Vol.LVI No. 8 DECEMBER 2018



# InSpire

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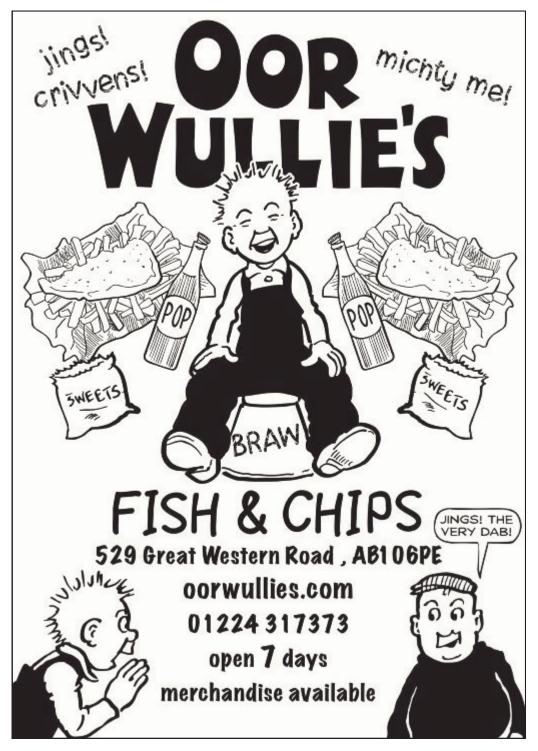
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#### **Dear Friends**

October was still in its infancy when I first heard the mention of Christmas on the radio. Black Friday, the pre-Christmas tradition of 'flash sales', was mentioned in relation to buying presents on social media advertising. Some stores in Union Square had their Christmas window display in place by the



stores in Union Square had their Christmas window display in place by the time of the half-term holidays. Delivered through letter boxes, and on display in newsagents, the Christmas edition magazines were available from the last days of October. We all need time to prepare for Christmas there is no doubt about that! For many, it is exciting and good fun. Preparation time for Christmas is not new.

When we read the Bible, we see that the preparations for God doing something special- intervening in the affairs of humanity and revealing Himself - were being discussed, called for and published as 'needed' right from the early chapters of Genesis. As soon as the story is set out that humanity somehow distanced itself from God through a form of rebellion (Genesis Chapter 3) the preparations for the Incarnation of God in the world took shape. In other words, throughout the whole relationship between God and Humanity there has been the need for God to reveal Himself. The Bible stories, including many prophecies, all prepare for the revelation. God becomes human flesh in Jesus.

Everything points to Christmas and not just in terms of the traditions and habits of our society at this time of year. The Christian Faith, and the Hebrew Faith before it, point to the need for God to intervene and make Himself more known. We human beings were struggling to grasp the nugget of divine love at the heart of the relationship between God and us. We were finding it impossible to clearly understand divine purpose and especially to grasp the responsibilities of creating a 'right' world that had been passed to us.

However Christmas changes all of this. God revealed Himself. His love for us was given human flesh. In His life Jesus taught and exemplified the kind of life God wants for us and he painted a picture too of the world that God seeks.

This is why Christmas is so special. The need to celebrate and be renewed by its miraculous Light and Spirit is so clear.

Preparations are in full ascendency. In our home life no doubt the pace is rapid by this point and the burden of sorting out all that needs to be done can be a challenge. Despite this pressure there needs to be some space for preparing ourselves to receive the special gift like no other – the gift of God's love for us.

Prepare for this. Make space for this. Do not let the knowledge of God's love for you pass you by.

The Manse family wishes all our friends in the Church and Community every blessing this Christmas season.

God Bless

Keith

### A night out on the town?

### Alan and Anne Thompson

Four of us from Mannofield Church went out with the Aberdeen Street Pastors during October. We are thinking of training for this worthwhile role, and the first step is to go on an observation visit as part of a team to experience what it's like. Here's a bit of the background.



Street Pastors are active members of local churches who have a concern for the people of the city and who are willing to engage in a non-judgemental way connecting with people from all backgrounds. The work involves being part of the night-time economy using a Listening, Caring and Helping strategy to assist those in need, for example by supporting those who have over indulged, guiding people to transport home and to first aid. Of course Street Pastors are famous for providing flip flops to those whose feet can't take the discomfort of walking in high heels!

Louise Barrack and Les Black went individually while Anne and Alan Thompson went out the following weekend in separate sub-teams.

Here's a flavour of what we experienced.

Louise: For a number of years now I have been aware of the presence of Street Pastors and the good work that they do. It was Anne Thompson who really brought it to the fore when she raised it at a Church Outreach & Mission meeting and asked if anyone would be interested in becoming a Street Pastor. I went out with them in an observational capacity in mid-October. It was a wonderful experience in many ways. The team I joined were fantastic and I learned a lot from them. It also gave me a greater appreciation of how quickly a friendly situation between people out to have fun and enjoy themselves can change.

I was also very impressed with the teamwork of the Police, CCTV operators, Street Pastors and Taxi Marshals. They all worked together seamlessly to keep people safe and to ensure that people got home safely - a real team effort.

However what stands out most is the appreciation from the people. There were many "thank you's", high fives and the occasional hug of appreciation! The Street Pastors do an amazing job!

**Alan and Anne:** Our night happened to be the coldest night of the year so far, was an extra hour long because of the time change and as it was nearly Halloween lots of people were dressed up! We received several 'blessings' from passing 'Popes'! The experience was uplifting and it was good to be working with a wonderfully dedicated team of people.

The work pattern started with meeting the team at 9.30pm for a briefing and prayer. Then we were off on patrol, supported by the 'Safe Space' bus which has light catering facilities, a toilet and most importantly, somewhere for people to feel safe and perhaps have a chat. That evening it was parked in Belmont Street. The evening raced past and soon it was time to close up the bus and return to the Credo Centre base – by now it was 4.15 am! The Police are very appreciative of the work of the Street Pastors, as are the bouncers at the various entertainment venues in the town. It was a thought provoking experience and a very practical form of Christianity.

We are actively considering doing the training programme which takes around 50 hours over a number of months and incidentally costs about £325 per trainee. Street Pastors is an entirely voluntary organisation supported by donations.

Recent statistical data produced by Police Scotland shows that along with other agencies Aberdeen Street Pastors have helped to bring a reduction in instances of crime and assaults in Aberdeen City. The Street Pastors have developed a positive reputation in the city and helped people know that the Church is there for them in practical ways as well as offering spiritual assistance. For the Street Pastors it's not about preaching in the traditional sense but through their actions and attitudes they are often asked about those deeper life and faith questions.

https://streetpastors.org/locations/aberdeen/street-pastors/

### **CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019**

Sun 2 Dec	10am	Family Service Family Communion
Wed 5 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 9 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Lessons and carols
Wed 12 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
Sun 16 Dec	10am	Morning Worship
So Book	3.15pm	Craigielea Service led by Lesley Reid
T. CALL	4.30pm	Community Carols in Café Connect
Wed 19 Dec	10.30am	Midweek Service
		Last midweek service until 16 January
Sun 23 Dec	10am	Morning Worship Nativity Service
Mon 24 Dec	7pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Tues 25 Dec	10.30am	Family Worship Service
Sun 30 December	10am	Morning Worship
Sun 6 Jan	10am	Morning Worship
Sun 13 Jan	10am	Morning Worship

CHURCH CONTACTS		www.mannofieldchurch.org.uk	
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Associate Minister	Holly Smith	hollyreneesmith@gmail.com	07834218203
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Session Clerk	Bob Anderson	Nnikibob@aol.com	01224743484

### Stole My Heart by Rev Holly Smith

One of my favorite rituals of getting ready on Sunday mornings involves choosing what stole I will wear with my robe. Since my first week at Mannofield I have chosen to wear my El Salvadorian "Children of the World Stole". Many folk at church often comment about its uniqueness or ask where I got it.

When I pastored a Church in lowa, I decided early on that the church needed to learn how to be missional again. Although wonderful giving people they rarely reached out to use their hands and feet. At first, I introduced "Mission Trip to Nowhere" which involved a week of hands-on-work for a needy family in our little town. We fixed roofs, painted garages, cleaned up yards and tackled an attic bat issue. After two years of working in our own town we started praying about how God might use us outside of our comfort zone.



During the next Lenten Season we learned about the life-giving nature of water during our Lenten Soup Study. Out of that study, an elder suggested that we consider helping a village in Central America with access to clean water. The mission team researched the issue and decided to adopt a Canton (village) in El Salvador since our presbytery supports several communities there. As we explored El Salvador, we learned that during the dry season, the only access to water comes from dirty streams usually a mile or two up a hill. Also, due to earthquakes, wells rarely last longer that a couple of years no matter how fancy. A representative from our presbytery suggested that we consider buying every home in our village (53 to be exact) a massive water tank with a filtration device so they can collect water off their tin roofs during the wet season for the dry season. The water tanks and filtration devices each cost \$120 so we needed to raise \$6360. In an effort to raise money, we implemented the "Noisy Can Offering". We collected our change in empty coke cans, then once a month we shook the cans in worship while the children ran around collecting the offering and depositing the change in an empty metal water pitcher.

As we prayed for the community God called us to serve, they also prayed for us. At the end of the next year we had raised an astounding \$26,000 in change for clean water in El Salvador... our one village turned into four. After we sent the first big cheque I received in the mail the beautiful stole I wear, along with a letter from a group of women in our first Canton. They expressed their gratitude for our generosity and vowed to continue to pray for their sisters and brothers in lowa. The stole reminds me that no matter where we live, we remain connected through Christ. The mission team eventually travelled to El Salvador to help out in person and the connection between the villages and church still exists today.

### Rainbows 2018 Update

Between January and March the Rainbows worked on the badge "Libraries Give us Power". This involved a visit to Airyhall Library where fun was had looking for books and



reading stories. We also had a book themed night and learned about the work libraries do. We also completed the "Roundabout the World" badge and had fun building greenhouses and edible springtime jelly gardens. April to June saw the Rainbows working on challenges to earn the Trefoil Challenge Badge celebrating 75 years of the Trefoil Guild. We went to Crathes Castle, had fun trying foods from different countries and learned some old Brownie and Guide games, not forgetting the chocolate bananas and toasted marshmallows on the barbeque! So much fun! We had to do it twice!

From September to date we have a new programme to follow so early days as we get used to new challenges and badges. However, we have found time to have a Halloween theme night making edible spiders (!! ) and telling jokes.

On a general note, our numbers have increased this term and we would like to take this opportunity to ask if there is anybody out there who would like to come along to volunteer as adult helpers. If so, please get in touch via the Church Office.

Helen Keith, Rainbow Leader

### 44th Boys Brigade



At the 44<sup>th</sup> Boys Brigade all sections are enjoying this session and growing with some new and enthusiastic boys having started since the summer. Company Section numbers have dropped however as a number of older boys left for university. To try and add to our numbers Company Section boys are being encouraged to bring a friend, along with £10 of tuck shop vouchers as an incentive if he then joins.

Anchor Boys has split into pirate themed teams this year and have enjoyed some

pirate activities, games and a Halloween pirate party. Teams are named after famous pirate captains and each has a parrot mascot to look after each week. Instead of points we have treasure coins which are won or lost each week for games and behaviour with the winning team receiving stickers. Boys are enjoying the variety of games and crafts including pirate colouring in, unihoc, football, dodgeball and parachute games. Some new games are fun too such as caterpillar racing. (Not real caterpillars though!)

Junior Section has slightly dropped in numbers. However they are enjoying the traditional Junior activities like figure marching which is

not as easy as it sounds. This year the Boys Brigade is 135 years old and Junior Section celebrated, along with Anchors, by enjoying a cake. Boys also designed some new BB badges for the occasion. Art featured heavily another week as boys created a giant 'Under the Sea' collage. As an introduction to Company Section activities, it is planned for Juniors to have a taster session with the gymnastic equipment and try some jumps on our vaulting horse.



Company Section has been enjoying a selection of new games, variations of old favourites and new activities to freshen things up this session. As a whole Section badge class, we have been running a series of STEM challenges - Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths challenges which have included giant paper towers and making a structure from straws to hold marbles.

Two new Queen's Badge candidates had a weekend training in Aviemore in September while our existing QB guys have started helping

at Anchors and Juniors as part of their final year. Also in September we had 6 boys stewarding with the Aberdeen Battalion at the Braemar Games. I have recently completed a level 2 dodgeball coaching course so more drills and games are in the pipeline.

Anchor Boys is for boys in P1 - P3 and meets on Thursday 6.00 - 7.00pm. Junior Section is or boys in P4 - P6 and meets on Thursdays 7.00 - 8.15pm. Company Section is for boys in P7 - S6 and meets on Fridays 7.45 - 10pm.

For more information, to find out more or to join email us at info@40four.co.uk or visit www.40four.co.uk

Dave Tait, Captain 44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade

### **CRAFT FAIR @ MANNOFIELD** 3 November

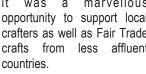
The church was buzzing with excitement on Saturday 3 November as crafters showcased their many



Visitors looked in awe at the stalls and most went home with a unique craft to enjoy or perhaps to wrap up for Christmas.

Some of you may be lucky enough to receive a Craft Fair gift!







A good time was had by all.

### The deadline for the February mini InSpire 17 January

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

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



**Christmas Eve** Family Service 7pm Watchnight Service 11.30pm **Christmas Day Family Service** 10.30am

### THANK YOU... (aberdeen cyrenians)

We thank you for your very generous donation of food, clothes and other household items as part of our Harvest Appeal.



We consider ourselves very lucky to receive such tremendous support from the local community.

Harvest has always been a celebration of food and life and, each Autumn when we launch our Harvest Appeal, we celebrate being able to support anyone who is facing extreme hardship or homelessness over the winter months.

Your donations from Harvest allow us to provide food parcels for individuals and families who need our help. In the colder months, when many families are forced to make the very real choice between heating their homes and feeding their children, we are able to ensure that their hunger is stilled.

Furthermore, your food donations also allow us to make and serve hot meals at our Street Alternatives project. Four times a week, anyone who is sleeping rough or does not have access to cooking facilities can come to us to use our laundry facilities, have a shower and eat a three course home cooked meal.

We served over 5400 hot meals last year, and provided security, shelter and warmth to many in need.

Catherine Aberdein-Souter Fundraising Team, Aberdeen Cyrenians

#### **Christmas Travelling Choir**

30 singers from 6 churches including Mannofield

Saturday 15 December from 2pm

Mannofield Shops Seafield Shops Kingswells Village Centre Cults (in front of nursery) Culter (Eastleigh Care Home)

### 40<sup>th</sup> Guide news

The Unit continues to grow. We now have 27 girls with 2 leaders and 2 leaders in training. Week on week we are always busy.

In the summer we again visited Fyfe House at Keithhall where on an extremely hot weekend we had an "I'm a Guide get me Out of Here!" theme. We had lots of disgusting taste and touch challenges and the weekend also involved some water challenges.

We have had an added challenge of a new programme rolled out this term and have been taking up that challenge by launching into the activities.

We have 6 new themes- Have Adventures, Express Myself, Be Well, Take Action, Know Myself and Skills for my Future. Within these themes several challenges need to be met. So far from the Take Action section 3 sets of girls raised money for causes in a variety of ways. We had 2 bake sales, one girl undertook a sponsored silence and then we had a "Come dressed as someone else in Guides" evening. We also had a promise party for our new Guides and we had to dress as favourite book characters.

A joint night was held with the Airyhall Guides where we looked at global issues and how we may be able to help in any small way.

We are looking forward to another busy term. Heather Tait, Guide Leader









### Easy Lemon Meringue Pie - Niki Anderson

At Christmas when the family turn up expecting a tasty dessert to finish a meal this is my favourite quick, easy and very tasty option. It has a crumb base rather than pastry which simplifies the process.



### Ingredients

Base: 175g (6oz) digestive biscuits (GF work equally well); 75g (3oz) butter

Filling: 397g (14oz) can of full fat condensed milk; 3 large egg yolks; rind and juice 3 lemons

Topping: 3 large egg whites; 175g (6oz) caster sugar

#### **Process**

- 1. Preheat oven to 190degreesC/Fan 170 degrees C/Gas5
- 2. Crumb the biscuits (crushing in a bag with a rolling pin), melt the butter in a pan and stir in the biscuit crumb. Press the mixture into a 20cm (8inch) fluted flan dish and leave to set.
- 3. Put condensed milk in a bowl, beat in egg yolks, lemon rind and lemon juice. Mixture will thicken on standing but loosen when beaten. Pour mixture into flan dish.
- 4. Whisk egg whites until stiff and then gradually add in caster sugar a teaspoon at a time. Whisk until all sugar added and forms a stiff mixture.
- 5. Pile meringue mixture over the filling and spread over to the biscuit edge, swirling the meringue into peaks.
- 6. Bake in a preheated oven for 15 20 minutes or until meringue is light brown. Leave to cool for 30 minutes before serving warm.

**EVERYTHING WE DO IS DRIVEN BY YOU** was a snappy line used to sell cars. However it can be equally applied to how your Community Policing Team Works

POLICE

Often as we go about our busy lives we see something that "just doesn't seem right. We shake our heads and carry on but we would like you to let us know.

No this isn't an invitation to tell us about everything that annoys you!

It's an invitation to share intelligence with us - for instance:

A car you don't recognise with people in dark clothing driving slowly on your street late at night.

The elderly person around the corner getting a lot of building work done all of a sudden.

The alcohol bottles/rubbish appearing in a quiet area of a local foot path.

The local house that suddenly has visitors all times of the day and night.

I'm not saying that everything is a matter for the Police; far from it. However that little spark of concern in the back of your mind might just provide us with that vital bit of intelligence that will complete a much larger picture.

How can you let us know?

If you think there's a crime in progress or a serious/immediate risk to a person, dial 999. That's what it's there for. Never be scared to use 999 as the operators are highly skilled. If they assess your call not to be an emergency they will let you know. For absolutely everything else, call 101.

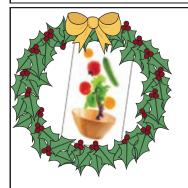
<u>AiryhallBroomhillGarthdeeCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk</u> is a direct line of communication to us, your Community Policing Team. It's great for non-urgent queries and community matters. However it is not constantly monitored and should not be used for reporting crime.

You can even stop one of us in the street or come along to a Community Council meeting. We would love to know what you think we should know, but we need you to tell us.

Sergeant Simon Lewis-Dalby

Hazlehead & Westend Community Policing Teams Tel: 101

Email simon.lewis-dalby@scotland.pnn.police.uk



### MANNOFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Balmanno Hall

Thursday 20 December Thursday 17 January Lunch served 1pm

Entertainment 2-3pm Cuppa at 2.30pm Cost: £5 Need transport?

Contact: Lynn Allan 201224 323206

### Priorities in Fellowship and Prayer. Read; Acts 4:23-31:Hebrews 10: 24-25

Frequently I have noticed when Christians come under pressure some of them give up. Perhaps exhausted by trial or bewildered by questions that suffering can create, they begin to drift away from fellowship. Church becomes at first sporadic and then even more infrequent. Soon the embers of faith fade. I was thinking recently of certain individuals who were once committed to joining with Jesus in the building of His Church. Now they have drifted away seeing gathering together as unimportant. As far as they're concerned they don't need others just Jesus. But they're wrong.

John and Peter show us a different way. Fresh from an overnight stay in prison and with the threats of the Sanhedrin ringing in their ears, they headed straight to the place where the Church was gathered. But they didn't just attend that gathering. They told them everything that had happened to them and then joined in praying about the situation.

Let's make being with God's people a priority, especially when life seems so very busy. But let's also make space for testimony; for sharing the everyday experiences and challenges of life, not just for information, but to fuel meaningful prayer. And if, like me, you belong to a very large church where connection like that can be difficult, know that it's not an insurmountable challenge. Connect with some friends. Join a small group. Don't just study together, but share. Let others into your life, and find out about theirs and then pray.

Sandy McKenzie

'Life Every Day by Jeff Lucas © CWR 2018 Use with permission'.

### FOREIGN and OBSOLETE NOTES and COINS

**THANK** YOU to all those who donated notes and coins this year. £133 has been raised!



This will be divided equally between Christian Aid and Mannofield Church Development Fund.

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

### Mannofield Church Balmanno Hall



Saturday 19 January Saturday - 16 February Saturday - 9 March

10am - noon Admission free Contact Sandy 01224 311261

### CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY OFFERINGS

will be donated to:
Sue Ryder
Dee View Court Appeal

The aim is to extend their Kincorth residential care centre by 20 beds.

### **Poppyscotland Appeal**

The total collected for Poppyscotland at the Remembrance Day service and the Festival of Remembrance Evening Service was £1258 plus Gift Aid where appropriate.



### Alpha at Café Connect Explore

Life Faith Meaning

### Everyone has questions

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

Mannofield's 2019 **Alpha Course** starts on Monday 14 January and runs on Monday evenings for ten weeks. Each evening starts with a meal, followed by a short DVD and a brief discussion. The sessions look at different questions around faith and are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Questions such as "Who is Jesus?", "How can we have faith?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?"

There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously!). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment. Everyone is welcome, and there is no charge.

We meet in Café Connect at Mannofield Church, from 7pm till 9pm. We also have an 'away-day' planned for Saturday 23 February.

The *Alpha Team* would be pleased to see you, and it would help if you could contact the Church office, or email <u>Mail@thompsonaberdeen.com</u>, or call 01224 681384 no later than **9**<sup>th</sup> **January** because that would help us to make catering arrangements.

You can also find out more about Alpha at https://alpha.org.uk/try

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

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view;

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. <a href="https://alpha.org.uk/try">https://alpha.org.uk/try</a>

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long and delivered over about eleven weeks, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from Who is Jesus? and How can we have faith? to Why and how do I pray? and How does God guide us?

Many thanks, The **Alpha** Team.

### Councillor Douglas Lumsden

I feel that we should head in to 2019 with a great deal of optimism for the city. December will see the reopening of the refurbished Music Hall. This will be joined in 2019 with the much awaited reopening of the Art Gallery. I had the pleasure of recently visiting the gallery and it certainly has the wow factor. The Art Gallery and the new look Cowdray Hall will be an asset



to the city for generations to come.

2019 will also see the return of Offshore Europe but into its new home, TECA. The £333 million arena is nearing completion and has already started attracting world class international acts to the city.

Through the City Region Deal the harbour expansion is progressing well as we look to diversify our economy and attract the cruise market to Aberdeen. Next year the city will have to get ready to enhance its offering as we prepare to welcome an increase of tourists to the area.

2019 is also the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert the Bruce granting Aberdeen the "Stocket Charter". This charter established the common good funds that have benefited the city in so many ways. I believe this anniversary should be celebrated by the whole community with various events through the year.

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

Councillor Douglas Lumsden dlumsden@aberdeencity.gov.uk:

Mobile: 07551 135770 Office: 01224 346641

### Christian humour at Christmas



### CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

#### Disiunctions:

N. Butler; Mr and Mrs G. Donald; Mr and Mrs C. Main

### **MANNOFIELD GUILD**



10 Jan - Coffee Morning, 10am Balmanno Hall

22 Jan - Bible Study

7 Feb – Coffee Morning, 10am Balmanno Hall

12 Feb - Eva Robertson & Friends musical evening

Open meeting

26 Feb - Demonstration of felting

### **Apple and Cinnamon Crumble Bars**

### Courtesy of Café Connect, Mannofield

For a seasonal twist you can add cranberries and substitute the cinnamon with mixed spice.

# CAFECONNECT

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- ♦ 450g Bramley cooking apples, roughly chopped
- ♦ 50g raisins
- ♦ 50g caster sugar
- ♦ 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- zest of 1 lemon
- ♦ 200g plain flower
- ♦ 250g soft light brown sugar
- ♦ 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ♦ 150g rolled oats
- ♦ 150g butter, melted
- whipped cream or crème fraiche to serve.

### **METHOD**

- 1. Preheat oven to 190°C, and place apples, raisins, sugar, cinnamon and lemon zest into a saucepan over a low heat.
- 2. Cover and cook for about 15 mins. stirring occasionally, until the apple is cooked through. Remove the cover, stir well to break up the apple completely with a wooden spoon.
- 3. Cook for a further 15-30 mins. over a very low heat until reduced, thickened and slightly darkened. Allow to cool. Lightly oil and line a 20.5cm cake tin with greaseproof or baking paper.
- 4. Mix together the flour, sugar, bicarbonate of soda, rolled oats and butter until combined well and crumbly.
- 5. Spread half of the flour mixture into the bottom of the prepared tin and press down. Pour over the apple mixture.
- 6. Sprinkle over the remaining flour mixture and press down lightly. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 30-35 mins. until golden brown.
- 7. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before cutting into slices.

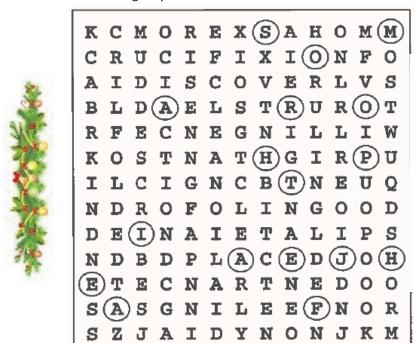
The bars can be served warm or cold with crème fraiche or whipped cream.

Kirsty Macrae, Café Connect Manager



### **Story Wordsearch**

In this story of a well-known Bible character 18 words have been omitted, and the number of letters in the missing words is indicated by the figures in brackets. Decide what those words are, then find them in the grid (some letters are used more than once). When you've found the words, put the circled letters in their correct order to give you the character's name.



(4) people were surprised to know that this certain member of the (6) council in Jerusalem admired Jesus. Matthew (9) him as a 'rich man'. Luke wrote of him: 'He was (4) and upright.' Yet he remained silent when Jesus was put on trial.

Whatever his personal (8) were towards Jesus he hid them from the other members. Some think he was afraid of them, and so kept his thoughts to himself. He was a man of integrity, as we (8) from the way he acted later.

Luke also added that as well as being 'a good and (7) man' he was also one 'who had not consented to their decision and action.' Yet Mark (7) states that following Christ's admission that he was the Son of God, 'they all condemned him as worthy of death.'

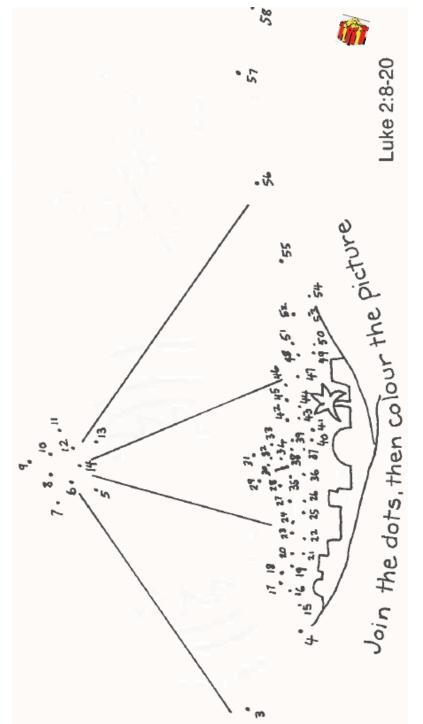
Not until after the (11) of Jesus did this member of the ruling council take any recorded (6). At evening, he and a friend went to (6) and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate permitted him to take the body and to prepare it for burial. It was (6) in this 'secret disciple's' own tomb, and a large stone rolled in front of the (8).

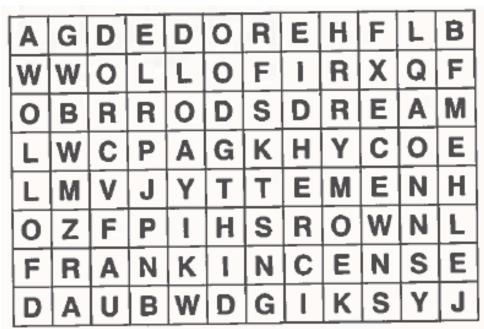
On the third day, however, the stone was rolled (4), the linen cloth neatly (6) and laid aside, and Jesus had (5) from the dead. Surely Jesus himself was mindful of such (8). And today he is ever (7) to receive all who come to him.

How many red presents can you find on the puzzle pages?



Watch out for the green presents!









October 2018 answer: Larva, havoc, nomad, gourd, khaki, okapi, kiosk, yokel, harem, maxim

### Our Democratic Luxury Tom Mason MSP North East Scotland

We are privileged to live in a mature democracy, where we successfully change our governments with an alternative, without disruption to our daily life. We might not agree with every decision, but we have the maturity to hang on in there until the next chance to vote. This maturity includes the understanding that, although the majority rules, it is the



responsibility of government to look after everyone in the community, particularly those who are unable to look after themselves.

This democratic luxury, of course, comes at a price. From time to time, there are elections where we replace those we think could do better. Indeed, we have a multitude of representatives. Everyone in Scotland has —

- 6 Members of the European Parliament, sitting in Brussels;
- 8 Members of the Scottish Parliament, sitting in Edinburgh, of which I am one;
- 3 or 4 local government Councillors, of which I am 'also one', sitting in Aberdeen;
- and 1 Member of Parliament, sitting in Westminster. Up to 19 representatives in all.

Interestingly each level of government has a different voting system. Single Transferable Vote in the case of European elections. First Past the Post for Westminster. Scottish elections have two votes one for constituency, First Past the Post, and one for proportional list representation. We are certainly not short of choice, but I hesitate to make any comment as to which is preferable or most effective!

Being both an MSP and a local Councillor I have a unique perspective as to how communities work best. Having been involved for some 30 years, I know well the strengths and limitations of each level of government. Undoubtedly, the real champions are our 'local heroes'.

Local heroes who just get on and make things happen. It is hard work, but very rewarding to see projects coming to fruition as time passes. To name one, I think of your own efforts for Mannofield Church, raising enormous amounts of money to renovate such a lovely building, and to champion a wonderful community enterprise in CAFÉ CONNECT.

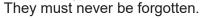
I think that if I have learnt anything after my 30 years' experience in politics, it's that government should get out of the way and let those local heroes, who know what they're doing, just get on with it!

Tom Mason MSP, North East Scotland Region

T: 01224 646 888, 0131 348 6981, M; 07712644993 <u>www.TomMasonMSP.co.uk</u> www.facebook.com/TomMasonMSP/;@TomMasonMSP;

#### Letter to the Editor

Many congratulations to all who contributed to the marvelous display of poppies outside Mannofield Church. It has been much admired and appreciated by all who have seen it and is a very fitting tribute to the bravery of all the men who sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy the peace and freedom we have to day.



Anne Farguhar

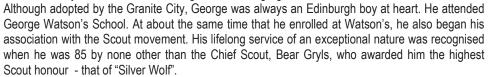




### The late Rev. George Dymock Goldie Aberdeen Presbytery Tribute by the Rev Keith Blackwood

George Goldie was a remarkable man and Servant of the Church. George was a minister 'for the people', a wonderful story-teller; a provider of care and encourager towards personal faith. His well-crafted

sermons always carried a clear message that his congregation could relate to.



After finishing school, he joined up with the 1st Battalion of The Royal Scots. During his training VE day was declared. However, the war was still raging in the far east and George was despatched to Bangalore, then in India to complete his officer training. His final posting was to Malaya where he and his platoon guarded a number of Japanese POWs.

On his return George quickly enrolled on the post war fast track Divinity Course at New College and so began his service to the Church. During his training a Supervisor penned the following, 'George Goldie has a future of great power and usefulness to the Church of Scotland'. We can certainly say these prophetic words came true.

In 1953 George was inducted to Slateford Longstone Church as minister. In June 1955 he married Mairi and together they raised and loved 4 children Susan, Peter, Alan and Ruth.

In 1962 George was called to Greyfriars Church here in Aberdeen, the start of a very happy 56 years in the Granite City. After retiring he settled into a role as Pastoral Assistant at Mannofield Church where he worked officially for 11 years but even after retiring a second time remained a great support and carer of people.

A dear, dear man, gentleman and friend to many. He is survived by his family who we hold in prayer: Susan, Peter, Alan and Ruth, Malcolm, Diana, Vicky, Mairi, Catherine, Ailidh, Philip, Patrick, Alice, Sam and Andrew.

### **CrossReach Christmas Angel Appeal**

Choose to be a Guardian Angel this Christmas for people like Mary who suffered from postnatal depression after the birth of her daughter. She says: "I became incredibly depressed, weepy, anxious and beset by suicidal thoughts".



CrossReach (the Church of Scotland's charity) supported Mary just as they do countless other families every day. This Christmas they want to raise £200,000 to support even more families.

It costs between £40 and £60 for CrossReach to provide a one hour session of therapeutic support for someone with PND who will attend an average of 12 sessions of therapy. CrossReach invites you to write a message of hope or a prayer on a unique angel bauble to send back with your gift. For further information see:

https://www.crossreach.org.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Guardian%20Angel%20-%20General%20Final 0.pdf

Please send your cheque (made payable to 'CrossReach') to:

Christmas Angel Appeal, CrossReach, Charis House, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh. EH15 2SR

### **Flower Calendar**

#### December

- 2 Mrs M. Hunter
- 9 Miss Youngson's Legacy
- 16 Mrs M. Gourlay
- 23 Flower Fund
- 30 Miss Youngson's Legacy

### **January**

- 6 Flower Fund
- 13 Mrs C. Williamson
- 20 Miss A. Thomson
- 27 Mr I. Black

### **February**

- 3 Mrs B. Russell
- 10 Mrs A. Dyce
- 17 Mrs C. Strachan
- 24 Miss R. Archibald

The ladies of the Flower Committee would like to thank everyone who provided flowers for the Sanctuary throughout the past year.

The flowers are very much appreciated both by those attending Church services and by those who receive them afterwards.

If you would like to contribute, either by providing your own flowers or by donating to the Flower Fund, the Calendar for 2019 will be in Church from the end of November.

Sheila Taylor Flower Convenor

### Mannofield Church Book Club

We continue to have interesting discussions about the books that we read and,

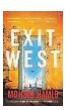


as with previous years, we have included a mixture of fiction, non fiction and autobiographical books in our reading list. Listed below are the books that we are reading over the next few months.

### 5 December Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

### An extraordinary story of desire and

hope, travelling from the Middle East to London and beyond, this is a love story that considers what makes ordinary people flee their homes and how the world might change if borders were broken down.



### 6 February Three things about Elsie by Joanna Cannon

Eighty-four year-old Florence has fallen in her flat at Cherry Tree Home for the Elderly. As she waits to be rescued, Florence



wonders if a terrible secret from her past is about to come to light; and, if the charming new resident is who he claims to be, why does he look exactly like a man who died sixty years ago.

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

### A Day in the life of your Associate Minister - 6 November Holly Smith

When the InSpire Editor asked me to write an article about a regular day in ministry, I sort of laughed out loud because no day is the same. Ministry, whether as an associate minister or a senior minister, often seems a bit like eating an ice cream cone on a blistering hot day. Although sweet and delightful, you spend a significant amount of time rushing to finish task after task in the hope that you don't end up with sticky hands. The more ice cream cones you eat, the more skilled you become... right now my ice cream flavour tastes a bit more like Scottish Toffee than Texas Sheet Cake. So instead of telling you about a regular day in the ministry. I am just going to tell you about vesterday.



I woke up at 7:00 am with a cutie little boy standing beside my bed, "Mama, no one's gonna make me breakfast!" I rolled out of bed and made my way downstairs to the coffee pot, poured myself a hot cup of liquid energy, set Zeke up with some fruit and yogurt and then proceeded to get ready for the day. At 8:45, the three boys and I walked to Mile End school so they could arrive by 9:00 a.m. After one loud morning bell and three hugs goodbye I made my way down the lane to where my car waited ready to carry me to Mannofield. I navigated the left-hand side of the car and road, roundabouts, and the stick shift like a boss, if I do say so myself!

After arriving at the church, I greeted Jean (Church Secretary) and Nick (Church Officer) and set out on getting some much-needed work done. First, I made a couple of phone calls to see if some folk might be up for a visit later in the week. Then, I showed a couple around, who where asking about letting a room in the church so they could see the space. Finally, I sat down to plan out my Remembrance Day lesson that I would deliver to the P7s at Mile End Primary later in the afternoon. I am the Chaplain at Mile End this year due to the Midstocket vacancy. This gives me some much-needed practical experience for when I take my own charge. After printing some pictures for a memory game, making In Flanders's Field poem cards and downloading an ancient Charlie Brown cartoon to highlight Remembrance Day, I was all set. By now, 12:00 had arrived, so I enjoyed a nice cup of soup from the café and delightful conversation with a parishioner. I then worked for an hour on some paperwork 121 (Church of Scotland head office, Edinburgh) needs me to hand in next week.

Around 1:10, I left for Mile End. I spend from 1:20 to 2:40, teaching two different P7 classes about Remembrance Day. Then a group of eight kids, the depute head teacher and I carried 100 hand painted poppy pebbles to the Midstocket Church to be used in their Saturday service. When we made it back to the school at 3:00, I drove my car back to the manse and then walked back up the hill to retrieve the boys from school. I took my minister hat off for a bit, made the boys a snack, watched a bit of TV with them and waited for Matt (my husband) to come home. When he arrived we cooked and ate dinner as a family. At 6:15, I once again headed off in the car to a Presbytery meeting. This meeting was quite lengthy and about 10:00, before it had finished, not feeling well, I excused myself and went home. I crawled into bed quite exhausted, but ready for a new adventure the next day!

### **Ross Thomson MP**

I love this time of year. Christmas is undoubtedly the one time in the very busy year for us all to spend quality time with our family and friends. All too often it is easy to allow our working life to consume our personal life. Far too many of us, and I include myself, get the work/life balance wrong. The most wonderful and joyous part of Christmas is the time it affords us to spend real time with our loved ones and you can bet that I'll be making the most of it this year.



While we get to enjoy time with our loved ones we should spare a thought for those who are working away from home this Christmas, who won't be joining their family round the dinner table because they are serving our country abroad, are working away offshore or due to sickness they simply cannot be with their friends and family.

I am sure all InSpire readers will want to join with me in paying a heartfelt tribute to the many carers who selflessly look after some of the most vulnerable people in our community and above all to the marvellous people who work tirelessly in our hospitals and in our emergency services. They are always on duty so that we can all be safe during this festive season.

The last year has been an extremely busy one for myself and my team. The issues that come across my desk are wide-ranging from Brexit to international trade; support for our oil and gas industry; concerns over education and NHS services; and animal welfare issues.

At the end of October, I voted for a Budget that brought a lot of good news for Scotland.

Our key industries of oil and gas, whisky and fishing were all given a boost by the Chancellor as he set out ambitious spending plans for the year ahead. My Scottish Conservative colleagues and I had pushed for support in all three areas – making our arguments as forcefully as we could for several months.

The oil and gas industry was looking for stability in the tax regime despite the sustained higher oil price and that is exactly what they got – with no change in the headline rate.

There was also a duty freeze for the Scotch whisky industry – something that was toasted by distilleries across the north and north-east of Scotland.

The fisheries sector will also benefit to the tune of £10million of investment in technology and safety, which comes just as the industry is preparing to reap the benefits of leaving the EU.

In addition, we were very pleased to see nearly £1billion in funding announced for the Scottish Government – an increase in both cash and real terms.

There is also funding heading north for the NHS. Scotland will receive £2bn over several years, of which £550million will be available for the year ahead.

As always, I hold regular surgeries and I help constituents with their concerns on a daily basis. If there is ever anything that I can do to help you or your neighbours please never hesitate to get in touch with me at any time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my constituents a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Ross Thomson MP

Email: ross.thomson.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 01224 592229

Twitter: @RossThomson\_MP Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rossthomsonMP

### Airyhall Primary School Report October 2018

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

In the *Nursery* the boys and girls had a visitor from Childsmile who showed them how to look after their teeth. Everyone had great fun outside on the wheeled toys and have developed skill in controlling their movements.

Potatoes have been harvested, receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> place for weight.

All of our **Primary 1** children have been learning about 'Our Community' and the many things we have around us to see and do when we are not in school. They also enjoyed a visit from the 'Teddy Bear Hospital' where they learned about some of the jobs doctors and nurses do to look after us.

Within **Primary 2** the pupils have been looking at 'Our Community' as part of their interdisciplinary learning and have looked at types of housing in the area, materials used to make homes and maps of their journey to school or the shops!

Reverend Blackwood came to visit Primary 2 to tell the children what part the Church has to play in meeting the needs of our community.

In **Primary 4** the children were visited by Mr Dunn MBE a polar ambassador as part of their environmental comparison of Aberdeen and the Polar regions.

**Primary 5** thoroughly enjoyed learning all about life in Australia and made comparisons between Australia and Scotland. One class created the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of a science challenge and the other created detailed newspaper reports about Australian bushfires. As part of our ongoing Eco work, the children held an open afternoon at Slopefield allotments where parents were invited to celebrate our success.

**Primary 7** have also been making comparisons and have learned about India. Children have learned about continental drift, tectonic plates and erosion before studying the work of Scottish artists to inspire their own creations. Data handling has been central to their learning as they analysed statistics and transferred information into different forms of graphs. Indian textiles have been explored as well as music and culture.

We are very proud of the boys and girls of Airyhall having taken part in road races last term. Others bravely presented their success in Fairtrade whilst aboard a ferry in Aberdeen harbour.

As a school we have celebrated our achievements in Eco Schools with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Aberdeen in Bloom garden competition, received an 'Outstanding' level in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' accreditation and have been nominated for a Children and

Young People's award for Learning for Sustainability.

Happy Christmas from the pupils and staff







Thursday FLY Cup will be the Christmas Sing along on

on Thursday 13 December Mannofield Church

2 - 3.30pm

No charge (but donations welcome)

Come and enjoy Christmas Fayre and sing along to the old favourites

EVERYONE IS WELCOMEthe more the merrier!

To help with catering we ask you to collect your free ticket from the Church office, Countesswells Road Monday – Thursday mornings

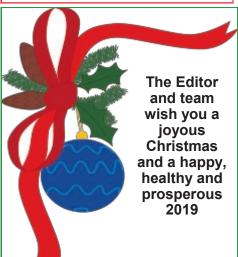
Or simply call the office 01224 310087 to add your name to the list

Need transport? Call 01224 310087 to arrange

We look forward to seeing you

FLY CUP meets again 10 JANUARY







A very BIG thank you to everybody who participated in the Mannofield Church Community Clear Up on Sunday 4 November. Around 30 people of all ages, from 5yrs – 75yrs old, went out into the community to help clear up the leaves and litter in the area.

Everyone involved worked really hard, as they managed to fill over 100 black bags, in under 2 hours. A tremendous effort!

All the participants seemed to have fun and after all the hard work was over it was back to Café Connect for a delicious lunch which had been lovingly prepared by our fantastic catering team.

### **EVERYONE IS ECO-MINDED**

It seems that every news bulletin these days has at least one item of eco news. What's more, most (but certainly not all) of the news is good. Our rivers are less polluted, recycling rates are steadily increasing, farming is more wild-life friendly and car engines use about half as much fuel as they did a couple of decades ago. I could go on, but you might enjoy making up your own list. While you are at it, you'll probably think of some news items that buck the trend. There remains a great deal to be done.



We'll probably never quite reach the point of having a perfect environment, not least because some trade-offs between environmental, economic and social issues make compromises inevitable. But there's one gigantic issue where the stakes are so high that we cannot afford to be complacent – climate change. If we fail to make more progress than the world has made up to now, the consequences could be dire, to say the least.

That's the wider picture. But there's a hidden danger. News stories are subject to fashion, and if we stop paying attention, broadcasters and journalists will turn to other subjects. It's all too easy for us to become complacent. Don't let it happen to you!

Alistair Stark Convenor, Eco Congregation Committee



### Reporting back – Councillor lan Yuill 5 November Road safety and speeding

Local residents regularly contact me with concerns about speeding and safety on roads in our area. Braeside and Mannofield Community Council also regularly discuss this. When I am contacted by residents about speeding, I raise these concerns with both the



police and the council's traffic management team and urge them to take action to tackle this dangerous problem - and I will continue to do this. In mid 2018 I suggested to the police that they introduce "Community Speedwatch" in Aberdeen. Community Speedwatch is a scheme which operates successfully elsewhere in the country where volunteers are trained to operate speed guns and pass details of those speeding to the police.

### Pavement and road repairs

Another issue about which people regularly contact me is the poor state of many of our local roads and pavements. Uneven pavements increase the risk of people tripping and injuring themselves. Potholed and broken roads can damage cars and be a danger to cyclists. My view is that the council should invest more in properly repairing and resurfacing pavements and roads. I will continue to make the case for that to happen. I will of course also continue to highlight to the council's roads staff particular problem areas of road and pavement and urge that these are repaired or resurfaced.

### Winter weather

Last winter I was contacted by many people about the very icy and dangerous state of many pavements and roads in our area. Whilst the council does not have the resources to grit every road and pavement in Aberdeen, I believe it needs to do much, much better this year.

The grit boxes around our area are there for residents to use. Please do let me know if you know of a grit box in our area that needs to be refilled. This year a number of people and organisations in our area have also volunteered to take one tonne bags of salt to help treat icy pavements. One thing I try to do myself is keep the pavement in front of my home clear of snow and ice. Whilst not everyone can do this, the more people who do so the safer our local pavements will be.

I am here to help I am always happy to help residents with problems and complaints.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 77 Duthie Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 7PS, on 01224 522220 (council) or 0224 310746 (home) or at <a href="https://www.ianyuill.org.uk">www.ianyuill.org.uk</a>.

#### CAROL SERVICE



St John Scotland, Aberdeen and North East Committee has arranged a carol service at King's College Chapel on 6 December at 6.30pm.

The choir will be conducted by the world famous, Professor Paul Mealor and the service is open for

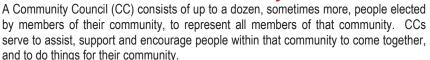


the public to come along to what will be a memorable service. Please also invite your friends.

There will be a collection to support the sight saving work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

Joe Mackie, Chairman, St John Scotland, Aberdeen and North East Committee

### **Braeside and Mannofield Community Council**





CCs are statutory groups, elected for a 3 year term of office. Many members serve for much longer. CCs can make contact with relevant agencies to put forward the views of its community, and liaise with ACC councillors, police, local groups and other local communities.

The BMCC covers an area roughly bounded by South Anderson Drive, Broomhill Road, Bairds Brae and Countesswells/Seafield Road. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month (excluding December and July).

Meetings are open to the public and are held 7- 9pm, Gordon Room, Mannofield Church.

For further details look at our website www.bandmcommcouncil.blogspot.co.uk.

If you live in the BMCC area, and are on the local electoral register you can be nominated (your nominee must also live in the BMCC area), or you can put yourself forward at one of our meetings between scheduled elections and be co-opted onto the council.

There is a place on the CC for young people aged 16-18. People who have particular skills which we are seeking can be co-opted on to the BMCC. The main thing you need is to have a concern for the wider community and the enthusiasm to make a difference.

We live in challenging times. We all have the ability to achieve the type of caring, safe and attractive community we each want to live in. CCs are one way we can all join together to discuss and put forward the views of local people, and to make a difference, however small, to our local community. Come to one of our meetings to find out more about the BMCC.

Naomi Mandel, Chair BMCC

#### **GRANITE CITY CHORUS**

Our "Learn to Sing" course starts on Tuesday 22 January at 7pm and runs for 4 consecutive Tuesdays. It is open to all males. It is free and no experience or musical knowledge is required. The course is held in Woodside Parish Church Hall, 46 Church St, Aberdeen AB24 4DQ and you can be assured of a warm and friendly reception. Our Music Director and experienced singers will teach you everything you need to sing and perform as a chorus singer. So, Learn to Sing, enroll now! Register online at <a href="https://www.Granitecitychorus.co.uk">www.Granitecitychorus.co.uk</a> or contact

Adrian Blake 01224 643663

### Councillor Martin Greig—an update of some issues raised by constituents Parks and Gardens

Our green spaces are extremely important for everyone. I have been trying to help raise standards in Hazlehead Park, Johnston Gardens, Cromwell Road Park and elsewhere. The play equipment in Cromwell Road Park has been upgraded but more still needs to be done. I am delighted that Johnston Gardens contributed so much to Aberdeen's success in winning a Gold Britain in Bloom award. The Gardens have an excellent volunteer group and I have found it enjoyable and fulfilling to share in gardening work, painting, etc. there.

### **Festive Lights**

Some years ago I was able to have Christmas lights purchased for public display in our area. These are installed each year outside Craigiebuckler Church and Holburn West Church. I am grateful to our local community councils for once again providing the necessary funds for storage and annual maintenance. Without their contributions, the lights could not be installed.

#### Traffic Pressures

I opposed Countesswells New Town and the Pinewood/ Hazledene developments. However, they have now been approved so I am now trying to help minimise their impacts on our area. People are concerned about congestion increasing along Springfield Road, Countesswells Road, Great Western Road and Anderson Drive. This appears to be due to locally generated traffic and our streets can really struggle with the increase. This can be a hazard for pedestrians. In some places I have been able to have the traffic light phasing changed to give pedestrians more time to cross the road. I also have been asking for pedestrian crossings.

#### **Autumn Leaves**

I am receiving more complaints about fallen leaves which have not being cleared from pavements. For many people, the clumps of leaves are a genuine danger. Many of us are no longer as steady on our feet as we used to be. The leaves can be slippy and they can also conceal dislodged pavement slabs and obstacles. I always follow up concerns and will keep up the effort to make our streets safer.

#### **Trees**

I have been experiencing more complaints about the state of trees in streets in the area e.g. the problem of low hanging branches so I want to make sure they are tended properly. I have been able to have some of the empty tree pits planted with new trees.

Please contact me at any time if you have any questions or where I can be of assistance. I will always do what I can.

Martin Greig, 85 Macaulay Drive, Aberdeen AB15 8FL
Tel 07920806332 Email mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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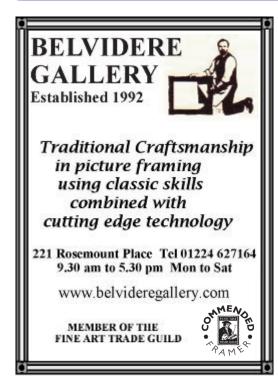
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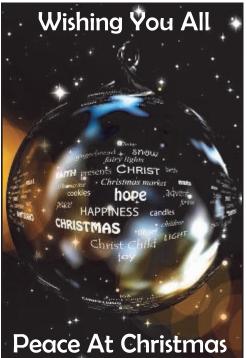
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### Mother and Baby Yoga



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Six Week Course for £48

Contact Tracy at mothermeerkat@gmail.com for more information





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REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



### How do I do it?

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

### Then what?

items, bring it to Mannofield Church (The Gordon Room) or Cafe Connect between December 24th and January 7th. We'll distribute the goods to help families in the New Year.



