

Agnes Ovenstone

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Agnes Ovenstone, prominent member of our church and leader of the Guild and active in many church and Guild activities.

Agnes grew up in Edinburgh leaving school at 15 to work with Caledonian Insurance Co in St. Andrews Square. Married in 1963 to Ian Ovenstone, they moved with son David to Penicuik in 1967, where son Andrew was born in 1969.

Agnes joined St Mungo's, becoming a Sunday School teacher in 1973, later Superintendent; and remained in post right to the end. She had a kindly quality about her that children recognised and felt comfortable with.

She joined the Young Mothers Group and graduated to the Church Guild, in which she served long and faithfully, holding office as President. She joined the Kirk Session in February 1999 completing 25 years of service.

Agnes herself conducted the service to mark the Guild's 95th anniversary. It fell to her to preach, having announced that the sermon wouldn't be as long as usual. She organised so much more! Teas, Lunches, Burns Suppers and St. Andrew's Nights.



Agnes remained in good health for almost all of her life. It was only in these last few months her pain increased unbearably and caused her to be admitted to the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. She was expected to come back to us, but it was not to be.

Agnes will be a hard act to follow but if we work together this would be a lasting testament to remember her gifts that she freely gave to our church.

Heart of the Matter



The Heart of the Matter programme, which has been broadcasting since 2007, aims to give people an opportunity to share their experience of life with others. It is particularly concerned to explore the relevance of the Christian Faith for modern society. A weekly Christian radio programme produced in Scotland, broadcast on Black Diamond 107.8 FM, and other community radio stations on FM and online.

David and Ruth Aird who you see on Sunday have been involved with Heart of the Matter and have encouraged many to share their life story on the programme since 2007. David edits and produces all the programmes and Ruth is one of the interviewing team.

Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter April 2024

7 April	Gold 42 : A special from the archives
14 April	Val McGavin : St James the Less, Penicuik
21 April	Stories of Grace from Gracefields Church Fish Hoek
28 April	Alex Burrows : Word of Life

Weekly Broadcasting Schedule

Black Diamond FM 107.8: Sunday 9 am. and 7 am. (repeat)  
Crystal FM 107.4: Sunday at 11 am., 12 midnight, Sunday, Tuesday 11am.

Alive FM: 107.3: Sunday 12 noon, Tuesday 1 am.

All above on FM and online

Internet stations:

Heartsonglive: Sunday 9 am., Wednesday 12 am,

G4G (Gospel 4 Grampian): Wednesday 9 am. Saturday 9 am.

Podcasts: Available on Tunein Radio and on Amazon Music (Check out Podcasts)

A Church Service on Black Diamond FM 107.8/100.7 FM every Sunday morning at 8 am.

Website: <https://www.heartofthematter.biz/>



Trinity Community Diary

7, 14, 21, 28 April 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
8, 15, 22, 29 April 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
8, 15, 22, 29 April 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
8, 15, 22, 29 April 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
8, 15, 22, 29 April 7.45pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird <a href="mailto:ruthaird@outlook.com">ruthaird@outlook.com</a>
9, 16, 23, 30 April 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585
9, 16, 23, 30 April 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
10, 17, 24 April 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Small Hall
11, 18, 25 April 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
15 April 2.00pm	Guild:- Lunch; Navaar House
24 April 11.30am	Renew 26 AGM -Penicuik North Kirk; Back Hall. Contact <a href="mailto:renewtwentysix@gmail.com">renewtwentysix@gmail.com</a>
27 April 10.00am to 12 noon	Summer Fayre - Church Hall
28 April 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall

**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)

Save the date! Saturday 18 May

Christian Aid Coffee Morning!!

Where? PTCC Hall When ? 10- 12 am

Coffee, baking - and Interesting things!  
Come that day and enjoy yourself while raising money to help Christian Aid in its work !



TC News

APRIL 2024

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 send a request email to [penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com](mailto:penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com)

Church mouse



From the mouse of Editor's PC

Easter is a very busy time in the Christian calendar, and this year was no exception. This issue features four of the services that your church was involved in, with the most demanding being Easter Sunday dawn / sunrise service. Our bleary eyes at arising so early in the morning were soon turned to awe as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. I have attended many of these events over the years and you can count the number of cloudless sky bright sunrises on one hand. This one was spectacular in every way.

Christian Aid Week will be with us in May, and we have a 'save the date' as part of the fund raising activities.

Easter at Penicuik Churches Together



Broomhill, 6.45am. Sun rising above the horizon heralds the arrival of a new day, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The culmination of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, and the pain of Good Friday relating the story of Christ's punishing day on the cross, dying for our sins.

Around twenty souls made the journey to the hilltop for the magnificent sight of the rising sun in a crystal clear sky, if almost freezing temperatures. Our thanks to Rev Nick Bowry for both leading our service and St. James the Less team providing a welcome bacon roll and hot drinks. Rev John Urquhart led our 11am service in the church.

You can watch the Trinity Community Church Easter services

Palm Sunday <https://youtu.be/KHzGvvyrSAk> Holy Tuesday [https://youtu.be/yhk\\_siNj4O8](https://youtu.be/yhk_siNj4O8)  
Good Friday <https://youtu.be/XE03tyCIQiY> Easter Sunday <https://youtu.be/S3kMYSidLCY>



Renew 26

A quiet shared space where it's ok not to be ok

You are invited to a Renew 26 experience, followed by AGM.

Wednesday 24 April 2024

Back Hall, Penicuik North Kirk, John Street, Penicuik.

Open from 10.30am for crafts, games and refreshments

11.30 AGM

Based around the 5 ways to wellbeing to promote good mental and emotional health.

There is a quiet space for prayer and meditation.

Renew 26 is hosted by Penicuik Churches.

Email [renewtwentysix@gmail.com](mailto:renewtwentysix@gmail.com)

[www.renewwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk)

Enjoy the features and stories in this month's issue.

Much to celebrate at your church this coming month.

Jim Paterson  
Newsletter Editor

[penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com](mailto:penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com)

Compassion UK

Bill & Margaret Webster

Last November Janice Anderson gave a fascinating talk on Compassion UK during morning worship. She explained that Compassion is an international charity which works with local churches in 29 Third-World countries to lift children out of poverty, enabling them to access education and medical care that would otherwise be inaccessible.

This is a real game-changer, and it works by people in countries like ours sponsoring individual children until they have completed their education and have found long-term employment. **Some TC members were already involved in sponsoring children through Compassion, and now the Wednesday morning Bible Study group is sponsoring Agnegnigan, an 11-year-old boy from Togo.**



All we know about him so far is that he is in year 7 at school (where his favourite subjects are maths and reading) and that he loves ball games, running, singing and football. We'll no doubt get to know him a lot better as we exchange letters over the years.

You can find out a lot more about the amazing – and effective! – work Compassion does at <https://www.compassionuk.org/>

Watch our Compassion service with Janice Anderson [https://youtu.be/vPIb\\_fb5L0g](https://youtu.be/vPIb_fb5L0g)





Easter Messy Church: March 24<sup>th</sup> Joan Cape

“A long story”

This Easter we decided to look at the whole of the Easter story, rather than just one part of it: from Palm Sunday up till the first Easter morning. The first activity on offer was a kind of treasure hunt: following clues, the youngsters (helped by parents) went from the hall to the garden several times, collecting various items along the way to put in a box and keep as a reminder of the events of Holy week (a leaf, a silver coin, a piece of purple cloth, a thorny twig, a large nail). We decided the piece of bread and the chocolate egg should be eaten rather than kept!



Making palm trees using hand shapes (there's a pun in there – get it?) gave us a prop for the acting which came later, as well as allowing some discussion as to why this day is called “Palm Sunday”. Card crosses, decorated with tissue squares, let us think about the cross and what it means – a reminder of Jesus’ death, but also of the hope his death promises.

Planting seed in a pot was another opportunity to talk about new beginnings, and also the seeds of faith which Jesus “planted” during his life. A doughnut, a cracker, a Lindor chocolate, and lots of green icing – how better to create an Easter morning scene – and a chance to talk about how the women must have felt when they found the empty tomb.

Lots of questions too, about how all this came about: the children really do get the helpers thinking! Making Easter cards gave an opportunity to think about the people in our lives who need to know Jesus and his love for us – it's always a privilege to hear what's on the youngsters' minds, or to listen to parents as they share their concerns. Scraper foil crosses and some lovely colouring sheets provided an easy activity for the younger ones – though a couple of mums really got into the colouring.

For our celebration the youngsters acted out parts of the story, as they listened to it being told: enthusiastic cheering as our (very small) Jesus walked through the crowd, silence as we passed round bread and fruit juice and thought about the last supper and the meaning of our communion service, changing emotions as we put Jesus in the tomb (well, under a table really!) and then, a wee while later found it empty. We finished off by writing our prayers prompted by what we'd seen and heard and pinning them to the old rough cross.



Then we all sat down to a dinner of chicken/Quorn nuggets, salad and potato stars\*. If you haven't tasted these before, I can tell you that everyone agreed they were “delicious”! Pudding came in the shape of hot cross buns and/or a chocolate nest complete with eggs.

Everyone went home with some chocolate eggs (thank you, Ina!) and an Easter Advent calendar with a door for every day of



Holy week, reminding us just what a special time this is.

Thanks as always to our team of helpers, without whom these Sundays could not happen.

\* to be found in the freezer section of a well known local supermarket!

Next Messy Church - Sunday 28 April; TCC Church Hall 3.30 to 5.30pm

Post Alpha Youth Group Report Ann Dunsire

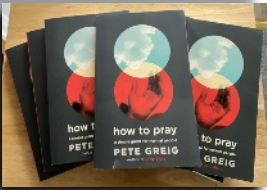
Our post-Alpha youth group looking at The Prayer Course has now completed, which has been a brilliant time of connecting with our group of 7 young people.

Our last evening was a lovely chilled-out time of chat, food & games, recording a group message for Charis & Jamie (Youth Alpha leaders) and finishing off with a time of praying for all that's ahead for our young folks as exams



approach and decisions for future study are made.

Everyone received a gift of the book which accompanied the course, which they'll hopefully all find helpful.

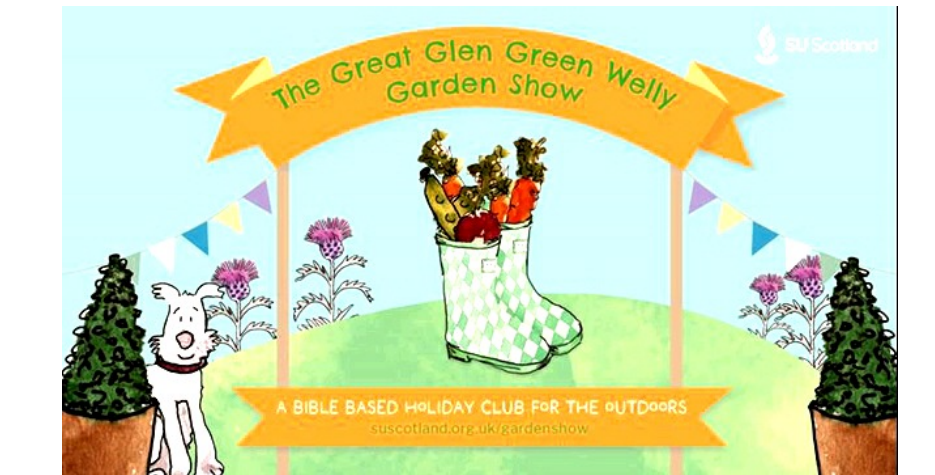


After the Easter holidays, we aim to keep Tuesday evenings free so that any of the young people can drop in for prayer support, chat, anything they need really, as such an important time for them. We'll then have a BBQ together before everyone breaks for the summer and also invite those attending the school SU groups.

Andrew & I have also been invited to the UNITE planning meeting in June to bring together young people from all across Midlothian and East Lothian so looking forward to being part of that.



Holiday Club 2024 - The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show



If you would like to part of the holiday club team please contact Agnes Haggart

Guild Meetings Jenny Ramage

4 March Commodity afternoon

Meeting began with a prayer remembering our convener Agnes Ovenstone who recently passed away.

Commodity afternoon saw members choose a passage from the Bible and brought along a commodity linked to this. This produced a great selection of goods including bread, flour, olives, flowers, seeds, grapes, prunes, apples, dates, wine, lemon curd and honey. Members were then able to purchase items and the sum of £42 was raised for funds.

18 March AGM

The only vacant post is that of Convener, however there were no nominations. It was suggested that we could have joint conveners to share the post and members were asked to consider this. Other posts remained the same with no further nominations.

Throughout the year the Guild funds are dispersed amongst the supported charities. This year

The Church	£200
Project Pioneers Chocolate Heaven	£200
Each of the charities the Guild had speakers from to receive a donation of £70	6 charities below; total £420
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, Children's Hospice Association for Scotland, Team Jak, Sepsis Research FEAT, Blythwood Trust, and Riding for the Disabled	

From the Kirk Session Report by Neil Cape

By now you will have noticed the scaffolding around the church bell tower – work is well underway on repairing the stonework, and the work on the roof should start soon.



At time of printing, the work to remove the central section of pews and put a new floor in the church, ready for chairs, was scheduled for the week beginning 8th April. This means that as from Sunday 14th April our services will be held in the church hall, until the new floor is ready for use, hopefully not too long.

At our last Kirk Session meeting we



approved the church accounts for 2023 – these are now away to the auditor, and once they come back we can arrange a date for the Annual Congregational Meeting, where the accounts will be presented, and there will be an opportunity for asking questions about any aspect of church life.

We also agreed to install a defibrillator – either outside the church or at the hall, and in true Church of Scotland style have appointed a

'committee' to decide on the best option.

In response to a request, we have offered our redundant hymn books to Iona Abbey, which needs to replace some very well-used books.



Towards the end of March we held a dinner and social evening for around a dozen people who have started coming to the church over the past 6 months or so; after a choice of hot main course I explained a little about how the congregation works, then we had a choice of desserts to be enjoyed while puzzling over a quiz. Each table was 'hosted' by a member of the congregation – and if this is something you might like to help with at a future event, please let me know.

I cannot finish this note without acknowledging the death, after a long illness, of Rosie Townsley, who was joint Session Clerk with me from the union of our congregations – two years ago this month. We remember with thanks her faithful contribution to the life and work of congregations past and present, and ask you to continue to pray for her family.

Neil Cape, Session Clerk ([tccsessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:tccsessionclerk@gmail.com), 674276)

