

From the Kirk Session – new Hardship fund, Communion services in the hall... and more.



The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 8th November, and had reports from the various teams that deal with the business of the congregation. From Finance, we heard that the proceeds from the sale of Howgate church have now been received (and banked) – as with other sales of property, these funds can usually only be used for 'fabric' spending, for example on the upkeep or modification of our buildings.

We also decided, after some discussion, that we should set up a 'Hardship' fund, to be used by the minister at his discretion, to alleviate any particular needs drawn to his attention by people in our community. This is distinct from the 'Good Causes' fund, which has been using donations for tea/coffee after the service to support other charitable work (most recently, the Bethany Trust's 'Buy-a-bed' scheme). If you know of a charity which could benefit from the 'Good Causes' fund, please speak to a member of the Kirk Session. So that everybody knows what's happening, it was agreed that tea/coffee donations on the first Sunday each month will go to financing the tea, coffee and biscuits; that the donations on the second Sundays be put into the 'Hardship' fund, and that subsequent Sundays' donations each month go to the 'Good Causes' fund.

The Mission Team has been working on new ways of reaching out to our community – decisions still to be made. The Fabric Team

report covered the church ceiling and organ repairs (almost complete at time of writing), the purchase of a new laptop for use in church, the erection of the new sign over the hall door, and several smaller items. My thanks to all those who helped with the 'big dust' to make the church habitable for the Remembrance service on 13th November – great to be back in the church, and with so many folk there from the town as well as our own congregation.

A small group from the Session are looking at possible opportunities for developing the inside of the church building – we're still at the early stages, and working out how to negotiate 'listed building' status and other constraints.

Of more immediate interest, perhaps, was a decision that we would continue (from the New Year) to use the church hall for Communion services (on the last Sunday of each month) – there was general agreement that the feeling of fellowship while worshipping in the hall was particularly important for Communion services, as well as it being easier to serve Communion in the hall. As John said in church on 20th November, your comments on this decision are welcome.

Now that we are back worshipping in church I'll put a copy of the agreed minutes of Kirk Session meetings in the church if you're interested in any of the details – probably at the back of the church, once all the organ pipes have been replaced! The minutes are usually 'agreed' at the next meeting, so they should be available about a month after each meeting – please let me know if you can't find them.

Neil Cape (joint Session Clerk) on 674276 or by email to stmungosessionclerk@gmail.com (incidentally, I will organise a new email address at some point!)

Community Choir Concert - 4 November

The community choir headed up by Liz McKeon entertained a 'full house' audience in the church hall on Friday 4 November. The audience saw members from many of the Penicuik churches attend.



A repertoire of songs from the musicals provided plenty opportunity to 'singalong' or tap your feet to the music.

The choir opened with the theme from The Sound of Music with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. The choir continued with more favourites 'Edelweiss', 'My Favourite Things', and 'Climb Ev'ry Mountain'.

Keeping with Richard Rodgers we headed to the South Pacific for 'Bali Hai', 'I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair', 'There Is Nothin' Like A Dame', 'A Wonderful Guy', 'Some Enchanted Evening', ending with 'Happy Talk'.

Change of musical, this time Fiddler on the Roof, opening with 'Matchmaker, Matchmaker' a song from the 1964 musical. 'If I was a Rich Man' was followed by a duet 'Do you Love me' then the full choir sang 'Sunrise Sunset'.



A short break for refreshments before heading into the final act, which included songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber 'Phantom of the Opera' A great evenings entertainment.



East and Midlothian Scripture Union Camps Update from Agnes Haggart

Come along to Lendrick Muir, Kinross for an exciting weekend filled with activities and games, great food and time to explore the bible. Outside are 120 acres of grounds filled with adventurous and sporting activities. Organised transport available from Straiton Park & Ride. Secondary Camp 24 - 26 March - Age S1 -S6 .

For further details see notice board in hall or contact Agnes Haggart

Save the date Scripture Union Prayer Meeting - Saturday 28 Jan Meeting in the church hall



Trinity Community Diary - see front page for Christmas events

4 December 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
4, 11, 18 December 7.15 pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
5, 12, 19 December 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Capes 674276
7 December 10.45am	Friendship Group - Church Hall
8 December. Restart 12 January 2023 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
13 December 7.30pm	Kirk Session Meeting - Church Hall
14 December 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Church Hall (committee room)
18 December 5.30pm	Penicuik Forest Church are meeting for Carols at Howgate Village green
1 January 2023 11.00am	Joint Service in PNK at 11am

Pastoral Care - Please remember that we are always here for church members and for anyone in the community, and you are welcome to phone (in confidence) at any time for a chat, prayer, or to source other help or to request a visit; Either: John Urquhart (01968 382116; Margaret Webster (01968 672347 or 07761 096 472) or Wilma Wilson (07719 665505)



DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter of Penicuik Trinity Community Church

You can read this newsletter at Penicuik Trinity Community Church website <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church>. To sign up for an eCopy of this newsletter to be sent direct to your inbox each month, saving paper and other resources, just ask on an email to penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Christmas Services and Activities in Penicuik 2022

Saturdays on, 3 Dec, 10 Dec, 17 Dec - Activities for all - 11am - 2pm at Food Facts Friends, 42 John Street. Christmas music, hot drinks, snacks, a special visitor (Depending on the day: puppets, a magic show, giveaways)

Sun 4 Dec	Christmas Messy Church Craft activities, food, fun.	3.30 – 5.30pm	TCC Hall (see Facebook page)
Thu 8 Dec	Christmas Memories (for bereaved people)	7pm	Penicuik North Kirk
Fri 9 Dec	Christmas for everybody! Silver Band, Penicuik Puppets, Carols, and more. All ages welcome	6.30 - 7.30pm	Hope for Penicuik Penicuik Town Hall
Sun 11 Dec	Carols on the Green With hot drinks and Christmas goodies	2pm – 4pm	Foster Road (new houses at Mauricewood)
Sun 11 Dec	Blue Christmas: Isolated? Bereaved? Do you find Christmas challenging? (Refreshments after)	7pm	St James the Less (Afterwards: <i>Sung Compline</i>)
Sat 17 Dec	Carol Singing	10am - noon	In the shopping precinct
Sun 18 Dec	Nativity Service	10.30am	Trinity Community Church
	Nativity Service	11am	Penicuik North Kirk
	Carol Service	6.30pm	Baptist Church
	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	6.30pm	St James the Less
Sat 24 Dec	All-age Christmas Eve Gathering	4.30pm	Trinity Community Church
	Vigil Mass tbc	6.00pm	Sacred Heart
	Family Carols and Candles	6.00pm	Penicuik North Kirk
	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	St James the Less
	Watchnight Service (Hot drinks from 11pm)	11.30pm	Trinity Community Church
Sun 25 Dec	Welcome the King	10.30am	Penicuik North Kirk
	Christmas Day Communion	10.30am	St James the Less
	Christmas Day service	10.30am	Baptist Church
	Christmas Day Celebration	10.30am	Trinity Community Church
	Christmas Morning Mass tbc	11.00am	Sacred Heart

These are the special services/events. Sunday services are at normal times unless otherwise stated. For individual church websites please see the links from: www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk
NOTE: from early December, look out for Baby Jesus Rocks (see dedicated Facebook page)

May God bless you this Christmas and throughout 2023 from all at the manse.

Christmas Fayre - 19 November

Report by Jim Paterson



A sunny Saturday morning attracted a steady stream of visitors to this year's Christmas Fayre. Featuring stalls with gifts and toys for friends and family, books, home baking, jewellery, and of course the raffle, bottle stall, and tombola. With refreshments on hand with a selection of cakes and scones, with tea and coffee, gave plenty to talk about with friends and new acquaintances

This year there were more stalls filled with great ideas for stocking fillers and gifts for friends. We also had a wide selection of Christmas gifts and decorations, with the tables offering all sorts of goodies, ideal for that special gift.



The bottle stall with Joyce Hunter displaying a wide selection of wines, spirits and soft drinks, did a brisk job selling tickets for the draw



Homebaking was loaded with cakes, loaves, scones and buns, all baked by the ladies in our congregation. Jenny Ramage and Ina McLaughlin's table was heaving with Christmas hampers, sweets of

every type and 8 'helping elves', knitted by Barbara Sprott.

If cheese, chutney, cakes, biscuits, jams and marmalade were on your radar there was a whole table to choose from. Christmas cards, photo frames, peg dolls, and jewellery drew folks to have a closer look.

Jean Lennie and Linda Mackay were helping on the Tombola stall, where lots of prizes were just asking to be won. Books and DVD's by the dozen covering every genre you could think of were on display. Joan Cape providing a helping hand if needed.



Refreshments included a magnificent selection of cakes, fruit loaves, sponge cake, scones, cream scones, and the first mince pies of the season, all home baked.

The ladies circled the tables serving endless coffee or tea. The refreshment tables were full of laughter and chat as many tall stories were told and gossip exchanged.

This year a Quiz was handed out with the entry ticket, so the chat over the tea tables swapped ideas on possible answers. The final winner was Marion Mather



Agnes Ovenstone reported a total of £900, raised for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who turned out to support the Christmas Fayre.



Coffee and Chat - 8 December

The last coffee and chat for this term will be on 8th December, taking a break over the Christmas period.

We will resume on the 12 January until the 30 March

Coffee and Chat is open to All. This is an opportunity for members and friends to enjoy time together. Pop in and bring a friend on Thursday 10-12, 10 minutes or 2 hours.



However, on Thursdays 8th and 15th, there will be the opportunity to come along and join in with some Christmas crafts (we'll manage to give you a coffee on the 15th as well, though it might be a bit less organised than usual!)

After Christmas, we'd like to offer the opportunity for some crafts at the same time as Coffee and Chat is taking place - perhaps you could come along and share your knitting, sewing or other crafting skills, or just enjoy doing them in company.

Bethany Meal - Report by Margaret Carr

On Thursday 24 November a group from Penicuik Trinity Community Church travelled into Edinburgh to prepare a meal, for people being supported by Bethany who are living at the Haymarket Hub Hotel. The meal was cooked at Gorgie Parish Church and then transported in insulated containers to the Hotel.



Once at the Hotel tables were set and those wanting a meal (consisting of sausage casserole with vegetarian option and potatoes carrots and peas followed by mince pie and custard or lemon cake) came down in small groups to be served their choice of meal. The meal was very well received with many asking for a "second helping".

For those providing the meal it was a blessing to share God's love in this practical way with those in need. Many thanks to all who donated so generously towards the cost of providing the meal. We hope to provide another meal in the New Year and once again will be looking for volunteers.

For information: In the past, some of you will have been familiar with Bethany's Night Shelters. Things have changed somewhat over the last couple of years: the new name is the **Rapid Re-accommodation Centre**. To find out more, go to <https://bethanychristiantrust.com/crisis-intervention/> or <https://bethanychristiantrust.com/welcome-centre-completes-a-life-changing-season/>

Messy Church

Report by Joan Cape

The last two months have been good ones for Messy Church – we have two or three new families coming along, one of which are from Peru....as mum speaks almost no English, this is a challenge for us, as we try to find the best ways of communicating the message we try to convey each month! We also have one or two additions to the team of helpers: they demonstrate that age is no barrier in this kind of activity!



We have been looking at well known Old Testament figures: Daniel (in October) and Jonah (in November). Both of these characters provided lots of material for crafts and activities: we have decorated biscuits to look like lions, and turned buns into big fishes with very large mouths (with a jelly baby Jonah being swallowed up or spat out according to choice!). We have tasted healthy fruits and vegetables blindfold....none of the youngsters liked celery, and most of them had no idea what it was, we've made puppets with clothes pegs, created fiery furnaces out of plastic tubs (complete with the necessary figures inside), and raced up and down sorting out good and bad food choices along the way. Straws and paper plates helped us make fish spitting Jonah out, wool dipped in paint helped us make wonderful worm trails, and then there was the search for Jonah inside the belly of the fish....an assortment of small items including a wee lego man, sunk into 8 litres of horrid green jelly,



Our Daniel meal was healthy vegetarian spaghetti Bolognese, followed by fresh fruit (and some cake!). Jonah week had us eating fish finger wraps and chips. Meal times are a great time for chat and questions – a good way of gathering up the ideas shared during the session, and also of getting to know each other better. Please pray for all of our families, that they will gradually come to know Jesus as a real friend; give thanks too for the faithfulness and energy of our helpers.

Next time (December 4th), it's Messy Christmas – then, in the New Year, we'll be meeting on the last Sunday of each month so as to avoid the holiday weekends. As always, there's an invitation to come along and see what we do, join in with us, and maybe even volunteer to come and help, in whatever way would work for you – you'd be very welcome.

Christmas Messy Crafts

Saturday November 26th found the church hall open for some messy crafts, as part of the town's celebrations for the switching on of the Christmas lights. As usual we had no idea who, if anyone would come along. In the event, our first "customers" arrived as we opened the doors at 2pm, and thereafter we had a steady stream of families.



The postal strikes meant that our hoped for delivery didn't arrive – but we always have something in the cupboard! Advent candles were created – some decorated with great imagination, others very traditional. Making angels from lolly sticks, wool, feathers, and lots of glue proved very popular with all ages, as did making stained glass windows using transparent coloured paper and black card outlines. And for the really wee ones, colouring angel cards, or simply drawing "something to do with Christmas" was just what was needed. We even had enough helpers to provide hot drinks, juice and biscuits for all who wanted. We're not sure how many families we had in, but we reckon we had between 50 and 60 children, who found that there's more to church halls than meets the eye: as one mum put it: "I never knew that the Church of Scotland could be so much fun!"

Christian Aid



Many many thanks to all for their generous donations to the Christian Aid Christmas Gift of Love !

To date just over £300 has been given by way of " The Bucket ", with I'm sure a wee bit more to come!

Other folks have donated online so many thanks to them too.

It's great to know that our gifts will help people to build resilience to climate change in East Africa.

If you would like to donate you can via Christian Aid website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Thank you

Janis Hogg Christian Aid Coordinator



Let's hope that some seeds have been planted in the course of the afternoon, and that some of the folks who came along will think about Christmas – and even church – in a slightly different way. Praise God that we are now accepted as part of this annual town event!