

Dear Friends,

Very soon we will celebrate Easter.

Within the Christian calendar the season of Lent/Easter sits very prominently alongside Advent/Christmas. Easter itself connects us to big words like Crucifixion and Resurrection and connects into themes such as God's Sacrificial Love and God's unconditional Grace for all humanity.

Whilst the big grand words and themes of Easter are fine to ponder upon, I find my greatest comfort, hope and strength, in what we might call the broader significance of all that Easter invites us to consider.

It's relevance for me in everyday life is found more in my understanding of what we might call the metaphors of Easter. By this phrase, I mean the general message of the season that underlies and underpins all the theological and 'churchy' language.

Easter in the context of my faith and life is a reminder of new life; the possibility of hope even in despair; opportunity found in stagnancy; faith and trust amid doubt; and death not being the end. Easter for me reminds me not to give up when all else is falling apart. It leads me to believe in God who makes new things possible time and time again in life. During life's challenges, Easter speaks to me of the renewed confidence I need to keep believing that positive change and outcomes are possible - both in my life and indeed the context of society and world.

In our troubled world we pray for Peace in Ukraine and in the Middle East. We pray for our Health Services and Care in the Community to better resource the support that people need in our own country. We pray for a Church in Scotland that is fighting hard to retain its strength in mission and relevancy. We pray for all people and whatever ails them, and whatever challenges are being endured in personal life, that there might be lighter days ahead.

The reason we celebrate Easter Sunday so passionately, is not simply because it is the conclusion of an ancient story of God. It is that Death was defeated and Jesus rose to Life. We celebrate because Easter reminds us of the goodness and greatness of God and because it makes clear to us what God enables through His love. That gives us courage, hope and faith for the everyday realities of our human existence.

God Bless

*Keith*

Let us know if you know of anyone who

- has gone into hospital
- has moved into care
- would like a friendly visit

## ABERDEEN WEST PARISH GROUPING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Monday 14th April - Springfield Parish Church
- Tuesday 15th April - Peterculter Parish Church
- Wednesday 16th April - Mannofield Parish Church
- Thursday 17th April - Each church hosting their own service
- Friday 18th April - Cults Parish Church

**ALL SERVICES ARE AT 7PM**









#### 44th Boys Brigade Company

Boys in all sections have been very active over the past few months. We have grown in numbers and are currently full to new members in P6 and above. There are still a few places for P1 - P3 boys in Anchors and you can scan the QR code to register on our waiting list.

Anchors have had a lot of fun recently with the giant Kinball. There are loads of fun things to do with this giant ball for all age groups but Anchors are particularly good at the train tracks game where they have to keep the train rolling with a moving track. They have also enjoyed a Lego night, giant painting and parachute games.

Junior section have been polishing their figure marching routine and learning some new moves. It's going well and they have been concentrating hard. They have also been learning about braille and how medicines are marked up for example. They played several games to understand how letters are made and recognised. They have used the Kinball as well for a giant dodgeball style game.

Company section table tennis and chess competitions are well under way and they too have been using the Kinball. Run the Gauntlet is their favourite where boys have to outrun the Kinball in an Indiana Jones style run. We have had a burger n bowling night at the beach and took part in a dodgeball skills evening run by the Granite City Guerrilla dodgeball team.

Find us on Facebook for more news and photos.

[44aberdeen@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:44aberdeen@boys-brigade.org.uk)

[www.40four.co.uk](http://www.40four.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/44thaberdeenbb](https://www.facebook.com/44thaberdeenbb)

[youtube.com/@44thaberdeenbb](https://youtube.com/@44thaberdeenbb)

Dave Tait, Captain

44th Aberdeen Boys Brigade



Rainbows continue to thrive. We welcomed a new Unit Helper which has allowed us to increase our numbers, and we now have 15 Rainbows who have enjoyed participating in a variety of activities, achieving various badges and going to a few large-scale events last year.

In April last year, we went to Aberdeen Altens Hotel for a Character Party where we met Spiderman and Ana from "Frozen" along with other Rainbows from across Aberdeen. Rainbows dressed up as their favourite characters, and a good time was had by all playing different games.

In November, we were off to Pittodrie to the "pitch Up At Pittodrie" for a morning of adventure completing various activities on a safari theme, again meeting up with other Rainbows from across Aberdeen. Fun was had by all, and getting a badge to add to the collection was a highlight for all.

Thinking about Rainbow achievements at our Unit, last December, Lucy achieved her Have Adventures Theme Award, just in time before she moved up to Brownies.

This term is proving busy too as we've presented a few of our Rainbows with Theme Awards. Well done to Evie for achieving her Express Myself Theme and her Have Adventures Themes which meant she is the first of our Rainbows to achieve her Bronze Theme Award. If that wasn't enough, she has managed to complete her Be Well Theme and her Take Action Theme, resulting in her being awarded her Silver Section Award, again another first for our Unit. Well done to Ruby for achieving her Express Myself Theme and her Take Action Theme to earn her Bronze Section Award.

These are the first Section Awards we have presented to any of our Rainbows, so we have been super-excited to see these being achieved and presented as they represent the work the Rainbows do at home to earn an Interest Badge, and the work we as Leaders put into planning the weekly meetings to allow these achievements. A huge well done is deserved to all.

We had four new Rainbows begin in January, and as we come to the end of another term, we say cheerio to another four Rainbows as they move up to Brownies to continue their Girlguiding journey.

Helen Keith  
Rainbow Leader



## Decorate an Egg

EASTER FUN FOR ALL AGES



### Prizes to be won!

- Hard boil an egg and decorate in any way you choose
- **INSIDE** a sealed envelope put your name & phone number
- **OUTSIDE** the envelope put your age group:  
(Preschool, P1-3, P4-7 & 12years-Adult)

**Hand the egg with your envelope into:**

Café Connect or Mannofield Church  
Great Western Road

**between 31st March & 12th April 2025**



## Thursday Food Collection 10am-12noon



Letter from Somebody Cares: full letter on noticeboard

*'We would like to take the opportunity to express our sincere thanks to you all for the incredible support you provided to us as part of our Christmas 24 campaign and throughout the whole year.'*

*As we return to work for 2025, we have had time to reflect on our campaign and wanted you to be the first to hear the figures of what we achieved. It is a sad reflection of the times that charities such as us have to publish such large figures, however thanks to donations such as yours we were able to buy enough food to ensure that we could help everyone who reached out to us for support.*

- 2,026 individuals received large food parcels to see them through to the new year
- 44,352 meals were provided
- 141 emergency food parcels were placed around the city
- 700 care packages were distributed to Asylum Seekers
- 322 Christmas eve bags were given to our youngest clients
- 639 children received Christmas presents
- 107 single parents received a Christmas gift and motivational message of support

*Our clients were delighted and humbled by the support they received, so on behalf of Somebody Cares and our clients we wish you once again thank you for your support, Somebody Cares'*

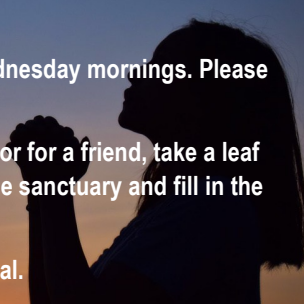


## Prayer Group

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.



## Flowers in Church

Another big thank you to all who donate flowers or cash towards them for the Sanctuary. They are both appreciated by the congregation and later the recipients of the bouquets who are cheerfully reminded we are thinking about them when they need a little uplift. The delivery team does a wonderful job.

There are a few Sundays not yet covered throughout the year so please feel free to contact the office (or Sheila Towns directly in church) to make a contribution, however small, as that can be very usefully added to others, or to offer very occasional help to arrange or distribute flowers after a Sunday service.

Thank you from both teams for your continued support.

Sheila and Maureen.



## 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:

- 12th April
- 17th May
- 14th June
- 12th July



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- 31st March—12th April —Easter Egg Competition
- 11th April—Café Evening—benefits of tea
- 16th April—Holy week service
- 17th April - Holy week service
- 26th April—Race night—Ashvale Restaurant
- 14th May—Musical Memories Afternoon Tea
- 25th May—Northern Light Concert
- 31st May—Orpheus Choir Spring Concert
- w/c 2nd June—Music Festival week



## Mannofield Church Guild

25th March – Katie Bremner

8th April—Ells McHaffie

22nd 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 thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost a loved one recently:

- Gladys Low
- William Reid
- Jim Reid
- Hazel Pratt
- John Telfer
- Dorrie Brass
- Rhoda Cook

