to funds

KAGA Gifts Ltd Old Bank House, Fyvie

Open Monday – Saturday 10am - 4pm

Goods available for purchase on the evening, payment by cash or card
Find us on Facebook !!



10 – 16 May

It will soon be time for Christian Aid week. Last year 20,000 churches came together and raised a staggering £12 million.

75% of this is from door-to-door collections – so look out for the red envelope which will be delivered through your letterbox in May and the volunteer who will follow to collect it. Mannofield volunteers covered nearly 40 streets last year. If you'd like to help out please contact Ann Kindness on 01224 319336.

In 2015 Christian Aid is 70 -“that’s 70 years of struggle to overcome poverty; 70 years of believing that the mountains of inequality, corruption and injustice can be moved.”

To commemorate this, Christian Aid has set a challenge to climb 70 Munros to try to raise £70,000. There’s a detailed programme of climbs all over Scotland, until October – including Ben Hope. Any keen **hillwalkers** out there who would like to join in by climbing one, or lots of Munros, please contact Ann Kindness at ann@aohs.uk.com or on 01224 319336.

Bring More Hope this Christian Aid Week

Airyhall Primary School



This term Airyhall School has been doing lots of new exciting things and having lots of fun along the way!

Primary 1 has been learning about its local community. The pupils have made a map of places in the community including Mannofield Church and have spent some time learning about and making stained glass windows.

Primary 1/2 has been focusing on the weather. They wanted to find out if Jack Frost was real and what made thunder. They had lots of fun finding out the answers to these questions and looking at the weather around them.

Primary 2 also found out about the weather as well as finding out about the water cycle, flying kites and making tornadoes in a bottle.

Primary 3's topic has been learning about Island Life vs. City Life. They have been looking at lots of Katie Morag books and relating Katie Morag's life to their own in Aberdeen. They have also learnt about coordinates and even learned some Scottish songs and poems that they hadn't heard of before.

Primary 4 has been learning about life in Spain. Whilst they have been doing this they made some porridge (which was very tasty), carried out a bean experiment and even heard the story of Joseph from the Bible. The other **Primary 4** class has been focusing on seas and oceans. They have been learning about sea animals and all about their environment. In maths they have been learning about measurement and how to present information. They are also looking forward to World Book Day where they will be reading lots of exciting books.



Primary 5 has been learning about the history of Aberdeen from the 16th century to the 19th century. They have been busy preparing for a talk on a historic building. In art they have been using watercolours and sketching pencils to draw Aberdeen's historic buildings. The other **Primary 5** has been learning to do the Indian dribble in hockey. They have also been using water paints and learning about Aberdeen's history.

The **Primary 6** class and **Primary 6/7** class have been focusing on their own Airyhall Apprentice. They are working in teams to create their own unique sandwich filling. Each of the teams must also design a logo, slogan and company name. They are looking forward to doing this activity.

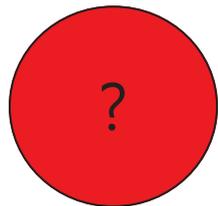
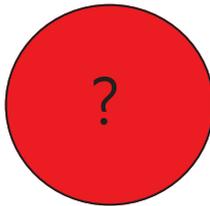
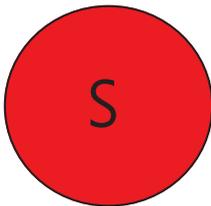
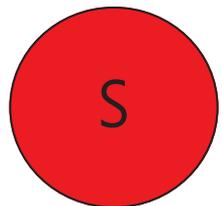
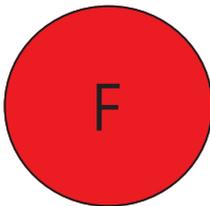
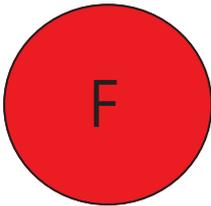
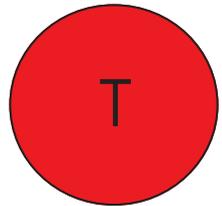
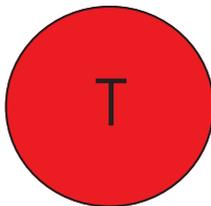
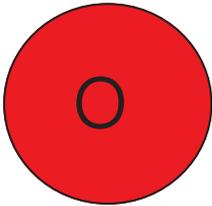
Primary 7 has been learning about food miles and how food travels. They have made and tasted soup made from locally grown vegetables which was very tasty. Later in the term they will be looking at democracy and politics. We are also looking forward to a visitor from the Scottish Parliament. The primary 6 and 6/7 class will also meet the visitor.

Fairtrade fortnight is coming soon and the school are doing lots of work including Enterprise activities for our Airyhall families. They will also be making a tea loaf for every class which everyone is looking forward to.

We will all be remembering the real meaning of Easter and everyone is looking forward to the Easter holidays. *(Especially the teachers?! Editor)*

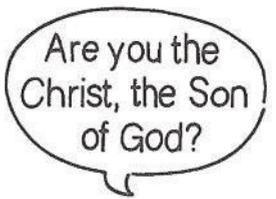
Can you complete the pattern...?

Reading from left to right can you supply the next two letters of this simple mnemonic

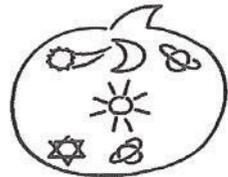




This is a question Jesus was asked:

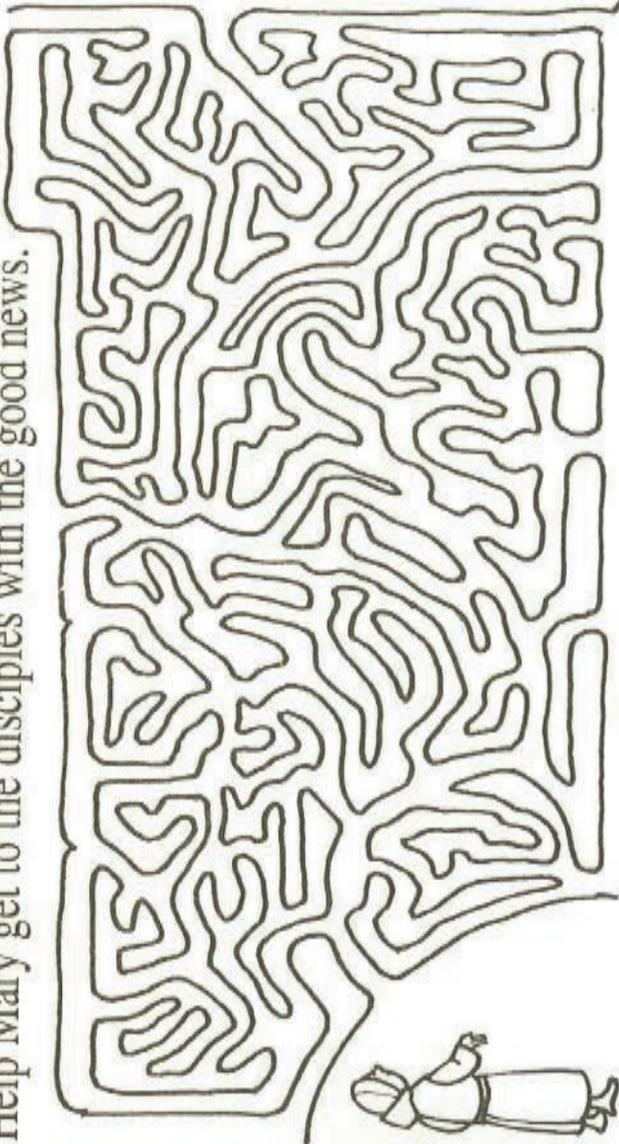


This is what Jesus replied



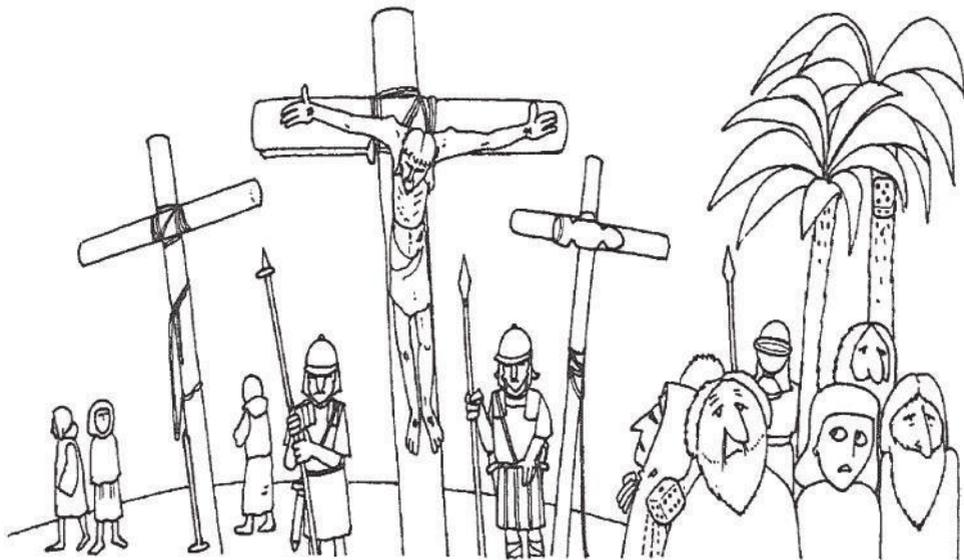
A =	☆	M =	∞
E =	☾	S =	∞
I =	☀	Y =	☾

Help Mary get to the disciples with the good news.



How many Easter eggs can you find? There are a total of six hidden on this page and the next two pages!

Read Matthew 27:33-44



Can you find a hammer, three nails, a cup of wine and a pair of dice hidden in the picture? 

Jesus suffered because: Read the story in John 20:11-18 then colour in the picture below.

He was ELTNEG and others were TNELOIV.

He was ELBMUH and others were DUORP.

He was TSENOH and others were TSENOHSID.

(Turn the words round to solve the puzzle).



These pictures may look the same, but can you spot six differences?



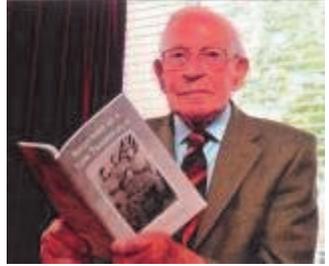
December's Answers:

Joy to the world, Little Drummer Boy, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, Deck the halls, Winter wonderland, Oh Christmas tree, 12 days of Christmas' Oh little town of Bethlehem, Away in a manger.



Eric Johnston A Royal Commission

Eric Johnston, a member of Mannofield Church, is a World War 2 veteran and fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany from the Normandy landings on D-Day to Bremerhaven on VE Day in 1945.



In June this year a portrait of Eric is to be unveiled in Buckingham Palace. A select few D-Day Veterans were nominated to receive this honour. Eric was nominated by his Regiment, the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards Tank Regiment. The painting was especially commissioned by HRH Prince Charles.

How did this come about? Eric was a Tank trooper and was the co-driver/wireless operator in a Stuart tank and was fortunate to see 11 months in action suffering only minor injuries.

After demobilisation he maintained contact with his Regiment and their HQ. When time permitted he attended reunions and made visits to Europe and the cemeteries where many of his friends had been buried.

One of the Regimental memorials is in Creully in Normandy, one of the first towns the Regiment liberated shortly after the landings in early June 1944.

Eric was present at the unveiling of the memorial in 1992 and has continued his close association with the Regiment and has met Prince Charles on two formal occasions.

In 2014 Eric wrote his book “ Reflections of a Tank Trooper (Retd)” which tells of his experience. It is certainly worth a read.

After the unveiling of the portraits they will be held in the Permanent Royal Collection. Eric is looking forward to the invitation to be present at the unveiling along with his two daughters.

Footnote

In 2013 while touring the Normandy countryside, my wife and I stopped in a small car park by a mill stream to have a cup of tea. It was a lovely spot with open countryside and trees and was situated in a valley in the shadow of a medieval castle. Looking around I saw that behind us was a rather impressive War memorial which I photographed. There are dozens of such memorials around Normandy but this was the only one I photographed that year. It was only when I was reading Eric’s book that I realised that his description of the setting for the memorial to his regiment was familiar. This was the self same memorial. The setting was below the town of Creully which had been liberated by them in 1944. I couldn’t wait to tell Eric about this unexpected coincidence and the next day I gave him an up to date copy of my photo. We enjoyed our subsequent chat about his experiences. By the way Chateau Creully became Montgomery’s HQ during the Normandy campaign.



Q What is your age, occupation, marital status and family?

A I am 91, retired Bank Area general manager; married to Joan with 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Sadly Joan is now in Maryfield West Care Home.

Q How long have you been a Mannofield Church member and do you have a favourite hymn?

A I attended Mannofield Sunday School at 6 years of age and have been a members all my life. My favourite hymn is the 23rd Psalm.

Q What is the best piece of advice you were ever given?

A Read everything.

Q Who is your favourite fictional character?

A Alan Breck from Robert Louis Stevenson's "Kidnapped."

Q What is your most treasured possession?

A My collection of family photographs and memories of time in the army, mountaineering and skiing.

Q If you could choose a profession that you would have liked to try what would that be?

A After the war I considered Forestry but discovered that there were very few jobs available although there were courses at Aberdeen and Oxford Universities.

Q If you could change something about yourself what would it be?

A I am a fairly reserved person and pretty self sufficient but wish I had been a better cricketer, my favourite sport.

Q If you could travel back in time where would you go?

A 18th century Scotland during the Scottish Enlightenment.

Q What would you do if you ruled the world?

A I would encourage the sharing of our resources worldwide on a more equal basis and eliminate starvation and poverty.

Q Who or what is the love of your life?

A My family.

Q What has been your greatest achievement?

A Survival!

Q On what purchase have you spent most apart from a car or property?

A Skis.

Q Who was your favourite teacher and why?

A Mr Thomson, Headmaster at Ashley Road School. He was the person who told me to read everything, knowing that we would learn to discriminate as we grew older.

Q How old were you when you took part in the Normandy landings?

A 20. I volunteered to join the army when I was 18 with the wish to be in a Tank regiment.

Q What are your abiding memories of that time both good and bad?

A The comradeship and being part of a small crew of 4 wholly dependent on each other all doing their job properly.

The worst was the horrendous casualties suffered by the foot soldiers and combat troops.

Q What inspired you and motivated you during your wartime service?

A That's easy– the spirit of adventure. Also I was proud to be in the British Army fighting the historical rarity of a just and legal war.

As told to Keith Campbell to whom many thanks.
Editor

The Pastoral Care Group
URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!

As there has been an influx of persons in the last few weeks requesting the assistance of the **Caring Group** I am in great need of more people to visit such persons as the pool of reserve visitors is almost depleted. The last thing I would like to do is have to tell someone I had no one to visit them.



If you feel you have the time and inclination and would like to help with any of the following services undertaken by the Pastoral Care Group of Mannofield Church **PLEASE** contact me Jean Anderson (Convenor) Tel 01224 322183.

email: andyandjean@hotmail.co.uk

Services

Car Transport to and from Sunday services for those less able

Church Flower Delivery

Audio CD Compilation and Distribution

Hospital Escort Service (taking patients to and from the Sunday

Chapel Service in ARI)



PASTORAL CARE GROUP 2014/15 AGM

The AGM will be held on **Friday 27 March @ 2pm** in the Centenary Hall. The Guest speaker is Mr Derek Rettie, Care Manager at Ashley House Residential Home. Tea will be served.

Church Districts Reorganisation



Church members will likely already be aware that reorganisation of the Districts has taken place. This was necessary as we had fewer Elders to cover the existing Districts with the result that some Districts were not, and could not, be covered. We reduced the number of Districts by 11 and in addition took the opportunity to re-shape the whole District system so that it will work more efficiently going forward.

Some Church members will continue to be visited by an Elder who is a familiar face but the majority will be reallocated to a new Elder. This of course will be a 'loss' for many but we do hope that in making this change now we are paving the way for the pastoral visitation of our church membership to continue for many decades to come. New friendships will hopefully be established and many cherished friendships will continue in other ways.

One further change is that Elders will now officially visit twice a year and these visits will not be tied to Communion dates. Elders will visit in the weeks leading up to Easter and the weeks leading up to Harvest. This will allow us to better communicate the exciting activities taking place in church life and worship throughout the year.

Food poverty is a national concern and it is increasing at an alarming rate. Foodbanks are even needed in “wealthy” Aberdeen.



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

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

PLEASE keep the box in the vestibule of the church filled, especially during the summer. Anything welcome as long as it is long dated and non perishable.

THANK YOU for your donations so far. Much needed and much appreciated!!

Mannofield Church

Instant Neighbour Team

The amount collected from our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services was £890.94 This was donated to INSTANT NEIGHBOUR.

Gift Aid

Sandy McKenzie, our Gift Aid Convener, wishes to thank all who have forwarded Gift Aid payments in the current tax year.

He would be pleased to receive all outstanding amounts, deposited in the Church plate or office in a clearly marked envelope, by 5 April 2015.

FLOWER CALENDAR

	April	5	Mrs R. Wallace
		12	Miss Joan Youngson’s Estate
		19	Mrs Audrey Milne
		26	Miss C. Robertson
	May	3	Miss J. May
		10	Mrs K. Martin
		17	Mrs M. Bonner
		24	Mrs S. McAdam
		31	Mrs N. Anderson

The deadline for the MAY issue of *InSpire* is 16 APRIL

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

**roddy@mccollassociates.com
office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk**

MANNOFIELD GUILD

April

- 2 Coffee Morning 10am
- 14 Annual General meeting

May

- 7 Coffee Morning 10am
- 17 Guild Walk from South Holburn Church at 2.30pm

HATS, BLANKETS AND DRESSES

Just a selection of items due to be handed over soon. Hats for sailors. Dresses for Africa. Blankets for sick children at ARI or Ekwendeni.



All made by members of the Guild, congregation and those living in the area.

If you want to be part of this group, patterns are available in the Office. Call in and choose.

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 2 youth clubs running on Sunday and Monday evenings for ages 11+. Sundays involve some games, food and discussions. One Monday per month we have Youthie: On the Road which involves 'sampling' different fast-food restaurants!

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

Helping me to run these events are Andrew Cattanach and Natalie Crowe. Among us we have several years experience volunteering with young people. Andrew has been involved in Young Church while Natalie has previously volunteered at children's groups. I am an officer in our 44th 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.

[Today's youth...tomorrow's leaders.](#)

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

Ryan Webster

ryan.webster87@gmail.com 07446 015279

Youth Volunteer



With the worst of winter hopefully behind us, it is time to give you a little update for the West End Community Policing Team (CPT).



There has been a number of changes in supervision, with Sergeants Ian Davidson and Jackie Knight both moving on to other roles, but the good news is that their vacancies have already been filled with Sergeants Murray King and Bob Shand, so there will be no loss of service as a result. With Sergeants Lesley Clark and Paul Jones-Goldie still *in situ*, I have a very keen and motivated team under my supervision.

At this time of year, many people are looking to 'spring clean', tidy up gardens and perhaps have that fence painted, or driveway re-tarred.

This fact is not lost on those involved in this kind of work and it is not uncommon to see a rise in the number of unsolicited calls and leaflets put through your letterbox.

While most tradesman are responsible, trustworthy and reliable, it is an unfortunate truth that there is a small minority who are unscrupulous and will cold-call at addresses hoping to make money quickly, carrying out poor quality work (or indeed none at all) for high prices. They may see the elderly or vulnerable as easier targets.

There are two main types of door step criminals:

Bogus callers try to get into your home or obtain personal details by pretending to be someone they're not, including council staff, charity collectors, meter readers and police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal money and valuables.

Rogue traders

usually cold-call, claiming to be workers offering to sell services, make repairs or carry out work on your house, garden or driveway.



Ian McKinnon

In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work.

We **do not** recommend dealing with cold-callers for property maintenance and home repairs.

We can all play our part in helping to combat this. Look out for your neighbours if they are elderly or vulnerable. Consider downloading the Window Card from the Police Scotland Website and having them display same.

If you see work getting done and are suspicious that your neighbour may be a victim, speak to your neighbour and see what they have asked for and why. Genuine workmen are not afraid of scrutiny, and there should be documentation supplied before any work is undertaken. If you feel in anyway suspicious, call the Police on 101, and note descriptions of the workmen and registrations of vehicles to help us - we would rather have ten false but well intended calls, than miss one real one.

For further information and posters, cards and information to download, visit the Police Scotland Website and search for 'Door Step Crime'.

Finally, Police Scotland is actively recruiting Police Officers and Special Constables at the moment. So, if you fancy a change of career or know someone who does, point them in the direction of the Police Scotland website where there is a wealth of information, or pop in past to speak to an Officer. *Ian McKinnon, Inspector West End CPT*

Girl Guiding is still alive in Mannofield



We are surviving in Guides in Mannofield. We are currently a very small band of girls and leaders. Where do all the young girls go after the age of 10 we are wondering?

Despite our reduced numbers we have been pretty busy doing lots of different activities over the last few months.

Two of our girls received their BP award in December, the highest achieving award in Guides. We celebrated in true style with a night out bowling and then a trip to Pizza Hut. We also had a presentation night with a lovely cake and tea for the girls' parents. Well done to Lola and Angharad!!

We currently have 4 other Guides working towards this award. The girls have to complete a series of 10 challenges from different zones. These could include arranging fitness nights, party nights for Brownies or Rainbows and presentations on FairTrade to name a few. We have had several themed evenings this term, been quizzed on animals and made owl bookmarks in a nature evening.

We have made pizzas and hot chocolate and enjoyed them of course.

We have had a "Frozen" night (Disney film) when we made igloos from ice cubes, had an ice cube and spoon race, made and ate melted snowman biscuits and made an Olaf snowman from socks and cotton wool.

In the pipeline for the next few months are a sleepover in the church, a joint first aid night with the Brownies, a cheerleading visitor night and a trip to Glasgow to the Tartan Gig which is a pop concert exclusively for members of Girlguiding.

If this sounds good to you then please contact the church office for details. Tel 01224 310087

Councillor Martin Greig

Tel 07920806332

mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Budget day in February is the Council's main event in the year. This involves tough decisions. I wanted to see more funding allocated to schools and to basic maintenance of roads and pavements. Everyone uses city streets so more repair and resurfacing work should be done to make them safer for all. Please let me know of any problems and I will try to help.

Great Western Road and Anderson Drive are two very busy roads in our residential area with large volumes of traffic. I have been contacted with complaints about speeding traffic and driving through red stop lights in these streets. I am following up these worrying incidents. The safety of pedestrians is paramount.

There is still massive public opposition to the Muse development in Broad Street. I have consistently opposed this unwanted proposal. I continue to campaign to try and stop it. Please let me know your thoughts.

The police have asked me to remind people to check - and double check - that doors and windows are kept locked in your home. The security of sheds and cars should also be checked. Opportunistic criminals are known to visit areas to try and gain access through doors and windows. The non-emergency police number is 101.

REAL EASTER EGGS



This year inside the box there is a 24 page Easter story book, with quiz and a 3ft. "Happy Easter" banner, a high quality Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (125g) and a pack of Fairtrade Chunky Buttons (25g). A donation of at least 10p is made to Traidcraft Exchange for every sale .

The Eco-Committee has a supply of the Real Easter Eggs to purchase at £4.00 each. If you would like to buy some, please see Audrey Milne or Sandy McKenzie. The eggs will also be available in the church office.

SPRING UPDATE *Councillor Angela Taylor*
Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk Mob: 07876 748527



AIRYHALL LIBRARY

Local residents may have noticed that work is currently being carried out at Airyhall Library. Aberdeen City Council is investing £260,000 in the replacement of the flat roof and an internal refurbishment. The Library closed on 11 February for approximately 10 weeks for the internal refurbishment. During this time a 'Pop-up Library' will operate in the adjacent Airyhall Community Centre every Mon, Wed and Fri morning from 10.00am - 1.00pm. Library users who wish to access the full range of services will be directed to the nearest Community Library at Kaimhill Primary School or to the library that is most convenient for them.

EDUCATION—teacher shortages

I have recently received emails and letters from concerned parents regarding teacher shortages. Recruitment in the primary sector has been challenging in the last two years in Aberdeen City. The Education and Children's Services directorate has been very proactive in terms of recruitment of teachers and I am pleased that at the time of writing, our secondary schools are fully staffed with only 5 current vacancies, which is in the normal range of turn over of vacancies at this point in the year.

The recruitment of primary staff has been more challenging. We recruited over 150 primary staff in 2014; however, we have consistently had between 25-50 vacancies since August 2014. We have continually had open adverts for 'bulk' recruitment for primary staff and we have advertised for some individual schools. We were successful in recruiting 15 probationer teachers from Ireland in the Autumn and they began their teaching careers in Aberdeen City in October 2014.

Currently we are recruiting again in Ireland, Malta, Newcastle and Liverpool and we recently recruited from Australia and Spain. Aberdeen City made an incentive scheme available to new recruits from outwith Aberdeen and this has had some success. We have also offered a distance learning programme scheme (DLITE), which leads to a post graduate qualification in primary teaching, to staff employed by Aberdeen City Council. I am pleased to say that 15 members of staff are now participating in the DLITE Scheme.

I hope this assures you that Aberdeen City Council is trying to fill the vacant posts. However, if anyone has any ideas on how else we can recruit teachers, I would be delighted to receive those suggestions!

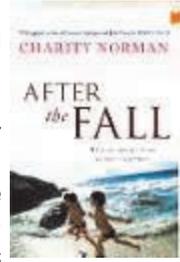
Education and improving the welfare of all Aberdeen's children and young people remains the number one priority for this Administration. Since May 2012, in Broomhill School alone the Council has invested over £300,000 on various projects, including security alterations, additional nursery room, playground resurfacing, after-school club and toilet refurbishment (to be started in March 2015). The Council is committed to ensuring that education is not only about learning but is about raising the aspirations of children and young people to maximise their life opportunities.

Mannofield Church Book Club Book for April

Mannofield book club continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month reading a variety of books which leads to interesting and stimulating discussion.

The book for April is **After the Fall** by **Charity Norman**

In the quiet of a New Zealand winter's night, a rescue helicopter is sent to airlift a five-year-old boy with severe internal injuries. He's fallen from the upstairs veranda of an isolated farmhouse and his condition is critical. At first, Finn's fall looks like a horrible accident. After all, he's prone to sleepwalking. Only his frantic mother, Martha McNamara, knows how it happened and she isn't telling. Not yet. Maybe not ever.



For further information contact: Niki Anderson Tel 01224743484

Hot cross bun - bread & lemon pudding

However much you love hot cross buns there are always some left over. This is a great way to use up your leftover buns in a spin on traditional bread and butter pudding.

Ingredients

knob of butter, for the dish	4 stale hot cross buns
200g lemon curd	2 large eggs
200ml double cream	200ml milk
½ tsp vanilla extract	4 tbsp caster sugar
little lemon zest	cream or vanilla ice cream, to serve (optional)



Method

1. Butter a 1-litre baking dish that will quite snugly fit the buns. Cut each bun into 3 slices, and sandwich back together with a generous spreading of curd. Arrange buns in the dish.

2. Whisk egg, cream, milk and remaining curd, then sieve into a jug with the vanilla and 3 tbsp of the sugar. Pour over the buns and stand at room temperature for 30 mins for the custard to soak in.

Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/ gas 3. Scatter the remaining sugar and lemon zest over the pudding. Bake for 30-40 mins until the top is golden and the custard gently set. Stand for 5 mins, then serve with cream or vanilla ice cream, if you like.

Coffee Stop Centenary Hall @ 10am

Tuesdays 14 and 28 April
Tuesdays 12 and 26 May



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Mr James Mitchell

Baptism

22 February Kayla Ellen Bertram

Deaths:

January Mary Farquhar,
February Mrs Chris Boyd,
February Mr Douglas Simpson,
February Noel Russell,



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The Parenting Children Course

0 to 10-year-olds

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The Parenting Teenager Course

11 to 18-year-olds

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

Starting 28th April 2015 - 26th May 2015

Every Tuesday - 7:15pm to 9:15pm

Mannofield Church, Great Western Road, Aberdeen

Both courses are on offer and run for 5 weeks

Spaces are limited so please call to secure your place on

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Email. office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk



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