



Dear Friends, in preparing a school lesson for Easter that included a section on world traditions associated with Easter, I came across one I had not heard of before. It is a tradition in Sweden and is called Skärtorsdag - a name given in Sweden to Maundy Thursday. Amongst other meanings the word Skär can mean 'to clean or make pure'. In terms of Maundy Thursday then it refers to the story about Jesus washing the disciples' feet before the last supper.

The tradition is that children dress up in old clothes – usually long skirts, aprons and scarves or black suits, top hats and fake moustaches. Faces are painted with red cheeks and freckles. These 'Easter Witches' visit homes (much like our traditions of Halloween), presenting Easter cards and wishing people a Happy Easter and in return they receive sweets for their baskets.

Like other traditions associated with Easter - such as painted eggs, flying kites, bonfires, colourful rug weaving and the Easter Bunny, it is interesting how traditions from outside Christianity have been picked up and patched in with the Christian celebration of Easter.

Sometimes it is hard to separate the popular secular traditions from the message that the Church would like to share with the world in the Season. There is nothing wrong with a bit of fun around our Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter. It is good to build up excitement and encourage family fun and a break from the sometimes mundane rhythms of normal life.

But, in and around these other traditions, the Easter Season remains a hugely important time of year for the worldwide Church and Easter Sunday is a huge day of Worship attendance at churches around the globe. A lot of work goes in to building up the expectations and spirit of the Season through the 6 weeks of Lent. Holy Week itself is the busiest week in the church calendar with Services every night. A lot of preparation goes in to getting the message of the Easter Season right and the time commitment to the various Worship Services is extensive.

Yet it is all worth it and Easter remains hugely important. In today's busy life with lots of traditions and the competition for airtime a real issue, the message of Christian Easter must not be lost on the world or the people in our communities. It comes with a message of God's Love for all people and the Resurrection promise of new life and new hope through Christ and His risen Spirit. This message is one we very much need to hear in our lives and then share it with our brothers and sisters in our communities and in our world.

Happy Easter

Keith

Keep up-to-date by listening to *Mannofield Musings* our Church Podcast
Search "Mannofield Church Podcasts" in Google and in the usual Podcast sites

Let us know if you know of anyone who

- has gone into hospital
- has moved into care
- would like an Elder visit



ABERDEEN WEST PARISH GROUPING

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday 25th March - Mannofield Parish Church

Tuesday 26th March - Peterculter Parish Church

Wednesday 27th March - Cults Parish Church

Maundy Thursday - Each church hosting their own service

Good Friday - Springfield Parish Church

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7PM



The Parenting Children Course

PARENTING COURSE

The Parenting Teenagers Course

PARENTING COURSE

Call to book your place (No charge)

01224 310087

office@mannofieldchurch.org.uk

More information:

A DVD based, Parenting children's and teenagers' course
0-11 years & 11-18 years.
Tuesday Evenings 9th April—30th April From 7.15pm-9pm
Café Connect at Mannofield Church
Great Western Road, AB10 6UZ

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Keith, Rev Amy Bender, Sean Swindells and two others are running at the Balmoral 5K or 10K on Saturday 27th April. We have set up a just giving page: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/running-for-CrossReachNENI?utm_term=qmbPRQa2A but alternatively if you wish to support this fantastic cause, you can put a donation in an envelope marked 'Crossreach' in the collection plate or hand it into the office. Together, let us show support to Crossreach: "Care you can put your faith in".

Prayer Group

We continue to meet at 9.45 on Wednesday mornings. Please come and join us!

If you would like us to pray for you or for a friend, take a leaf from the prayer tree as you enter the sanctuary and fill in the details.

Everything will be totally confidential.



Congratulations to our Elders who have been recognised for 30years service. Also to Lynn Allan who received her certificate in absentia. We thank you for your service to Mannofield Church.

Spring Puzzle

All the answers have **SPRING** in them

1. Australian Town (5,7)
2. Dog Breed (8,7)
3. Diving platform (11)
4. Chinese snack (5,4)
5. Make house spotless (6,5)
6. British singer born 1939 (5,11)
7. Vegetable (6,5)
8. Children (9)
9. National Rugby Team (10)
10. Name of cemetery at Seafield (10)

Answers

1. Alice Springs 2. Springer Spaniel 3. Springboard 4. Spring Roll 5. Spring Clean 6. Dusty Springfield 7. Spring Onion 8. Offspring 9. Springbok 10. Springbank

Our 2024 course got off to a promising start, but unfortunately one person dropped out and two more withdrew due to illness.

The course however continued and was meaningful For the remainder especially so for our "Awayday".

Midweek Service Wednesday 10.30am, Sunday Service 10am both followed by teas, coffee and chat
Life Groups Monday 8-9pm, Wednesday 2-3.30pm and Thursday 11-12noon Prayer Group Wednesday before midweek service

44th Boys Brigade News

This session so far:

With a current membership of 70 boys the 44th Aberdeen Company is thriving.

Its a special year with the Boys Brigade nationally being 140 years old. All sections took part in our 140 baton relay in September when the boys ran round the church 'block' carrying the special North Scottish 140 baton. We ran 47 laps in total covering around 12 miles. Inside the baton was a message from the King which was read to the boys. He had handed over the baton to North Scottish representatives at the Braemar Gathering.



Some of our Company Section boys took part in a 140 Monopoly Challenge around the city centre streets. They had to tick off streets and landmarks to gain points. Our team came 2nd- a brilliant achievement.

Throughout the session so far the boys have made good use of the BBUK programme materials. These have included Rugby World Cup, Chinese New Year, Me & My Teeth and Fast & Further. The older boys have also covered topics including the Oscars, Eric Liddle, Bible Quote or Not and Split or Steal. We have also tried some different activities with all sections enjoying our new giant 4ft wide KinBall. We have had Christmas parties, including a visit from Santa for the youngest and Dominoes for the oldest. Our Company Section boys took part in the Church's community leaf pickup in November and of course we were all there at the Remembrance Service. So, a busy session so far with more to come in the pipeline. Look out for our updates on Facebook or YouTube - just search for us.

44aberdeen@boys-brigade.org.uk

www.40four.co.uk

www.facebook.com/44thaberdeenbb

youtube.com/@44thaberdeenbb

Dave Tait, Captain

44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade



Congratulations to Heather and her team for 40th Guides 100th birthday party held here in Mannofield on Saturday the 16th March.

What a marvellous achievement!



DECORATE AN EGG

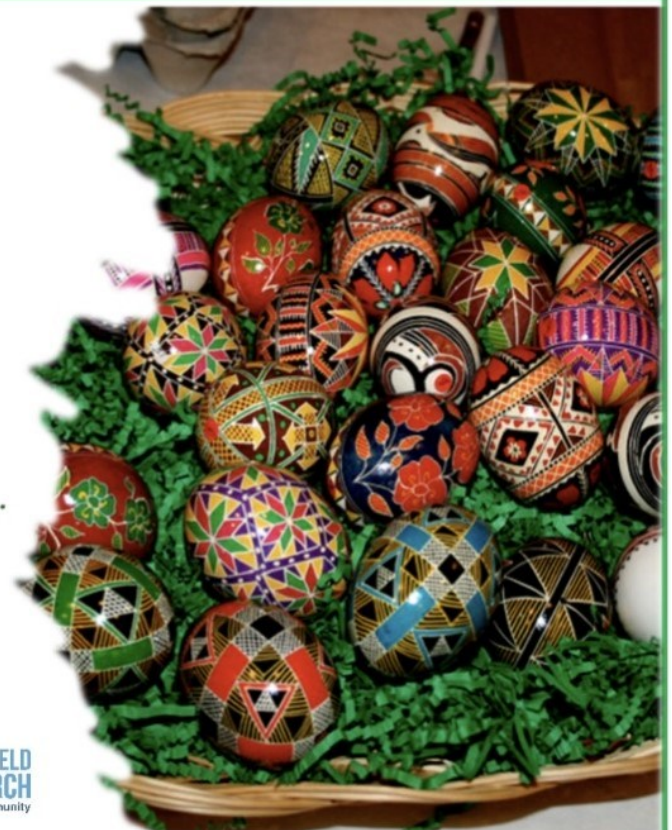
EASTER FUN FOR ALL AGES

- ❖ Hard boil an egg and decorate in any way you choose.
- ❖ Put your name and phone number in a sealed envelope.
- ❖ Put the age group on the envelope -
Pre-school: P1-3: P4-7: 12- adult
- ❖ Hand the egg with your envelope into...

CAFÉ CONNECT OR
MANNOFIELD CHURCH
GREAT WESTERN ROAD

Between 28th March & 6th April 2024

PRIZES!





Thursday Food Collection 10am-12noon

The food collection has been very well supported by our community.

THANK YOU!

We have moved indoors and are flying the flag to remind everyone there are crates in the welcome area to receive your donations at anytime.

We were also very fortunate to be part of the Co-op community partnership which awarded us £3,136 in November 2023. This will be distributed to needy foodbanks .



TABLE TOP SALE

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

Pop along to our next table tops 10am-12noon:

- 13th April
- 11th May 2024
- 15th June 2024



Can you lend

Volunteers needed for:

- Teas on Sunday
- Door rota for external lets
- Visit the housebound
- Keep the servery clean and tidy (monthly once a year)
- Join one of the church committees—Church family, Eco, Outreach and mission

Contact the office for more details



Dates for your Diary

28th March-6th April—Easter Egg Competition

13th April—Table Top Sale

21st April—Charity Art Event

May onwards—Smartie Tube coin collection

11th May—Table Top Sale

11th May—Northern Lights Singers Charity Concert

12th—18th May—Christian Aid Week

25th May—Orpheus Choir Spring Concert

15th June—Table Top Sale

Coming soon—Summer get together



For more information on any of the above events please check out our noticeboard for times and bookings.

We now recycle:

Batteries, mobile phones and stamps in the bins/boxes in the welcome area at the Mannofield Church office entrance.



Keep them coming!

Our first box of stamps is on its way!



RNIB

See differently

It's Spring

Join the Strollers for a short walk
See the garden flowers

Lots of chat and a coffee afterwards

Meet at Mannofield Church

Tuesdays 10am



Mannofield Church Guild

2nd April—Hearing Dogs

16th April—Jimmy McRae

30th April—AGM

Tuesday at 2pm

All Welcome!



The Craft Group meets in the church hall on Thursdays from 9.30 -11.30am.

Come and join us!



Our café is open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday and we look forward to welcoming you!

Please check out our Facebook page for updates and exciting additions to our menu as well as special evenings with us throughout the year.

Reserve your table now: 01224 318962

