

Christmas 2024

# Mannofield Matters



Dear Friends,

Most of you will be aware of the Acronym G.O.A.T which is an often-used phrase or discussion topic when assessing the top sports stars past and present. "GOAT" stands for GREATEST OF ALL TIME.

"GOAT" can also be used in music too and in this special season of Christmas we might consider our GREATEST OF ALL TIME Christmas music chart hits.

We will each have our personal favourite and this is what makes it a great discussion topic at a Christmas dinner or night out/ get-together. For me the contenders are Fairytale of New York (The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl), Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy (David Bowie and Bing Crosby). However, both are pipped at the post for me by The Power of Love (Frankie Goes to Hollywood).

Of course, not all Christmas hits of the past are particularly "Christmassy" in their words. They don't all have sleigh bells in the percussion line!

When it comes to hymns, we can have our "GOAT" Christmas Carols too. You will have your favourites no doubt. I wouldn't begin to guess at what they might be for you. It comes down to personal choice and sometimes down to the memories triggered of hearing/singing them down through the years.

Christmas is a season for reflection and it encourages reminiscing.

Whether it be favourite songs, films, holidays or experiences with people close to us, the season draws out these memories and connects us with our past. This reminiscing, of course, can be difficult as well as a rich blessing.

The familiarity of the season in music, food, film and shared experiences with others, still allows for many in society today to make space for the familiar message of the season.

In our increasing secular society, I take heart that there remain many people who take time in this Season to reflect on the simple, yet significant message of Jesus' birth. The Christmas message emphasizes themes of love, peace, and goodwill toward all.

Some go as far to give thanks for God choosing this time to enter human history as Jesus. Yet many of those who can't quite go as far as this, still recognise "something" outside of humanity that encourages the wider belief in the importance of the message of "Peace for all".

However you spend your Christmas this year, make time to ponder your GREATEST OF ALL TIME music, films, and hymns. Make some time to consider your greatest Christmas memories - especially of loved ones. Make space in your heart too, to rejoice in the Greatest Living Message (dare I say it "GOAT") which God has extended to the world; that being the message of His unconditional **Love for all people**.

With Season's Greetings and much love from Keith and all the manse family.

*Keith*

### Let's give back this holiday season—A Ton of Tanners

Throughout December Faith & Outreach group are asking for a 'Ton of Tanners'.

Collect your envelope from the church and add your £10.00 and return.

Our aim is to collect 100 envelopes which we will donate to local foodbanks in January.

Your generosity is much appreciated.



## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES 2024



**Sunday 8th December**  
**Carols and Lessons with St Johns Scotland 7pm**

**Sunday 22nd December**  
**Nativity Play Sunday 10am**

**Tuesday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm**

**Tuesday 24th December**  
**Watchnight Service 11.30pm**

**Wednesday 25th December**  
**Christmas Morning Family Service 10.30am**

**Sunday 29th December**  
**Morning Worship - Preparing for the New Year 10am**

**A Warm Welcome to All**

### CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

**WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2024**

**2-3.30pm at MANNOFIELD CHURCH**

Enjoy Christmas music and afternoon tea

Everyone welcome.

Numbers are limited, so call the office now

Reserve your place 01224 310087

# STAY CURIOUS

## Save the Dates!

**Stay curious** is our byword for the 2025 **Alpha Course**.  
The 10-Mondays course starts on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7pm in Kaimhill School, Pitmedden Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 7HR.

The **Alpha Course** is a series of group discussions that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited.

Curious? - more information from [mail@thompsonaberdeen.com](mailto:mail@thompsonaberdeen.com) or 07831 878692, or [Try Alpha — Alpha UK - Stay Curious. Try Alpha.](#)

## Café Connect Christmas Hours

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec - CLOSED

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - CLOSED

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec - CLOSED

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec - CLOSED

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec - 10am-4pm

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec - 10am-4pm

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec - 10am-4pm

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 10am-3pm

Normal hours resume 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025



# Carols & Lessons

## Mannofield Church

Great Western Road, Aberdeen, AB10 6UZ

**Sunday 8 December | 7.00pm**

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

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

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**St John  
Scotland**

Starting on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 4.30pm -5.30pm It is for teenagers (13-18) Youth Alpha is a space for you to explore faith on your terms. There is no pressure. No follow up and no charge.



**A new way for young people to explore life, faith and purpose.**

Made for this generation, the new Alpha

## TABLE TOP SALE

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

Table Top sales this year raised **£1,429.81**

Pre-loved Jewellery raised just over **£1,558.00**

Charity Shop raised **£2,035.70**



## 2025 TABLE TOP SALES:

**18/01, 15/02, 15/03, 12/04, 17/05, 14/06, 19/07, 18/10 & 15/11**

## Dates for your Diary

30<sup>th</sup> Nov—Learig Concert

8<sup>th</sup> Dec—St Johns Carols and Lessons

11<sup>th</sup> Dec—Christmas Sing-A-Long

14<sup>th</sup> Dec—Orpheus Choir Concert

20<sup>th</sup> January—Alpha @ Kaimhill School

19<sup>th</sup> Feb—Film Afternoon

29<sup>th</sup> March—Learig Spring Concert

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



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost a loved one recently:

Melville Copeland

Alison McDonald

Mary Ross

Caroline Corbett

Mary Gibb



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