

Youth Alpha: Report by Caroline Toms & Ann Dunsire

Youth Alpha held their last session on 14th November and discussed the whole issue of Healing after watching the video on this topic, ending the session with a special time of prayer for one another.

We met together one last time on 28th November for a meal out together and said a very sad goodbye to



Charis & Jamie with the team

Charis & Jamie as they leave Penicuik for Australia very soon now, at the start of 2024.



We are all so grateful to them for their wonderful, committed leadership of this youth Alpha which all our young people have benefited from so much.



Caroline & I have hugely enjoyed being part of this special group over these last three months.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have been on the prayer support team and the catering team providing wonderful food as well as everyone who has donated towards costs involved.

Friday 15 December - 6.30pm onwards
Hope for Penicuik Carol Event in the Town Hall

Stewards needed.
Names to Joan.

PENICUIK CHURCHES TOGETHER

Trinity Community December Diary See front page for Christmas events calendar

3, 10, 17 December 7.15pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
4 December 2.00pm	Guild Christmas flowers presentation by Sandra Knox - Church Hall
4, 11, 18 December 7.15pm	Housegroup - On Zoom [Call Sheena for details 07810 477597]
4, 11, 18 December 7.30 to 9.30pm	Housegroup - Meet in Church Hall [Kate Downey for details]
4, 11, 18 December 7.30pm	Bible Study by Zoom [contact Joan or Neil Cape for details (674276)]
5, 12, 19 December 10.00am to 12 noon	Housegroup - [contact Mary Darling 01968 660585 for details]
5 December 7.30pm	Housegroup - [Contact Carol Macintosh for location details]
6, 13, 20 December 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Church Hall
6 December 10.45am	Friendship Hour - Church Hall [for help with transport call Margaret Webster 672347]
7, 14, 21 December 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
18 December	Guild Christmas Lunch - Navaar House Hotel
31 December 11.00am	Joint service at Penicuik North Kirk (PNK). Led by Rev Graham Astles

Christian Aid at Christmas

Christian Aid is asking us to support their continuing work in poorer countries this Christmas.



This time they are concentrating on young women in Bangladesh, where they hope to give resources to help them to launch or grow their businesses and change the future for themselves and their families.

Christian Aid is very aware of the crises in Ukraine and the Middle East and thanks us for our support in donating to these crises but if we can also help to continue their work elsewhere it would be much appreciated.

So ! Think of this as giving a Christmas present to Christian Aid - not literally ! - but if you can afford to put the cost of a " wee minding " in the C A bucket it would make difference to many women and families !



The Bucket will be available until Christmas eve !

Messy Church Activities Joan Cape

Messy Church Crafts Saturday 25th



Messy Church team ran a family crafts session in the hall, creating advent candles, flocks of sheep, and painting some beautiful slate shapes (donated by a local shop) with Christmas scenes.

About 50 children plus parents/carers joined us over the afternoon.

Baby Jesus Rocks will appear in December on a street near you. See our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064361934566>



DECEMBER 2023

TC News

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

CHRISTMAS AT PENICUIK CHURCHES

PENICUIK CHURCHES TOGETHER

What's on this Christmas?

hope4 penicuik

May God bless you this Christmas and throughout 2024. From all at the Manse.

Christmas Services and Activities in Penicuik and District 2023

Saturdays from 25 Nov to 23 Dec, 11am-2pm, Food Facts Friends, 42 John Street

Sat 25 Nov	Messy Crafts for children and parents/carers	2.00pm onwards	In Trinity Community Hall
Sun 3 Dec	Messy Christmas family crafts, celebration & hot dinner	3.30-5.30pm	In Trinity Community Hall
Thu 7 Dec	Memories Service (for bereaved people)	7.00pm	Penicuik North Kirk
Sun 10 Dec	Carols on the Green at Howgate with Forest Church Family Christingle Service	5.00pm 5.00pm	Howgate Green St James the Less
Fri 15 Dec	Welcome Christmas (for all ages) with the Silver Band, carols, Penicuik Puppets...!	6.30pm	Hope for Penicuik Town Hall (Joint Churches)
Sun 17 Dec	Nativity Service Young Kirk Nativity City on a Hill's Christmas Carol Service Lessons and Carols	11.00am 11.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	Trinity Community Church Penicuik North Kirk Glencorse Centre St James the Less
Sat 23 Dec	Carol singing together	from 11.00am	In the Precinct
Sun 24 Dec	All-age Christmas Eve Gathering Vigil Mass (Carol singing from 5.30) Carol Service Carols and Candles Midnight Mass Watchnight Service (Hot drinks from 11pm)	4.30pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	Trinity Community Church Sacred Heart Baptist Church Penicuik North Kirk St James the Less Trinity Community Church
Mon 25 Dec	Welcome the King Christmas Day Service Christmas Morning Celebration Christmas Morning Mass	10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 11.00am	Penicuik North Kirk St James the Less Trinity Community Church 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).

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064361934566>



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)

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 18 November



This years Christmas Fayre attracted a great crowd to checkout the stalls, offering a wide range of Christmas gift ideas and stocking fillers. Toys galore were on display for boys and girls, and jewellery for those looking for something more 'grown up'. Of course the home baking stall was an instant attraction, placed close to the entrance to entice new arrivals to buy some cakes, scones, or a fruit loaf or two.

The bottle stall, next to the home baking drew many visitors, where a lucky ticket would win you something in a bottle, from champagne, wine, beer, or perhaps shampoo. My luck was out this year drawing a complete blank.

Baby clothes knitted locally joined cards, gift bags and other desirable 'presents'. Hampers, children's toys, games, books and CD's joined the Tombola where yet more prizes were on offer.

The entry ticket also included refreshments in the shape of scones, mince pies (of course), cakes and plenty of tea and coffee to join in the chat with friends and new acquaintances, making a great morning out.

Agnes Ovenstone announced at church on Sunday that the Fayre raised a staggering **£1022.45** for church funds, the highest amount raised ever for this annual event.

Thank you to all who visited and helped raise this amazing total, and to the helpers and organisers who made the event such an outstanding success.



Guild - Sepsis FEAT: 6 November - Jenny Ramsay

The speaker on Monday 6 November was Gill Thomson from the charity Sepsis Research FEAT – originally the [Fiona Elizabeth Agnew Trust](#) named after a lady and her unborn child who died from sepsis after which her husband set up the charity in 2013.

Gill explained that Sepsis is the body's life threatening over-reaction to any infection and can affect anyone at any time with 50,000 people being killed by sepsis every year in the UK. Symptoms include very high or low temperature, shivering, confusion, passing less urine than usual and blotchy/cold arms or legs.



The charity aims to fund research and raise awareness, to save lives and improve outcomes for patients as sepsis can lead to life changing consequences. They work with researchers to understand the processes that lead to sepsis and

identify drugs and treatment for patients in the future.

The University of Edinburgh [GenOMICC](#) project based locally at the Bush has already increased the understanding of the genetics and treatment of critical illness. Awareness is raised through social media, mainstream media and the press.



Guild Project: Chocolate Heaven - 20 November

Report Jenny Ramage

Our speaker today was Ruth Box from the **Guild Project Chocolate Heaven** which has the motto [Changing Lives with Chocolate](#). They aim to take God's message to unreached people groups.



Ruth started off with a quiz to see what we knew about chocolate, 3 members got 4 out of 4 questions right and were rewarded with a chocolate. It was explained that people groups are based on language and culture rather than country.

Pioneers has 3000 missionaries working in 100 countries around the world. The Chocolate Heaven project is based on a large island in South East Asia and is run by 'Paul' and 'Sarah' who work with local people who grow chocolate beans which are then processed in the small factory set up by 'Paul and 'Sarah' to make chocolate and employs local people.

In this way they get to know the people and can begin to spread God's Word. Ruth went on to explain the processes involved in the production of chocolate. There were some short videos to show us the factory and the people working there. We were asked to pray for 'Paul' and 'Sarah' and the work that they are doing. Ruth finished by singing People Need The Lord, an unexpected treat as she had such a lovely voice.

There was also the opportunity to buy some of the chocolate bars in different flavours which we all took advantage of !

Saturday 9 & 23 December: FFF event

Through Advent the Penicuik churches will be helping in FFF, offering teas and coffees, conversation, and various activities – maybe even some carol singing.

Trinity Community Church will assist on Saturday 9th December 1030am for 11.00am to 2.00pm

If you could be involved, speak to John to find out what's involved.



Remembrance Sunday - 12 November Report by Jim Paterson

The church was filled with the various organisations in and around Penicuik, with a welcome return of the Army and Air cadets. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant Rachel Oliphant represented His Majesty King Charles III. Penicuik Silver Band provided the musical accompaniment for our praise hymns.



The Rev John Urquhart led our service, with the parade commander, Staff Sergeant Arran Johnstone Leading in the colours of the Royal British Legion, army and Girl Guides which were received by the minister.



As we approached 11am Staff Sergeant Arran Johnstone the Act of Remembrance and bugler Anna Florence of the Silver Band took to the gallery to play the last post, followed by the lone piper playing the lament, which faded into the distance as we commenced our 2 minute silence at 11am. Reveille signalled the end of our silence. Session Clerk Neil Cape read our first reading from Micah with Deputy Lord Lieutenant Rachel Oliphant reading from Romans.



We watched 'Letters home' a poignant video set in 1916 with two brothers, one in the trenches at Ancre on the western front in France, the other a naval sailor on the high seas, writing to their young sister at home. As she played the piano the postman calls with news from the front.

War destroys lives, hopes and dreams, and we next see photos of the two brothers on the sideboard, together with their medals and letters tied in string. The same pianist and tune is being played on the piano, but the hands are old and gnarled as the caption ' They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old' closes the scene. Lest we forget.

We closed the service with the National Anthem. The organisations led by the pipe band marched to the war memorial to lay wreaths, myself once again laying one on behalf of Trinity Community church. A short service was led by Pastor David Shedden of Penicuik Baptist church.

You can watch our service, includes the Letters home video at <https://youtu.be/QzFU6O4Ili0>



Compassion Sunday - 19 November

We welcomed Janice Anderson from Compassion UK to tell us about the work she champions and is directly involved with. Compassion UK is a Christian child development charity, working in partnership with local churches to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Janice told us that Compassion is an international children's charity, working in 29 countries partnering with 8,500 local churches within communities experiencing poverty. Worldwide, 356 million children live in poverty, without access to education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation or water.

Janice explained that poverty is like a thief, robbing a child's self confidence, tells you are worthless, don't matter, that you are nothing. It lets you believe you have no hope and no future. But this is a lie, and they need to know they are loved and cared for by our loving God, and he has a plan for every child.

Compassion work is Christ centred, church based and child focused. As a sponsor of a child you receive personal letters and photos from your sponsored child, project updates, stories and prayer updates. An App on your phone gives access to all these via the myCompassion portal.

Janice became a sponsor of a young Colombian boy and told us of a visit she made to Colombia to meet her sponsored child and family. She saw first hand the misery endured in poor accommodation they called home. But she also saw the projects helping children develop skills for their future.



Janice Anderson

Janice finished her talk with a video 'One last letter', where sponsored children, now in adulthood, reflect on what it meant to them to be part of the compassion project.

Watch Janice's talk in our service Sunday 19 November https://youtu.be/vPIb_fB5L0g?t=08m16s