

Christmas 2023

Mannofield Matters

 **MANNOFIELD CHURCH**
Heart of the Community

Dear Friends,

And just like that we reach the season of Advent and Christmas!

I don't know about you but with all that is going on in our hectic lives and in the world I was somewhat unprepared for the arrival of the Season when the first Christmas Adverts hit our Radio and TV. However, with a quick shake down – the only thing to do is to delve in and get into the Spirit of the Season – lest we get the reputation for being too much like one of two well-known seasonal characters: AKA - Scrooge or The Grinch.

Amidst the fun, frivolity, and indulgences of the Season, for us there is a key message to absorb. There are many ways to describe the message. One way is to reflect on Christmas as *'Hope for a Troubled Life and Troubled World'*; be it the case that we are seeking something to channel Hope into our personal lives, or the circumstances of the World. Christmas, its Spirit, and its message, fulfils that need!

The Bible speaks of hope as being *"confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* (Hebrews 11:1). This Book goes on to list many heroes and heroines of the faith who trusted God to keep his promises even when they could not see how. Some, such as Abraham, never even saw the promises fulfilled in their lifetimes, but trusted God anyway.

The prophets of the Old Testament, who spoke God's words into their own situations, also looked forward to a time when God's many promises would be known in the world. They did not know how God could fix the mess that humans had made of everything. I don't suppose that they expected the solution to be a tiny baby, born into a poor family in an insignificant backwater of the Roman Empire. None of the prophets lived to see this happen, yet they trusted that God would keep his word, and used this as their basis of encouraging others not just to believe, but to act in ways that would shape this new world built on God's vision of Peace.

It can be hard to hold onto a promise when we cannot see it happening, but that is what hope is all about. It's what this Season of Christmas offers us.

It brings us something to *'Hope in'*, and an incentive to be people of Faith who *'bring this Hope'* to others.

"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The young woman will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel". Isaiah 7:14

God indeed is with us. In this Truth, we find our Hope!

May the Season bring you much fun, happiness, and joy and may it be full of words, moments and signs that leave you with great reason to be one of those able to live in a Spirit of Hope.

Happy Christmas from Keith and the Manse Family.

Keep up-to-date by listening to *Mannofield Musings* our Church Podcast

Search "Mannofield Church Podcasts" in Google and in the usual Podcast sites

CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

2.00-3.30PM at MANNOFIELD CHURCH

Enjoy Christmas music and afternoon tea

Everyone welcome, call the office now to reserve your place
01224 310087.



Carols & Lessons

Mannofield Church

Great Western Road, Aberdeen, AB10 6UZ

Sunday 10 December | 7.00pm

- St John Festival Choir conducted by Professor Paul Mealor
- Minister: Rev Keith Blackwood
- Organist: Professor Andrew Morrisson

Retiring collection to support the work of St John Scotland at home and abroad.

Refreshments will be available after the service.

All welcome!

- stjohnscotland.org.uk
- [StJohnScotland](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnScotland)
- [StJohnScot](https://www.instagram.com/StJohnScot)

St John Scotland. Scottish Registered Charity number SC047485.



St John Scotland

Saving lives together

Monday Evenings at Mannofield Church in 2024

Starting on 22 January we are offering two courses:

The **Alpha Course**

The **Apprentice Series** – *The Good & Beautiful Life*

Each evening starts at 7pm in **Café Connect** with a meal together, then each course continues individually. The evening finishes around 9pm. Everyone is welcome, and there is no charge.

Alpha at Café Connect.

Explore

Life

Faith

Meaning

Everyone has Questions

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions which freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It runs for 10 weeks with an 'away-day' planned for Saturday 2 March. You can find out more about **Alpha** at <https://alpha.org.uk/try>

Many thanks, The Team - Louise, Anne and Alan.



CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to all who currently make donations for flowers for our services. We all love them and those who receive them are uplifted that they are remembered by the congregation. It is a wonderful way to feel connected and get a boost.

Thank you to the dedicated small team who distribute these bouquets of joy. Volunteers are always warmly welcomed!

If anyone would like to donate a one off sum for a bouquet there are a few weeks in the year when this would be particularly appreciated.

Please get in touch with the Church office for information.

Thank you from Sheila, Maureen and Alison



TABLE TOP SALE

Thank you to everyone who has assisted and contributed towards our sales this year. All proceeds will benefit Mannofield Church.

Table Top sales this year raised £1140

Pre-loved Jewellery raised just over £1000

OUR NEXT TABLE TOP SALE—13 JANUARY



Help a family in crisis this Christmas REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Donate food or supermarket gift cards. 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. You can see our poster online or on the Church noticeboard for suggestions. Alternatively you can donate supermarket gift cards which allows the food banks to purchase exactly what is needed.

**After you have filled your bag, please hand in your donations to
Mannofield Church or Café Connect
between 24 December and 5 January.**

We'll distribute the goods to help families in the New Year.

FESTIVE Opening Hours

CHRISTMAS

December 22 - 23: 10am to 4pm

December 24 - 26: Closed

December 27 - 30: 10am to 4pm

NEW YEAR

December 31 - January 3: Closed

January 4 - 6: 10am to 4pm

We Wish you a Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 17th Dec
Nativity Play Sunday 10am



Sunday 24th Dec
Carols and Lessons 10am

Sunday 24th Dec
Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

Sunday 24th Dec
Watchnight Service 11.30pm

Monday 25th Dec
Christmas Morning Family Service 10.30am

Sunday 31st Dec
10am Worship - Preparing for the New Year

A Warm Welcome to All

Thank you Co-op Members

for supporting
your local community

We are delighted to confirm Mannofield Co-op
Members have raised a total of **£3,136.27** for the
Mannofield Community Food Collection.
Thank you for selecting us as your local cause.

