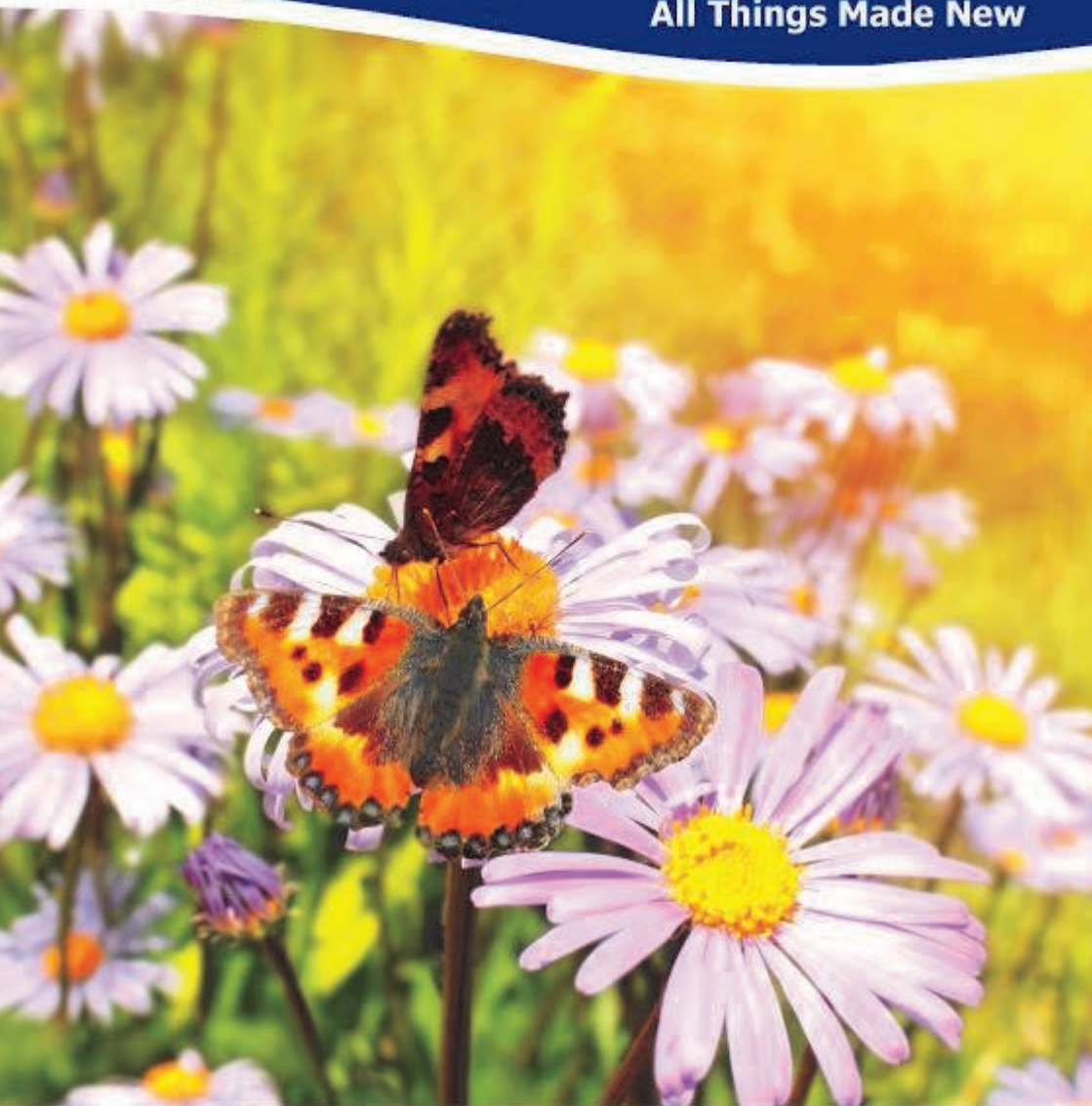




INSPIRE



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CHURCH CALENDAR APRIL/MAY 2014

Wed 2 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 6 April	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Ciorsten Blake</i>
Wed 9 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 13 April Palm Sunday 	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 16 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Thurs 17 April	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service (Mannofield)
Fri 18 April	7.30pm	Ecumenical Good Friday Service (Craigiebuckler)
Sun 20 April Easter Sunday See Page 7 	8.30am	Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast
	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Wed 23 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 27 April	10am	Morning Worship Youth Organisations Praise Service
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service: Youth Group
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Bob Anderson</i>
Wed 30 April	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 4 May	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Pastoral Care Committee</i>
Wed 7 May	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 11 May	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Phil Gunn, Parish Assistant</i>
Wed 14 May	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 18 May	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Rev Keith Blackwood 'Celebrating 40 Days'</i>
Wed 21 May	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 25 May	10am	Morning Worship Youth Organisations Praise Service
	3.15pm	Craigielea Gardens Service: <i>Audrey Milne, Fraser Beaton</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>led by Andrew Cattanach</i>
Wed 28 May	10.30am	Midweek Service



Dear Friends

In this special edition of the magazine that goes to all in the Parish of Mannofield I would like to wish you a **'Happy Easter'**.

Sometimes those of us who attend church don't like using the phrase 'Happy Easter'. We prefer to talk about 'Easter Greetings' or 'Easter Blessings' perhaps believing that 'Happy Easter' is too much of a secular phrase associated with the selling of cards, soft toys and of course chocolate eggs.

Most definitely there has been a commercialisation of Easter over the years. We can't change that but when we dig deep down into the very foundations of Easter I actually conclude there is no better phrase that sums up what Easter **is** and what **we wish Easter to be** for others, than the good old phrase 'Happy Easter'.

Easter is about happiness; God bringing happiness into the world through the Cross and the Church taking happiness into the world as it carries Jesus' Cross today.

Easter is quite simply about the Cross-how we carry it, how we wear it, how we live by it.

Easter starts by removing ourselves from all that the Cross is not. It is not a symbol of prestige, wealth or power. Instead we associate ourselves with all that the Cross is. It is about Life defeating death, Light in darkness, Hope in despair, Love over evil.

If we want to follow Christ, or indeed celebrate what God has done for the world, we must do so radically by first saying, "No" to all that the cross is not and then saying "Yes" to all that the cross is: justice, mercy, and compassion.

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.

Happy Easter

Keith k5blackwood@btinternet.com

MANNOFIELD GUILD

APRIL

Tuesday 1	Jeanette Abel, "Heart for Art"
Thursday 3	Coffee Morning 10am
Tuesday 15	Barney Crockett, "History of Cinemas"
Wed 16	Easter Service 10.30am
Tuesday 29	AGM and Rhoda Wright 'From Cairo to the Cape'

MAY

Thursday 1	Coffee Morning 10am
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Mannofield Church Easter Celebration Sunday 20 April

Young People and Families
Committee



It's a bake off, sort of.

This Easter Mannofield Church is again inviting allcomers from around the Parish and elsewhere to join in and help celebrate this wonderful time in the Christian calendar.

After breakfast at 9:30 we invite you to the Centenary Hall for some craft activities prior to the Easter Service. Following the service, drop by the Large Hall for a tea/coffee, alternatively listen to the Children's Easter message in the Centenary Hall. At about 11.30 we will commence our main event. Using our own Mary Berry & Paul Hollywood we plan to have a **"Cake decorate off"**. Everything you need will be available. It can be a team/family or individual event- there are very few rules! Why not come along and be a spectator? Prizes will be available for the judged winners. Other ongoing activities include Hard Boiled Egg/Gingerbread men decoration and we will also be making Hot Cross buns in the kitchen.

This event will end with a "Christ Is Risen" celebration meal at about 12.15. We hope to have a "healthy uptake" for this event and it would be even more special if you would bring a friend or two.

Watch out for our Summer event, a late afternoon stroll up Bennachie followed by some food and drinks, including BBQ food. Lots of family fun!

Contact Michael & Suzanne Fairhurst for more details. Tel 314829

Mannofield Church Social Committee

Fun and fellowship are our mainstays!

We have just run a fabulous ceilidh held on 1 March which was hugely enjoyable and in no small way was due to **Jim Ruxton's Band** for the toe tapping music and to **Take Five caterers** for producing delicious stovies. Watch this space for your chance to join in next year's special Spring event.

In late Summer we will be running our usual mystery **bus trip** which includes afternoon tea and opportunities for fun.

In early December we will once again be hosting our **Christmas entertainment and sing-a-long**. Do get your (free) tickets early for this one as word has got around and it is very popular! For all our events keep an eye on local notice boards in the community, the church and our very own InSpire magazine, Mannofield church Facebook and web pages.

Thank you to all who have supported our past endeavours. We hope that you continue to enjoy all further opportunities for fellowship throughout the year.

**LAUGH
DANCE
and
CEILIDH**



44th Boys Brigade



The 44th Boys' Brigade Company at Mannofield has been busy providing fun and exciting activities for boys aged from 5 - 18. Below are some highlights from the past few months.

Anchor Boys is for boys from P1(min age 5) - P3 and meets on Thursdays 6.00 - 7.00pm. The boys have been busy playing games and enjoying crafts. They have made a hamma bead fridge magnet, a special Christmas card and designed a tartan for Burns Day. In November we had a movie night when the boys enjoyed making popcorn and watched a Gruffalo film. In February we took some boys to a Fun Day at BB HQ. They played games, painted pictures, played on a bouncy castle and finished off the morning with a magician show.

Junior Section is for boys from P4 - P6 and meets on Thursdays 6.45 - 8.15pm.

The boys at Juniors have been practising their figure marching for a forthcoming competition. It takes quite a lot of co-ordination for the lead boys to be able to both remember the course and keep things moving along. They have also enjoyed unihoc sessions and a giant assault course in the hall.



Company Section is for boys from P7 - S6 and meets on Fridays 7.45 - 10.00pm.

The older boys have been learning some new sports recently when we held training sessions on netball and volleyball. Other sports and gymnastic sessions continue including making pyramids. We had a sleepover in the church complete with pizza, a big screen movie and breakfast at McDonalds. More exciting evenings are planned with a dark night and a boys vs. men challenge night in the pipeline. Plans are underway to take a small group of boys to Orkney in the summer and, along with other outdoor activities for the coming summer months, there is a busy period ahead.

All sections of the 44th went to the Pickled Cow youth drama pantomime in the church and had separate Christmas party events both in the hall and at a local play centre.

There are places available in all three sections. The Company is run by a dedicated team of people who are fully qualified and are all cleared to work with children by Disclosure Scotland.

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

Pickled Cow Drama Group



The Pickled Cow is a youth drama group for children and young people from P6 onwards. We meet in the Centenary Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.15-9.30pm. For more that ten years we have performed two major productions every year with proceeds going to various charities.

Our recent Christmas pantomime was a roaring success. Called A Great Western it was a cowboy story set in the wild west. Characters such as bar tender Slimey Ike, Mexican cowboy Gonzales and the hero Prince Oswald retold the story of The Good Samaritan with hilarious results. Our pantomime cow Daisy featured and the whole thing finished with a huge family reunion and a hoe down to Cotton Eyed Joe.



Work is underway for our next two projects. The first will be performed in the church during the special service for young people at 10am on Sunday 27 April. In the usual PCDG light hearted style it tells the story of the Resurrection through the eyes of the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb. Following that we will be starting rehearsals for this year's summer production. Entitled "Death by Dessert" it's the story of two feuding New York Italian families. Set in the families' restaurants it's a murder mystery, which is a new style for us and so an exciting prospect.

Tickets will be available in June from PCDG members and the church office. Get yours early. For more information email thepickledcow@hotmail.com

The children in our *Quest Club* brainstormed a few questions and came up with these thoughts :



Why do you think Easter is important?

- Jesus rose from the grave
- Jesus is alive
- We learn about the Easter Story
- Easter eggs represent the stone
- We get to roll our eggs down the hill
- We can spend time with our families

What difference do the events of the first Easter make to the world today?

- People know about Jesus
- God loves them
- God cares
- The world has hope because Jesus overcame death

Easter reminds us that God loves us, how does this make you feel ?

- Glad; Hopeful; Joyful; Excited; Happy; Cared for and Loved!

HAPPY EASTER FROM THE QUEST CLUB

The debate on the issues at the heart of the upcoming Referendum on Scottish Independence has been simmering away for months (if not longer). Recently however the concentration of media attention and the political arguments have heated up. I suspect we have not quite reached 'boiling point' yet and I am sure there is much energy to be directed towards the debates to come in the months ahead.



As a minister I recognise that one cannot separate theology and faith from the things that happen in the world. Jesus' life and teachings are grounded in the reality of day-to-day life and his vision was very much towards the eradication of injustice and the improvement of society. In our preaching and work as Ministers in the Church of Scotland we are compelled to speak from Faith on matters that affect society and the people who live in it. A theological perspective can be directed towards many of the so-called secular and political issues of the day - especially those matters that deal with the welfare of humanity and the protection of creation. Sermons and other communications can target these issues and sometimes even give a very 'black and white' teaching as to how the faithful Christian should reflect on particular matters and ultimately sometimes going as far as to indicate the appropriate response.

I have thought long and hard about the biblical and theological perspective in regard to the whole question of Scottish Independence. My conclusion is - it doesn't exist.

I can see no biblical or theological reasoning that can be appropriately applied to either the 'Yes' or 'No' campaigns.

I have made up my mind on how I will vote. My decision does not come from theological reflection or prayerful contemplation. It is a decision based on many other factors no doubt, but it certainly doesn't arise from a particularly Christian viewpoint.

The Church of Scotland as an institution is officially neutral in this debate. Individual members and ministers are allowed to have their own views and are entitled to get involved in the political affairs of the nation.

As an institution however, I reckon there is only so far we can go in terms of public comment based on the understanding of the Christian Faith:-

We can encourage people to use their vote and so reflect the principles of democracy that govern our country. These find their basis within the teachings of Christian Faith which indicate the legitimacy and uniqueness and 'Rights' of each individual.

We can stress the importance of conducting the debate and working through the aftermath of the vote in as civil and humanly sensitive way as possible. After all the teachings of the Christian Faith indicate that we should treat others fairly. We should love our neighbour - even our political opponents! As we move to the Referendum in September I hope that as a society and as a Church we do not allow the political activists to shift the gaze away from the real human and ecological story. No matter the shape of our political government post decision time the poor, the downtrodden, the sick, the dying, the homeless and the addict will remain.

continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

No matter the politics of the day, the fragility of the planet and the threat to peace in the world will remain. The Bible spends an awful lot of time speaking about these situations and comparatively little (if any) on matters to do with national government and sovereignty.

As a Church we must never lose our voice – too much is at stake for too many people in the world for this to happen. But as for what voice we should have on this debate, I think it best saved for the encouragement to vote, to debate and work together with dignity and never to forget the real focus of our attention which should always be the needs of people. *Rev Keith Blackwood*



ARE YOU A CLIMATE CHANGE SCEPTIC?

*Alistair Stark, Convenor
Eco-Congregation Committee*



You may have noticed in recent years that our weather has been behaving like a “spoilt teenager”.

No matter what you expect, it's going to do something different. Floods, droughts, storm force winds, tidal surges - we've had the lot, and that's just in Britain.

And it's not as if we are being singled out for surprises, either. Massive snowfalls in eastern USA, extreme temperatures in Australia, glaciers retreating at a rapid rate in Greenland, Antarctic sea ice behaving strangely record-breaking typhoons in the Philippines....the list goes on.

Taken one by one, none of these events is especially unusual in itself. You might expect them to come along every hundred years or so. Taken together, they are an indication that the world's climate is not behaving as it used to do. The patterns we are now seeing were predicted many years ago, when scientists began to realise that continuing to pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere was not a good idea. That's worrying.

The question is, what to do about it?

Some people are climate change sceptics who think things will turn out alright in the end, so carry on regardless. That's fine if they turn out to be correct, which is just about possible. But it's more likely that they are wrong, and that could be disastrous. Then there are others who are not climate change sceptics but who feel that their contribution would be so small as to make no difference. Of course, if everyone felt like that, the whole world would carry on regardless, with horrendous consequences.

So the only sensible option is for everyone to do their bit, no matter how small. As the saying goes, “mony a mickle maks a muckle”. And how can we expect the rest of the world to act if we sit on our hands and do nothing?

There's a Christian message that we should love one another. Everyone. Always. No exceptions. That's a tall order, but in today's context it implies reducing our carbon footprint whenever we can. Turn down the heating a little, turn off lights in empty rooms, use the car a bit less – it all helps. You can be sure that Mannofield Church will be acting alongside you.

We are all getting older and with age comes certain problems.

There are two forms of ageing, chronological ageing which is "the miles on the clock" and physiological ageing, which is "the state of the bodywork".

The good news however is that more and more folks are living a longer and healthier life.

We can do nothing about the march of time but there are certain things we can do to ensure that we remain healthy. If you look after your body it will look after you.

Smoking is still a major cause of ill health and premature ageing. It is still worth stopping smoking, no matter what age you are. Ask your GP or pharmacist for advice.

Alcohol: Know your limits-14 units per week for a woman and 21 for a man. Try and have a few alcohol-free days in the week.

The benefits of **exercise** cannot be underestimated. Things like walking and golf count as exercise and you should aim for 30 minutes exercise 5 times a week.

Diet: Low or no added salt.

As well as reducing your overall intake of fats choose good fats, oily fish and vegetable oils.

Many people are worried about **dementia** and there is certainly some evidence that keeping an active mind may help. So doing things such as Sudoku or crossword puzzles may be a good idea.

If you are on medication it is important that you follow the instructions carefully. As doctors we try and keep the amount of medication that is prescribed to a

minimum. If you feel you are having problems or side effects with your medication it may be worthwhile contacting your GP.

If you have any concerns about your health or any symptoms that are worrying you, please do not ignore them and make an appointment with your own GP to discuss these. Most of the time there may be little to worry about but if there is a problem it is best to get it treated as early as possible.

We cannot turn back the clock but we can make the clock move slightly slower and enjoy a long, healthy and happy life.

*Dr Ken Lawton FRCP
(Edin) FRCGP FHEA
Great Western Medical
Practice LLP*



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING



A date for your diary-
Monday 9 June 2014 in the
Large hall at 7.15pm

Mango, Mannofield's Gospel Choir, is presenting a musical evening to mark the end of the choir's first season.

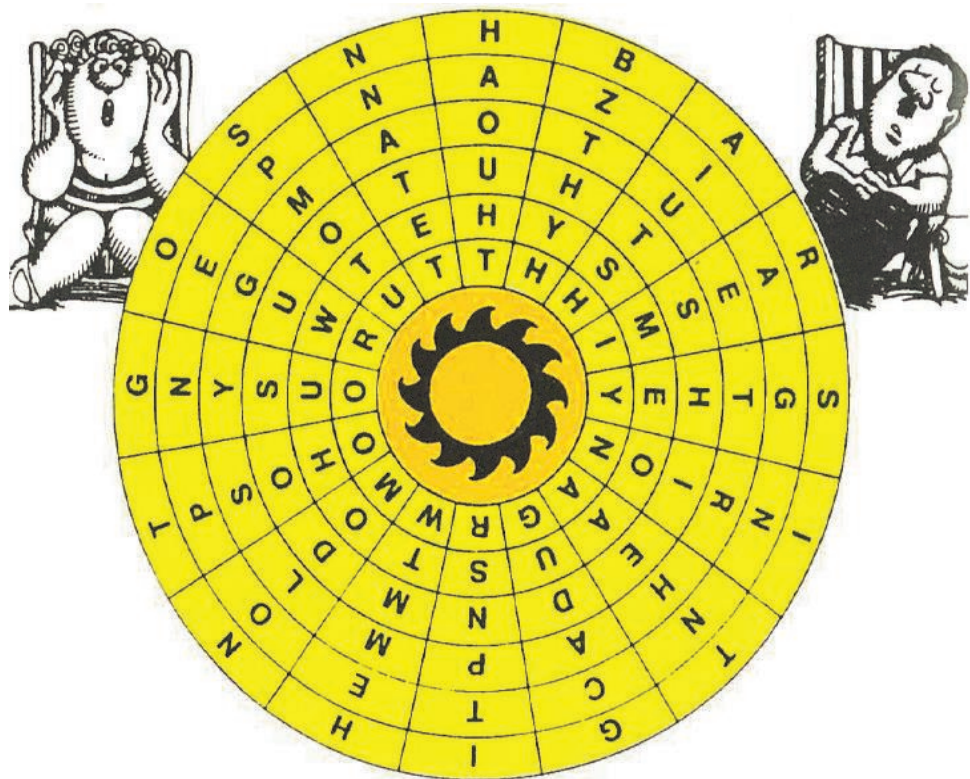
The programme will comprise a Mango Medley and a variety of contributions including the Mannofield Ringers and some Ivor Novello and Irving Berlin favourites.

Tickets will be available from the church office from 19 May priced £3 and will include light refreshments.

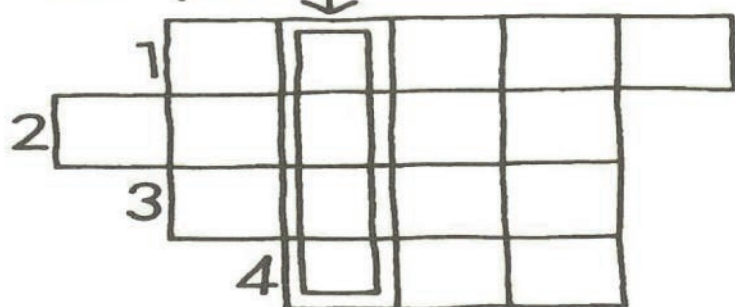
Local charity Archway working from Two Mile Cross, Garthdee will be beneficiaries of the concert.

Ringed Resorts

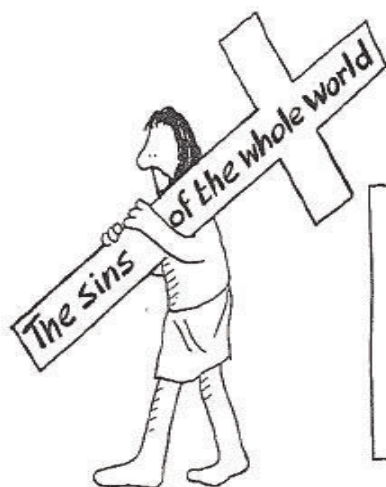
Find the correct starting points in each circle and, moving on to an alternate space in a clockwise direction, spell out the names of 12 popular British holiday resorts, two in each band.



This is what God has
for you



1. Someone forced to work for nothing.
2. What did Jesus die on?
3. Hot + buns are baked in this.
4. Finish.

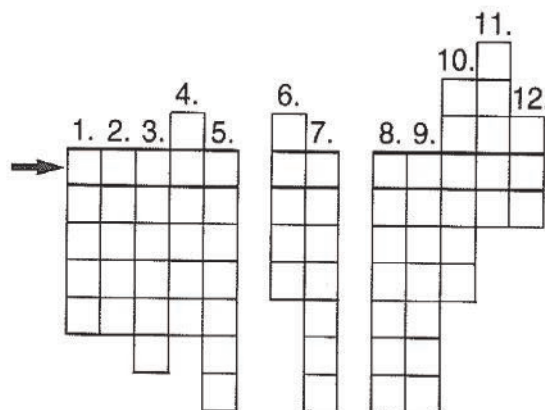


Your cross may feel heavy,
but it is your passport to
LIFE, and **JESUS**
will help you carry it

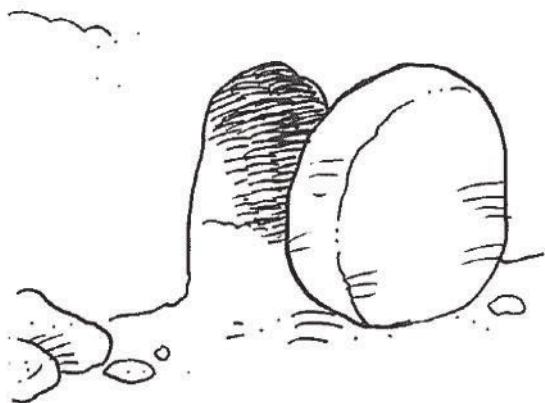
GOOD NEWS



Solve the clues DOWN and you will find a secret message which seems impossible — but it is true!



1. One Mary was the mother of ----- (verse 1)
2. What time of day was it? (verse 2)
3. What had the women brought? (verse 1)
4. Which day of the week was it? (verse 2)
5. What day was just over? (verse 1)
6. Which side was the angel? (verse 5)
7. What was he doing? (verse 5)
8. How did the women feel? (verse 5)
9. He said, 'I know you are ----- for Jesus.' (verse 6)
10. 'He is not here — he has been -----!' (verse 6)
11. Then the women knew Jesus was not dead but -----
12. The angel said they would --- Jesus in Galilee. (verse 7)

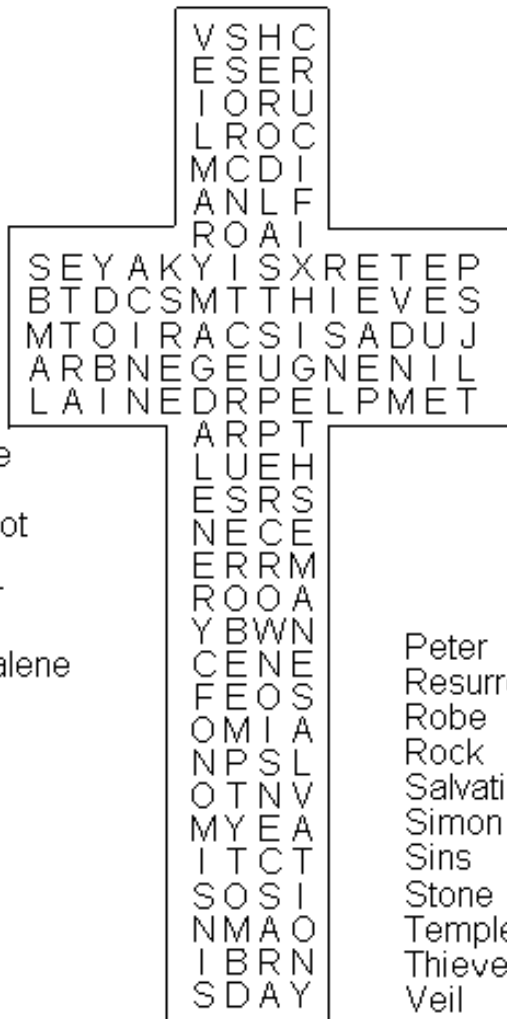


Message: Jesus is Alive!

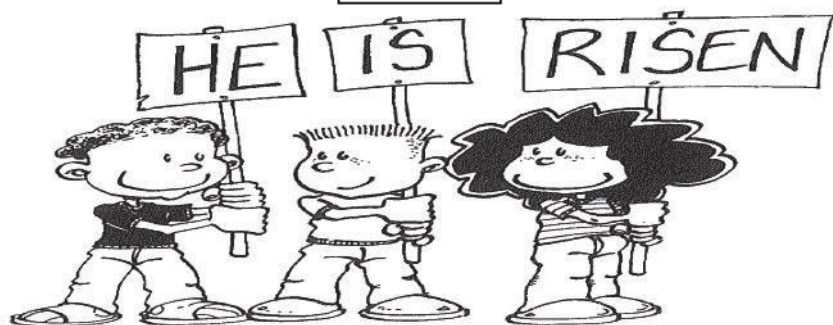
12. See
10. Raised 11. Alive
8. Alarmed 9. Looking
5. Sabbath 6. Right 7. Sitting
3. Spices 4. Sunday
Answer: 1. James 2. Early

Easter Word Search

Ascension
 Body
 Cross
 Crown
 Crucifix
 Denial
 Empty tomb
 Gethsemane
 Herod
 Judas Iscariot
 Lamb
 Last Supper
 Linen
 Mary Magdalene



Peter
 Resurrection
 Robe
 Rock
 Salvation
 Simon of Cyrene
 Sins
 Stone
 Temple
 Thieves
 Veil



The Pastoral Care Group
URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

With a reduction in our numbers we are seeking more volunteers to give some of their time towards very worthwhile duties to enable us to provide appropriate care for those in need.



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 then please contact

Jean Anderson (Pastoral Care Convenor) Telephone 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)



TLC Foodbank UPDATE *by Councillor Gordon Townson*



In the December issue of InSpire I told you about the TLC Foodbank which I am actively supporting. This operates out of Inchgarth Community Centre.

It is sad we need foodbanks in the city but I am very impressed at the generosity of people donating and the dedicated commitment of volunteers. The demand for foodbanks continues to grow both with the unemployed and with many who are in full employment but on low wages and struggling to pay all the bills.

Inchgarth is ideal for helping those in the immediate area of Garthdee but there is an urgent need in the Torry area which statistically has some of the most deprived.

I have been successful in securing a corporate sponsor in East Tullos who is willing to 'host' TLC and the foodbank serving Torry will be launched in the very near future. Harlaw Academy has been collecting food in the school for TLC. Head Teacher Mr David Innes is pleased that this delivers so appropriately on elements of Curriculum for Excellence, giving his students an 'awareness' of the meaning of empathy for others. I hope to spread this to other schools in the south side of the city.

Watch the press and media for the launch of TLC Torry.

Worship at Mannofield

Come and join us!

SUNDAY	- Family Service	10.00 a.m.
	- Evening Service (Sept – June)	6.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	- Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
Fellowship continues in the Large Hall where tea and coffee are served.		



The Bell Ringers



Praise Band



Services are also conducted for the elderly residents at Craigelea Gardens (generally on the last Sunday of each month) and at Northcote Lodge on the second Thursday of each month.

Alpha and Alpha Plus Courses

The 2014 Alpha and Alpha Plus courses in Mannofield have been popular.

We've had the highest number of people attending since we started 6 years ago.



Many people will have seen the nation-wide adverts for Alpha, with the current theme of ***Try Alpha.***

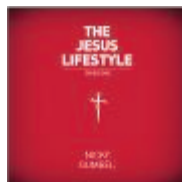
Alpha courses run in 169 countries and in 112 languages all around the globe. Typically an Alpha Course has around ten sessions and includes a light meal, a short DVD talk and a discussion at the end where, if you wish, you can share your thoughts.

Alpha really is for anyone who is curious. The talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment.

New for 2014: the Mannofield Alpha Team has introduced 'Alpha Plus', based on Jesus' radical teaching given in the Sermon on the Mount.

Alpha Plus normally runs for 6 weeks but has been so popular our participants wanted it extended to ten!

We know this year's attendees have enjoyed these courses and look forward to further growth for the 2015 courses. If you are interested in either course, please contact the *Alpha* Team via the Church Office Tel 01224 310087



EASTER

By Councillor Angela Taylor



Easter for many is Easter bonnets, bunnies and chocolate eggs but we should take time to remember that Easter, like Christmas, is a Christian festival; a time to reflect and celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a festive occasion with an emphasis on the dawn of a new life.

To me Easter is also about the beginning of spring time and spending time with family. On Easter Sunday, many children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them an egg or that he has also hidden the eggs that they decorated earlier that week. Children hunt for the eggs all around the house. Neighbourhoods hold Easter egg hunts and the child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

The Easter symbolism of rabbits and green shoots all identify this festival with the renewal of life. Easter and the dawn of spring is one of my favourite times of the year. Gone are the long drawn out cold evenings, replaced with the warmth of sun and ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. It is a time to get back into the garden and participate in outdoor sporting events.

Scotland v England One Day Cricket International

In our area the most exciting sporting event we have to look forward to is the Scotland v England One Day Cricket International being held at Mannofield Cricket Ground on Friday 9 May 2014. Aberdeen City Council recently agreed to contribute £30,000 to part

fund the event. There will also be a community cricket day with taster sessions and a large cricket festival involving local schools. This will take place on the Wednesday before the match. Members of the Scotland squad will attend and local children will have an opportunity to play cricket with them.

The One Day International event will also be televised live by SKY television, so let's hope for a sunny day!

Angelataylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk
M 07876 748527 T 01224 346616

Mannofield Church Lunch Club



17 April & 15 May

Lunch is served at 1pm
Entertainment 2 - 3.15pm

A cup of tea before you leave!
Cost -- £4

Need transport?

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COFFEE STOP Centenary Hall



Tuesdays 8 and 22 April
Tuesdays 13 and 27 May

*A friendly welcome, a fine cuppa
and a tasty piece!*

There will be NO May InSpire.
**The deadline for the June
issue of InSpire is
22 MAY 2014**

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

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

Mannofield Parish - Facts and Figures



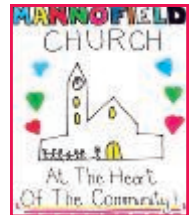
The *Statistics for Mission Group of the Church of Scotland* has compiled statistics for every parish in Scotland from the 2011 Scottish Census. These demographics make very interesting reading. Some facts may surprise you but others will probably be as you would expect. The figures are not presented solely for each parish but compared with both Aberdeen Presbytery (in effect the city of Aberdeen) and Scotland as a whole. The data are presented as bar graphs and pie charts as well as actual numbers and can be accessed via the following web link: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/stats_for_mission

Search for any parish using the link "go to the Church Finder".

Our parish has a total population of 4951 and is bounded on the north by Countesswells Road, Seafield Road and Cromwell Road, on the south by the Deeside railway line with a western boundary running along Craigton Road and Baird's Brae and a complicated eastern boundary roughly along Burns Road, Great Western Road, Hutchison Terrace and Morningside Avenue (there is a map on the website).

If Mannofield were a village of 100 people....

6 would be in primary school; 4 would be in high school
24 would be aged between 25 and 44
70 would be of working age (16-74), including:
12 who have no qualifications; 40 who have a University degree
32 who work full time; 12 who are retired
82 would describe themselves as 'White - Scottish'
3 would describe their health as bad or very bad
9 would be providing unpaid care
40 would say they belonged to the Church of Scotland



If Mannofield were a village of 100 households....

36 households would consist of one person, 20 of whom are aged 65 and over
21 would have dependent children (aged under 16, or under 18 in full-time education)
15 would be in rented accommodation
82 would have access to at least one car or van
10 would speak a language other than English in the home
When comparing Mannofield statistics with those of Aberdeen Presbytery and Scotland as a whole, one of the biggest differences relates to household tenure. A much higher proportion (84%) own their homes in Mannofield than in Aberdeen as a whole (58%) and Scotland (62%) with a correspondingly much lower proportion of social rented properties (6%) than in Aberdeen and the country as whole (23%). Also, in the home, 10% of households use a language other than English (15 % in Aberdeen and 7% in Scotland) and 1.4% can speak Gaelic (0.8% in Aberdeen, 1.1% in Scotland).

The website is a mine of interesting information and the above is just a small sample to whet your appetite to look further.

Derek Bain

My last contribution to InSpire on behalf of Police Scotland's West End Community Policing Team was in the festive edition and since then time has flown in as we continue to work on a range of issues across the Airyhall, Ashley, Braeside, Broomhill, Craigiebuckler, Ferryhill, Mannofield, Ruthrieston and Seafield areas.

I spoke about home and vehicle security and this continues to present us with challenges arising from thefts from insecure homes and vehicles and the thefts of vehicles themselves. Whilst we are carrying out regular patrols in the area and are apprehending many of those responsible we continue to need the help of residents, not only to call us at the time when they see something suspicious but also by remembering to take basic security measures to safeguard their own property.

Whilst Police Scotland is not directly involved in the administration or creation of Neighbourhood Watches, we have a great relationship with Ross Melton who assists residents in the setting up this valuable resource in Aberdeen on behalf of Absafe. I'd urge anyone interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in their area to give Ross a call. All the details are on the Absafe website, along with recent Neighbourhood Watch bulletins.

Our work around road traffic issues continues, supported by our colleagues in the Road Policing Unit. In addition to carrying out regular patrols, we give intelligence-led attention to areas where the public and elected members highlight to us that particular issues such as speeding, failure to obey traffic signs

and pedestrian crossing offences, regularly occur.

We recently worked alongside staff from Ferryhill Primary School who took speeding motorists outside their school to task. We hope to repeat this soon elsewhere in the West End.

Road traffic offences now incur fixed penalties of between £50 and £100 in addition to points on a licence in many cases, so aside from the dangers to other road users, it's simply not worth the risk.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have an issue, either via our new national '101' number (it's still '999' in an emergency) or by e-mail at AiryhallBroomhillGarthdeeCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Enjoy this edition of InSpire, and Happy Easter!

*Colin Taylor,
Community
Policing Inspector*



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, 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: tel: 01224 686076 / 01224 686078 e-mail VolunteerCentre@acvo.org.uk

Girl Guiding is still alive in Mannofield



For nearly 90 years we have had Guiding in Mannofield Church. We are still very much a lively bunch. *(After 90 years that's good going Editor!)* The girls have a great time with a great variety of activities for ages 5 to 15! The programme is run by our very enthusiastic guiders who provide opportunities to do lots of exciting things.

RAINBOWS is for girls age 5 to 7 years and takes place on Wednesdays from 5-6pm. The girls do lots of games, crafts, badges and singing, generally having a really great time.

BROWNIES - We have two Brownie units in Mannofield meeting on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6-7.30pm. The girls enjoy themed evenings, lots of games and badge work. Some of the Brownies have also enjoyed pack holidays away from home for a weekend. Last term one unit had a visit from the Critter Keeper who brought in lots of exotic reptiles to look at.

GUIDES are for girls aged 10 to 14/15 years. We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

We have had a visit from the Critter Keeper, had a sleepover in the church and been on a winter holiday weekend where we crammed a whole year of activities into the weekend. This term our badge work has not only been designing outfits for Commonwealth Games athletes but also a blindfold obstacle course and a cheerleading Scotland song! 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



The draft "masterplan" exercise for the Countesswells development has just been published. This is a proposal by a group of businesses to build 3,000 homes and associated buildings, roads etc in the land between Hazlehead Golf Course and Countesswells Wood. I have asked for information to be available in local libraries and elsewhere. The masterplan is on the Council website but not everyone uses computers. This is a major emerging issue so I am keen to ensure that there is full and proper public consultation.

The Pinewood/ Hazledene housing development will also impact widely. Despite fighting against this on behalf of residents, my moves to reject these plans were defeated by the majority. Excavation work has already caused some flooding and pollution. Further increases in traffic volumes will come into the local network which already struggles with congestion and parking pressures.

In Hazlehead Park, a developer has proposed building a hotel on the site of Hayfield Riding School along with a luxury leisure complex in green space nearby. A formal planning application is yet to be submitted. As a founder of Friends of Hazlehead, I would welcome any comments and questions. I have been supporting a special local roads policing operation run by our West End Police Team. Speeding and other driver misbehaviour have been targetted in "hotspot" areas. These include Countesswells Road, Anderson Drive, Airyhall and Ashley Road Schools. It is good to know that the Police are listening to the community.

Make Sure You Can Have Your Say National Voter Registration Day



On 5 February 1832, the Great Reform Act introduced voter registration for the very first time. Then, the number of eligible voters in a borough varied from six to 12,000, with the selection of some Members of Parliament controlled by one person.

We have come a long way since then, but there is still much more we can do. That is why I supported the first National Voter Registration Day on 5 February 2014 to encourage my constituents to ensure that they are on the Electoral Register and they make their voice heard.

In 2010, only 44% of 18- to 24-year-olds voted, while 76% of those aged 65 and over cast their vote. At the moment, only half of all young people are registered to vote. Certain groups are disproportionately under-represented. Only 56% of people living in private rented homes are registered. Nearly half of those not registered to vote mistakenly believe that they are.

We must try and do better. The electoral register performs a hugely important civic function. You can only vote, and choose the politicians who represent you, if you are on the register. It also ensures citizens are properly counted for the drawing of political boundaries – by ward and constituency – meaning the voice of Aberdeen South is heard. For our criminal justice system, the register enables selection for jury service.

This year, voters will have two opportunities to have their say with the European Union elections on Thursday 22 May and the referendum to decide Scotland's future on Thursday 18 September.

Not everyone may be aware that the voting age for the referendum has been lowered to include 16 and 17 year olds. This is a historic opportunity for young people to ensure that their voices are heard and it is important that they are made aware that they have to be on the Electoral Register to be able to vote. Also, by registering to vote, young people are making it clear to political parties that they have votes worth winning.

Further, from next year, each individual will have to register, rather than the traditional method of a household survey.

You can register to ensure you have a vote in the forthcoming elections at any time by visiting AboutmyVote.co.uk, or contacting the Grampian Electoral Registration Office on 01224 664848.

FLOWER CALENDAR

APRIL

6	Mrs R. Wallace
13	Mrs E. Smith
20	Mrs E. Thain
27	Mrs A. Milne



MAY

4	Miss J. May
11	Mrs K. Martin
18	Mrs M. Bonner
25	Mrs S. McAdam

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism: Harvey Alexander Reid

Dame Anne Begg MP

CHURCH CONTACTS

www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk

Minister	Rev Keith Blackwood	k5blackwood@btinternet.com	315748
Secretary	Jean Sharman	office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk	310087
Church Officer	Nick Youngson	nick.youngson@o2.co.uk	322239
Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	743484

Mannofield Church Book Club

Book for April *The Scapegoat* by Daphne du Maurier

By chance, two men - one English, the other French - meet in a provincial railway station. Their physical resemblance is uncanny, and they spend the next few hours talking and drinking - until at last John, the Englishman, falls into a drunken stupor. It's to be his last carefree moment, for when he wakes, his French companion has stolen his identity and disappeared. So John steps into the Frenchman's shoes, and faces a variety of perplexing roles - as owner of a chateau, director of a failing business, head of a fractious family and master of nothing.

Gripping and complex, *The Scapegoat* is a masterful exploration of doubling and identity and of the dark side of the self.

For further information about the Club contact Niki Anderson Tel 743484



Simnel muffins

A new twist on a traditional recipe and perfect for getting the kids involved in the Easter festivities.

Ingredients

250g mixed dried fruits	grated zest and juice 1 medium orange
175g softened butter	175g golden caster sugar
3 eggs, beaten	300g self-raising flour
1 tsp mixed spice	½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
5 tbsp milk	175g marzipan
200g icing sugar	2 tbsp orange juice for mixing
mini eggs	



Method

Tip the fruit into a bowl, add the zest and juice and microwave on medium for 2 minutes (or leave to soak for 1 hour). Line 12 deep muffin tins with paper muffin cases. Preheat the oven to fan 180C/ 160C/gas 4. Beat together the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, spices and milk until light and fluffy (about 3-5 minutes) – use a wooden spoon or hand held mixer. Stir the fruit in well.

Half fill the muffin cases with the mixture. Divide the marzipan into 12 equal pieces, roll into balls, then flatten with your thumb to the size of the muffin cases. Put one into each muffin case and spoon the rest of the mixture over it. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until risen, golden and firm to the touch. Leave to cool. Beat together the icing sugar and orange juice to make icing thick enough to coat the back of a wooden spoon. Drizzle over the muffins and top with a cluster of eggs. Leave to set. Best eaten within a day of making.



MONDAYS 2-3pm at Mannofield Church

Here is a chance to do something you have always thought about - but not yet got around to!
Join the Mannofield F&S Exercise Class, where you would be made most welcome.
The class has been operating for a number of years, with many long standing members.

Here's what some of them say about the class:-

"I forget the outside world for an hour."

"The happy hour."

"I need it, it's essential!"

"Although I am profoundly deaf I can still follow the leader and enjoy the class."

This could be you! So, why not get in touch?

For further information phone Jackie (648171) or Susanne (484643).



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the parenting teenagers course

11 to 18-year-olds

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