

mastrick *matters*



Mastrick
Walking
Groups

**Mastrick
Parish Church**
Celebrating 60 Years

**Northfield
Academy**
News

Aberdeen FC
Newly launched
Community Trust

**Community
Policing**
Update

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editorial

Welcome to your spring edition of the Mastrick Matters community magazine!

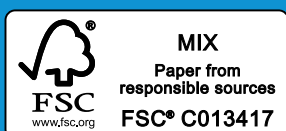
In this issue we have articles from Grays Inn, Mastrick Parish Church, Northfield Academy and much more.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in the area who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Mastrick.

If you live in the Mastrick area and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at shmu on **515013** or you can email her on laura.young@shmu.org.uk.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the shmu website www.shmu.org.uk then click the 'PRESS' option.

happy reading.



Supported By





Special Feature: The Grays Inn

An Interview by John

Why did you decide to get involved in fundraising?

We have done it in all the pubs we've been in. It helps business and it's good for the community. It makes people aware of who you are.

What kind of things do you do to fundraise?

We have all kinds of events including bingo, rock 'n' roll bingo, Grays' Games, race nights and much more. We raised £200 for the Mastrick Mothers and Toddlers group quite recently.

How long has the fundraising been going on?

We've been in Grays for 19 years and have been doing fundraising from the start.

How can people get involved?

People just get in touch with us

and we just add them to the list. You can look us up on Facebook or email graysinn@orchidpubs.co.uk. We never say no to a good cause. We don't charge anyone for anything, anything they make goes into the bucket for the charity.

What kind of response do you get from people?

We put the fundraising in place but it's the people in the pub who make it happen and we never have to push it or chase people. There are just really generous people in Mastrick and Aberdeen. People are really good for donating prizes for the raffle as well. The groups we fundraise for are really grateful as well and some of them are really good at getting back to you and letting you know what is happening with the money and how they are getting on. I always put it on the notice

boards as well to let people know what is going on.

What have been from some of your best events?

We raised £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Support last year by taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We've also had a Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Night to fundraise for The Big Walk in Peterhead. There have been so many really fun nights we've had over the years though.

How much money have you raised?

Last year we raised a total of £14,347 for various different charities.

Northfield Academy

Celebration of Success

Tuesday 10th June witnessed our school community gathering in the Music Hall for our ninth annual awards ceremony to recognise the success of almost 300 students. Students, parents, staff, school partners, local politicians and guests gathered together to give well deserved public recognition to all our students for their excellence in a variety of different ways.

We were delighted to welcome Norman Drummond, a celebrated international speaker and founder of Columba 1400, an international leadership centre for young people on the Isle of Skye. Mr Drummond gave a very inspirational speech and encouraged all our students to aspire to be outstanding in all that they do.

Trophies, medals, certificates and other awards were presented to our students for demonstrating excellence in their achievements, effort, attendance, sport, music, art and drama. Another highlight of this year's ceremony was the presentation of our new 'House Championship Cup' sponsored by Aberdeen Football Club. Ally Proctor, from AFC, presented the new trophy to the House Captains of Stewart House. It was very pleasing to see so many of our students receiving awards. This culture of success is crucial for empowering all our students to be confident with the language of success and to be successful in all that they do.

Next year we look forward to hosting our tenth awards ceremony on Wednesday 17th June 2015 and encourage you to put this date in your diary for what promises to be our best Celebration of Success Ceremony yet!

Sports day

For the second year running, Northfield Academy had a very successful Sports Day. This year the competitions took place over the whole day, and every single pupil who took part tried their hardest and was a huge credit to their house. Even though the sun did not shine for us this year, everyone was in high spirits and cheering on their house to win. In the S1 group, the results were 3rd Wallace, 2nd Stewart and 1st MacBeth. In the S2 group, the results were 3rd Wallace, 2nd Stewart and 1st MacBeth, and in the S3 group the results were 3rd Stewart, 2nd Wallace and 1st MacBeth. Therefore, this year's Sports Day champions were MacBeth. Well done to all participants who took part and congratulations to all participants of MacBeth House who did their House proud by winning the trophy.

London Trip 2014

This year 45 pupils and 4 staff members took their first school trip to London. The group travelled by coach and arrived in London hot and tired but full of spirit and expectation. A walk around leafy Hampstead and then back to the hotel to rest and get ready for the following day was all that they needed.

The next day was action packed and included a trip to The London Dungeon via Baker Street, a spin on The London Eye and

a relaxing lunch on The South Bank. Next they experienced the sights and sounds of London on foot and stopped by Downing Street before ending up at Buckingham Palace. After visiting Trafalgar Square and Leicester Square for more photo opportunities, the group had a fantastic meal together at The Spaghetti House before travelling in style to The West End to see Wicked.

The following day the group rose early to pack and board the

coach for their visit to Warner Bros Studios, home to The Harry Potter Experience. This was magical to say the least and after hours of flying broomsticks and searching for snitches they hit the streets of the city again for some last minute shopping on Oxford Street. The trip was a huge success and the pupils are already planning what sights to see next year in Northfield Academy goes to London: Part II.



School Fair

Northfield Academy had another extraordinary school fair, open for the whole community to attend. The turnout was huge. The barbecue was in full swing with the smell of burgers and hot dogs, attracting everyone for seconds or thirds. Upon entering the hall you were greeted by the friendly faces of all the volunteers that helped out waiting patiently at their stalls. Along the corridor and down the stairs took you to a different world... the creative world of tie-dye t-shirts and henna tattoos.

Further down the rabbit hole, people in the community got a taste of Culture Cafe run by the school's senior pupils. Outside, children pleaded with their parents for a go on the bouncy castle. For the adventurous people there were more physical activities, such as rock climbing, beat the goalie, the bungee run and, to keep things under control, a Guess the Teddy's Name competition.

Our head teacher and Aberdeen football club supporter Mr Hendry even went as far as getting the Scottish League Cup to the school for everyone to take photos with.

This was a great opportunity, especially Aberdeen fans.

The event would not have been possible without the staff, senior pupils and Parent Council who helped run the activities and stalls. Special thanks must go to the St Nicholas Rotary Club for their stalls and for being a massive help on the day. The day turned out to be a huge success and it helped raise a lot of money for our school as well as our extra-curricular clubs and charities.

Written by Becky Jamison and Sabrina Bremner





MASTRICK COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM UPDATE

Welcome to the latest update from the Mastrick Community Policing Team (CPT).

We are now well into the last of the summer months, and we have carried out many high visibility patrols in and around our local schools, where we have been experiencing some antisocial behaviour and vandalism. The recent fire at the Burnside Centre really hit home the risks that go hand in hand with mindless and reckless actions of certain individuals. If it were not for the speedy intervention of the Fire Service, and the interaction with and cooperation of the local community, the outcome of this incident could have been much different.

Road safety is very much a priority of all officers in the CPT. We have continued to patrol those areas that have been highlighted to us for poor driving and irresponsible parking, particularly Hilton Drive, Clifton

Road and Mastrick Drive. Other partner agencies have also carried out some work in these areas to make them safer and reduce the volume and speed of traffic.

In tandem with Operation Trinity, officers from the CPT have been heavily involved in the ongoing issue of motor cycles being ridden irresponsibly and in an antisocial manner in the CPT. This is a massive issue for the local residents, and one that we remain committed to.

I fully appreciate that those local to Mastrick may get frustrated by what appears to be a lack of Police action in relation to this type of offence, particularly when they are ongoing at the time. I can assure you that staff from Mastrick CPT and those dedicated to Operation Trinity have been approaching these offences robustly. We might not catch them in the act, but we will follow all available lines of enquiry to report those

responsible and if appropriate seize their vehicles.

Operation RAC continues to focus on the prominent issues of acquisitive crime and in particular those in relation to housebreaking. This is again a national issue that Mastrick CPT is committed to. We have provided our dedicated RAC team with support, both with staff and logistics, to ensure a coordinated and tasked approach to the crimes under investigation.

If you are experiencing any issues, please get in touch with us via the various methods of communication that we currently have. In an emergency always call 999 in a non-emergency call 101. You can also go online at www.scotland.police.uk, or e mail your local Mastrick CPT at HiltonStockethillCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Inspector Iain McPhail



Walking Groups

Before I tell you of the walks the Amblers & Strollers have done I would like to let you know of a new Walking Group. We will walk every Friday and transport will be supplied. We hope people who have never walked as a group will give it a try. For more information phone 783627 or email helenandraymond@hotmail.co.uk.

In March the Amblers went to Dunecht Estate, this is a lovely walk around the loch which was full of swans; I also managed to get a photo of a woodpecker. We then had lunch on top of a hill looking over Garlogie.

The next walk was at Garlogie. We went up past the old mill and mill houses then the dam. The walk was very short and so we went back to the bus. We then went over to the Deeside to Clune Wood. We had our lunch then did the walk through the woods. We saw a stone circle and a cairn and it was a very nice wood walk.

The Strollers went to Ellon in April. This was a lovely walk along the riverside and then along the old railway line. The weather was very hot that day which made everyone strip off a bit.

In May we intended to go from Culter to Newtondee along the riverside but half way along it was over grown with gorse and we had to turn back.

The Amblers went to Forglan Estate at Turiff. This is a beautiful walk; the best part is the small ponds with rhododendron and azalea all around them. Lunch was in the walled garden.

In May the Strollers went to Sheeoch Burn which is part of the Fetteresso Forest which was a lovely walk. We had our lunch at the bridge over the burn. The only noise was the birds then, out of nowhere, six helicopters in a line at tree top height flew over the top of us. The noise was deafening and then two more and a Chinook appeared. One of these had to make an emergency landing in Culter.

The Amblers went to the Back O' Bennachie car park. They joined two short walks then came back to the picnic area for lunch. After lunch the bus took us to Bennachie Centre where we did another short walk.

A few of the group had never walked in this area and they all enjoyed it.

Raymond

*Mastrick
Amblers
by Marion
Douglas*

*We set off on Monday come
rain or shine,*

*We're usually very lucky with the
weather being fine.*

*We're not just a walking group as
we're all good friends,*

*We look out for each other
especially at the bends.*

*In the woods, the beach and the
country walks,*

*As we listen in anticipation for
Raymond's information talks.*

*We enjoy the flowers, the walks
and the wildlife.*

*On a certain outing Raymond met
his future wife.*

*It is so therapeutic,
healthy and fun,*

*Finding out about it is the best
thing I've ever done.*





Celebrating sixty years as a Church



Mastrick Parish Church is having a year of celebratory events to celebrate the church being in the community for 60 years.

On Wednesday 4th May 1955 the foundation stone was laid by the late Professor Henderson. Mastrick was a brand new housing estate, giving a good standard of housing to its residents.

At the time of the laying of the foundation stone for the Church there was no shopping centre, no library, no Police Box, no Mastrick Community Centre, no social security office and no Grays Inn! It was a time when vans would appear round the streets at all hours selling their wares; you could buy anything from a bag of coal, a gallon of paraffin, pan loaves and plain loaves, groceries and even fish and chips!

Before the church was built the congregation gathered for worship in what was known as the Hut Hall that now houses the James Tyrrell Day Centre for older people - managed by a church committee. When it was the Hut Church it had a large red cross painted on its door.

The actual Church itself was opened for worship on 5th February 1956. There were 67 members in January 1955 which rose to 556 by August 1956. In December 1959 the Sunday School had 58 teachers for over 1000 pupils. Gone are these days!

The Church has always played an important role in the community, reaching out to those in need, those who are grieving and those who are celebrating. Over the years ministers have come and gone, and all have played a vital role in the life of the church and community; these include Mr Henderson, Jim Tyrrell, Fred Coutts, Brian Rutherford, Lesley Risby and at present myself Elizabeth Youngson.

Over the years the church has had much to celebrate and give thanks for. It may also surprise some that the church itself is a registered charity. History was made on 20th September 1970 when four women took on leadership roles when they were ordained to the Eldership.

Today we might not have so many people attending worship but we are striving really hard to make our church and worship relevant to the 21 century. Mastrick Parish Church is open

hearted, open minded and our doors are open to all. We offer a warm, non-judgemental welcome. We have morning worship at 11am every Sunday and hold Messy Church for young families on the last Thursday of every month from 5-7pm.

We recognise that not everyone wants their child christened, or 'baptised' so we also offer a 'Blessing Service' as an alternative. The church has hosted many weddings down through the years and is still a lovely venue for wedding ceremonies. Anyone, either in or out with the local community, can be married here.

Our purpose as a Church is to love God and our neighbour as we seek a fair and just living for everyone and respect all living creatures and mother earth. As a people of faith we are far from perfect but believe in reaching out to others with unconditional respect and positive regard. We would love you to come along.

A big thank you to all who have supported Mastrick Parish Church down through the years and a big thank you to all who continue to do so as we move into the future.



*In December 1959 the
Sunday School had 58
teachers for over
1000 pupils*



Newly launched community trust reflects on 2014 so far...

2014 has been an exciting year for Aberdeen FC with great success on and off the pitch. The main success off the football park has been the launch of the new AFC Community Trust, which is an official charity that stands alongside the football club, and is based at Pittodrie Stadium. The vision for the Community Trust is “to provide support and opportunity to change lives for the better” and already in the first half of the year we have been delivering a wide range of programmes to a wide range of participants.

One programme that AFCCT deliver, funded by the SPFL Trust, and, more recently, NHS Grampian is Football Fans In Training (FFIT). This is a 13 week programme designed to help men aged between 35-65 to lose weight, gain more knowledge of healthy eating, and to help them sustain their new found healthy lifestyle. A Female Fans in Training programme has just started and both have been received very well. One male said: “I am much happier which

led to an improvement in my home life. My relationship with my daughter improved significantly especially with physical activities.” One female said: “I have type 2 diabetes and since starting FFIT my nurse has been so impressed with my readings. Girls, thank you so much for helping me to feel great!”

“His confidence and self-belief has sky rocketed”

Along with working with adults, we also have various programmes working with youngsters from Aberdeen City. One of which is the Footy Tea programme, funded by the Tartan Army Children’s Charity (TACC). The young people are chosen from Seaton Primary. The pupils get an hour of football coaching, and then get taken to Pittodrie for a healthy meal. This encourages a healthy, active lifestyle and also promotes good manners, educates the young people on

life skills, and helps them access top class facilities in Aberdeen - something they would not otherwise be able to do. Some of the young people have serious issues with behaviour, issues with family, and a real lack of confidence. To see them progress over the 9 month programme is fantastic. One parent said: “A few years ago my son would not have walked into a room of strangers. Over the past few months his confidence and self-belief has sky rocketed and everyone comments.”

Another programme we deliver, which is funded by the SPFL Trust, is the Still Game programme. Still Game is designed for over 65’s to come and make new friends, remain active, learn about what is on offer throughout Aberdeen for the elderly community and to try new activities and gain new experiences. One Still Gamer stated: “I look forward to every Tuesday. By attending Still Game we feel that we are still part of a community.”

The Adventure Begins Here

New Boys' Brigade Company set up in Mastrick

As part of its ongoing recruitment campaign, The Boys' Brigade has called on all boys and young men, aged 5-18 to join the adventure of the 36th Aberdeen Company. Company Captain, Malcolm Maclennan, said: "We can offer opportunities to boys and young men that they don't get at home or at school. They learn lots, stay active and have so much fun, The Boys' Brigade is exciting, energetic, makes you happy, and you can make friends for life."

The 36th Aberdeen Company meets at St. Clement's Mastrick, Scottish Episcopal Church Hall, Mastrick Drive every Tuesday evening, during school term time.

It is the only Boys' Brigade Company serving the Mastrick, Summerhill and Sheddocksley areas.

The Anchor Section, for boys in Primaries 1 – 3, meets between 6.00pm and 7.00pm

The Junior Section, for boys in Primaries 4 – 6, meets between 7.15pm and 8.45pm.

The Company Section for boys and young men in Primary 7 – Secondary 3, also meet between 7.15pm and 8.45pm.

For over 130 years, The Boys' Brigade has reached out to millions of boys and young

men across the globe. Today they are passionate about building bridges into local communities and engaging boys and young men (aged 5 to 18) by means of weekly groups, residential weekends, special events, community involvement and training programmes. The Boys' Brigade offers an experience of life beyond what is possible in school or at home. They believe that by engaging in exciting activities, making new friends, having fun and finding out about faith, boys and young men can discover and develop their potential. Their activities are all led by thousands of trained volunteers who have undertaken criminal record checks and are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment.

There are currently over 75,000 members around the UK and Ireland, but there are thousands of boys and young men who currently don't know about the adventure they are missing out on. If you want to join our Company please contact Malcolm Maclennan by telephone on **07919 106665** or by E-mail at **maclennan103@yahoo.com**

John's Section

As hard as it is to believe, it's quite believable?

Where you're watching it, and doing it, the way you used to do it when you weren't so aware you could do it as you are, and will be some other way when you did it while you are?

Still doing it sometime?

As it ends this is where it begins?

While we are so far and yet so close as it would begin now right there, and then somewhere close, and yet so far away from where it ends in the same now?

As everything else that can't, and can appreciate nothing?

Event at the MS Stuart Resource Centre

On the 8th of November the MS Stuart Resource Centre are holding a musical coffee morning between 10am and 12noon.

The Silver City Singers are a Barbershop Chorus and their songs range from Scottish, pop to musicals. They also tell a few jokes along the way. Come along and enjoy a cuppa, a fine piece and entertainment.

CFINE

Community Food Initiatives North East or CFINE is your local outlet for fresh fruit, vegetables, pulses and healthy snack and more! CFINE contributes to regeneration, increases employability within designated disadvantaged communities, and encourages and supports volunteering within these areas. This then brings a whole range of personal, family and community benefits.

Across the City CFINE have 70 community food outlets (CFOs) operating in various local venues.

Presently CFINE have reduced their prices at community food outlets by a whopping 10% as from June! So, why not visit your local CFO and check out the produce and the great low prices?

Your nearest local CFOs are at: Mastrick Cafe (*Community Centre, Greenfern Road*)

Wednesday 9.30-12.30
For more information, contact Rod McDermid, Development Worker at CFINE, 4 Poynerook Road on **01224 596156** or email **info@cfine.org** to find out more.



The Proposed Development of the Old Police Box by Eddie McDonald

The proposed development has been held up due to problems with the Aberdeen City Council Planning Department. I am asked daily by passing members of the community when I am going to start the building work and all I can say is that I have permission to convert the existing building into 2 flats. However,

since September 2013 I have been seeking permission to build a secure 5 car parking space garage in the existing building with a flat above it.

I need this to be the first stage of the development in order to store materials that are already inside the existing building and the blue 20` container inside the garage.

I hope to have the development underway ASAP. Once completed it shall enhance the area and add security to the neighbouring Church of Scotland and ACC Buildings.

Cash In Your Pocket Partnership

Have changes to the welfare system affected you, or someone you know?

If so, there may be help available to you.

Getting the right help is not always easy and it's often confusing, or difficult to know who, or where to contact for advice.

The Cash In your Pocket Partnership's new phone line and directory service makes it easier for anyone looking for advice, or information on matters relating to their finances, to get the help they need. With a wide range of partner organisations, Cash In Your Pocket can allow you easy access to services available.

If...

- your benefits have been stopped or reduced because of sanctions,
- you've been found fit for work and want help to challenge, or appeal the decision,

- you're in arrears, or struggling to pay rent or council tax,
 - you want check your entitlement to benefits/ tax credits
 - you need support to find work,
 - you're having difficulties budgeting or paying bills,
 - you're struggling with debt
- ... **Or** you would like help with any other financial matter, then please get in touch.

By letting us know about the difficulties you are having, we can put you in touch with the organisation(s) best placed to help you.

Contact the Cash In Your Pocket team to make a telephone referral using our new phone line service on 01224 686077 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm). Calls will be charged at local rate, but if you let us know your number, we will call you back straightaway.

Visit our website at www.ciyp.co.uk for more information, or to make an online referral.

This will highlight a list of issues that may be affecting you. By making a selection, you will be able to obtain information, or self refer.

Referral leaflets can also be picked up from various community outlets including community centres, GP surgeries and libraries. Completed forms can be returned using our freepost address.

Cash In Your Pocket also hold regular information stalls at local community events and locations. As well as being on hand to offer advice, anyone visiting a Cash In Your Pocket stall can enter our free prize draw for £100 of shopping vouchers. Look out for an event taking place in your area and come along for your chance win.

The draw will be made on 1st December – just in time to do your Christmas shopping !

Get **help** with:



BENEFITS Pension Universal Credit

HEATING YOUR HOME? STOP SMOKING

LOW COST LOANS FIRE/HOME SAFETY CHECKS

SAVING & BUDGETING Too Many Bedrooms

Repairs & Adaptation Food Parcels

GOODBYE MARY CLARE

Over the past four years I have worked with the Mastrick Matters team, and it has been an utter privilege working with such a passionate group of people. Everyone who is involved in the editorial process is extremely dedicated to producing a magazine that their community can be proud of, and I feel very privileged to have been involved in it. I wish the editorial team every success with future issues, as I have no doubt that their magazines will continue to thrive. (I will, however, be checking the magazines online during my lunch break!)

All the best for the future guys,
Mary Clare

CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Station House Media Unit (shmu) will launch a cross-cultural music and film project this summer with the Aberdeen Multicultural Centre and Aberdeen's Ethnic Minority Forum. Collective Compositions, which will be the first of its kind in Aberdeen, was funded by Creative Scotland and will bring together musicians from a diverse range of minority ethnic backgrounds to record and perform a range of unique pieces of music. shmuSOUND supports the local music scene and focuses on supporting artists and bands to record, promote and broadcast new music.

The project will be filmed by a team of volunteers and turned into a 'making of' documentary which will be premiered later this year. Collective Compositions aims to raise the profile of the city's minority ethnic musicians while creating a space where people from different cultures can learn through music.

Simon Gall, shmuSOUND Development Worker said: "It's important that cultural organisations in the city start to properly reflect the changes which have taken place over the last 10 to 15 years in the demography of Aberdeen. This is a valuable project which represents and celebrates the true cultural landscape of the city."

Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in video and radio production, and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.



NEW FILM PROJECT

The shmuTV team have been commissioned to make a community safety film about auto theft and the dangers of it, in association with the Northfield Youth Action Group (YAG).

Our shmuTV crew have been very busy indeed, setting up production for the piece and are looking for young actors and actresses to audition for various roles within the film. The filmmakers are looking to cast the following roles:

- Young people to be extras (12-18)*
- 2 male actors / Offenders (aged 15 - 20)*
- Female actress / Mother (aged 32-40)*
- Paramedic (male) (25 - 35)*
- 2 School girls (15-17)*

This project is in association with Police Scotland and the Northfield Youth Action group, and is kindly sponsored by MAERSK drilling. To apply for an audition, get in touch with Sara Stroud and email sara@shmu.org.uk

The crew are also looking for people to help out with the film, so if you fancy being an extra, or help out as a runner please just drop us a message.

St Clement's - what's that?

Tucked in neatly behind a hedge and somewhat disguised by a few large trees is a building that has been on a corner of Mastrick Drive since the 1950s. Then, as a brand new housing development and rapidly-growing community, Mastrick required facilities and resources.

St Clement's Church had long been meeting similar needs in the very different fishing community of Torry. Then St Clement's-on-the-Quay, this Scottish Episcopal Church was established in the early 1880s. The visionary Rev. John Comper, then Rector of St Margaret's Episcopal Church in the Gallowgate, set up a Mission in Prince Regent Street and funded it himself for its first sixteen years, his wife having purchased the site in 1880.

Fast-forward to 1959 and the foundation stone of St Clement's Church, Mastrick was laid in the presence of many dignitaries and a large crowd of local people. For many years, the church was a hive of activity and the congregation grew significantly.

In recent years, it has had many ups-and-downs. In 2008 the building was struck by a freak 'tornado' and the roof was completely blown off. Internal damage was considerable and it was some time before restoration work could be carried out. However, the Bishop had given an immediate assurance that the church would be rebuilt and

its presence would continue to demonstrate the Church's care for the local community.

The cost of restoration and re-development vastly exceeded the value of insurance pay-outs, at no small sacrifice, the Diocese bore the additional costs. The internal re-ordering meant that the worship area was much reduced in size, yet retaining its attractive ambience and benefitting from good natural light. A large hall area was also created with various options in mind for its use. An additional side area was turned into a new facility for the Diocesan Library and Archives.

But, St Clement's is not just a church. A range of other facilities exist on the site and various activities take place regularly. The spacious Church Hall is home to a Mums & Tots Group, a Dancing Class, Line Dancing, a recently-formed Boys' Brigade Company, a monthly Prize Bingo Club, 'Car Boot' Sales, private family functions, etc. Plans are afoot to set up a debt counselling service through 'Christians against Poverty' and a Men's Club, especially for elderly and others who may be experiencing loneliness as a result of their unemployment or disability.

The Office of the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney is currently housed on the St Clement's site, providing administrative facilities for churches in the north-east.

Angels & Co is a well-run and respected Nursery facility, on the site since 2008 and offering local parents professional child-care at very competitive rates. It has its own purpose-built modular building and a small garden area. The children also use the Church Hall in rainy weather and as a run-around space. By next year, the nursery will have adapted and occupied the large hall area within the church building as their Phase 2, thus strengthening the already warm relationship with the church. It will enable 24 more children to be enrolled and several more qualified staff and 'apprentices' (aged 16-19) to be recruited. Angels & Co has a link with Jobcentre Plus, helping people back to work, and can also provide information on available benefits to help with nursery fees.

Another relationship the church has is with local immigrants from India, whose Syrian Orthodox Church worships regularly in the building and with whom social and religious interchange is a welcome development.

Today once again the place called "St Clement's" is buzzing - a hive of activity for the glory of God and in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ken Gordon | Priest-in-Charge
Phone 07715 169548



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Alcohol

Alcoholics Anonymous **0845 769 7555**
Drinkline **0800 917 8282**

Benefits

Benefits Agency Advice Line **0800 587 9135**

Crime

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Drugs

DA **01224 594700**

Dentist

Emergency - G-Dens **01224 558 140**

Doctors

NHS 24 Emergency **111**

Dementia Helpline **0808 808 3000**

Electricity

If you have a Power-Cut **0800 300 999**

Family Planning

Health Centre **0845 337 9900**

Gas

Gas Emergency **0800 111 999**
Gas Emergency with a Meter **0845 606 6766**

Housing

Emergency Repairs **01224 480 281**
Call Centre Emergency **0845 608 0929**

Police

Non-Emergency **101**

Samaritans

Need to talk **01224 574 488**

Social Work

Social Work Duty Team **01224 522055**
Emergency Out-Of-Hours **01224 693 936**

Young Carers

Support & Information Service **01224 625 009**

Water

Scottish Water Emergency **0845 600 8855**