

Holiday Club - 30 July to 2 August



SU Scotland's exciting new holiday club is packed full of ideas which you will love.

The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show Holiday Club looks at the epic unfolding story in the Bible of God's relationship with us.

From God's beautiful creation to us falling short on every possible level, from our attempts to get back to what was, to Jesus offering restoration of our relationship with God and the world in which we live and our hope for the future.

The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show aim is to help children understand God's big plan for his beautiful world... including YOU!

As children explore the biblical overview, our prayer is that they will find themselves in the story, understanding God's love for them through the significance of what Jesus has done, and personally respond to him.

The Great Glen Green Welly
30 July - 2nd August
10 -1pm
£3 per day or £10 for 4 days

Please share this information with any children you know. If you would like to part of the holiday club team please contact Agnes Haggart

<https://www.suscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/missions/the-great-glen-green-welly-garden-show/>

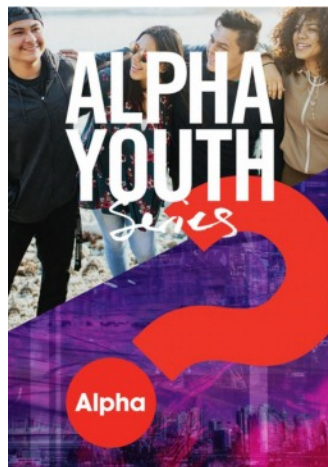


Youth Alpha follow-up group *Ann Dunsire*

We're following 'The Prayer Course' - an eight week journey based on The Lord's Prayer, by Pete Greig, of 24/7 Prayer, which has been recommended as a good follow-up to Youth Alpha.

It's a joy to meet up again with our young people and share time together, watching these videos, sharing food together, and having fun playing games!

If anyone would like to provide home baking or dessert for our group, that would be amazing! Please contact Ann or Andrew Dunsire (tel: 0797 460 5590).



22-24 March (S1-S6) 17-19 May (P5-P7)

The East & Midlothian Weekends are led by Derek and Claire Harley with a team of accredited SU volunteers from East and Midlothian.

The weekends will be filled with a range of different activities and games, good food and time to explore the Bible.

The weekends takes place at Lendrick Muir, a rural estate with 120 acres of grounds filled with adventurous and sporting activities. Inside there are comfortable dorms, a large games hall and spaces to relax and chill out.



Discounted places are available, please contact Derek: derek.harley@suscotland.org.uk for details.



Trinity Community Diary

4 February 7.00pm	Midlothian Churches Praise Evening. - Dalkeith St. John's
5 February 2.00pm	Guild:- Riding for the Disabled - Church Hall
5, 12, 19, 26 February 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
7 February 10.45am	Friendship Hour - Church Hall (committee room)
8, 15, 22, 29 February 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
11, 25 February 7.15pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
18 February 7.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
19 February 2.00pm	Guild:- Keeping Fit with Ageing Well - Church Hall
21, 28 February 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Church Hall (committee room)
25 February 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
1 March 7.00pm	World Day of Prayer (Palestine) - Sacred Heart

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)



FEBRUARY 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

Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC

As Christmas drew to an end we entered Epiphany, with Fiona Devoy leading our first service of 2024.

Choosing to compare nativity with a Star Wars episode may have appeared unusual, but it presented us with a world order that unfortunately is still ever present today.

Our activities are restarting their new year programmes and the TC Diary displays a wide range, with something for everyone.

We have been working with Scripture Union, and Agnes Haggart lets us know of various programmes that SU are running in the coming months.

After many years in Penicuik Sheila Anderson is moving to pastures new in Bridge of Allan. In her farewell message she tells us of the many good times she has had

Messy Church returned in January and we look forward to the new programme with Joan and Neil.

Youth Alpha follow-up continues, and you can help too.

I hope you enjoy this issue and remember you can catch up anytime on our website and video services.

Jim Paterson
 Newsletter Editor
penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Epiphany at Trinity Community Church - 7 January

The celebration of Christmas closes on January 6, otherwise known as the Epiphany of the Lord. We all know about Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, sheep, donkey, innkeeper, stable, hay.

Fiona Devoy focused on the darker side of the nativity using the Star Wars Empire Strikes Back film as a parallel to explain our nativity story.



In the film the Empire was an oppressive society ruling by military power and fear, similar to the Roman empire at the time of Jesus. Both were hated, being a struggle between good and evil. Darth Vader and King Herod were similar characters, both 'striking back' against good.



Into this God sends Jesus, who seems weak and helpless to fight back against evil. So the nativity manger scenes with shepherds, wise men, angels and baby Jesus are totally inaccurate. It is though romantic to think of these three men setting out on their quest with gifts of gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, heading to a place, some 1000 miles away, that they don't quite know where.



Fiona Devoy led our worship

Did they find what they were looking for, and how did it affect their lives? The church talks about the wise men reaching Bethlehem on January 5th Epiphany Eve, or as we know it 12th night, when our decorations are taken down. But eastern countries celebrate the nativity on the 6th January.

It was neither an easy or quick journey. They were never going to arrive in time for the birth, the bible telling us it was two years later when Jesus was a toddler when they finally arrived.

They did ask for directions in Jerusalem, from a man called Herod. Though he told them, a little village called Bethlehem, a bit like say Howgate, Elrickle, or Peebles to us. Herod's intentions however were not entirely pure either. King Herod was furious at being outwitted by the wise men, ordering the murder of a whole generation of children to ensure the death of one new baby king. Both Darth Vader and Herod wanted to keep the power status quo in their favour.

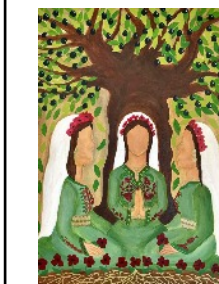
Even today oppressive rulers force people to flee to safety as refugees. Fiona noted recent events in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and across the world, and the role of the church, remembering that these people are human beings seeking sanctuary from evil and oppression.



watch this service at <https://youtu.be/Jlq-kij9eQ>

World Day of Prayer - 1 March (Palestine)

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried forward by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages.



Services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

In Penicuik we will be celebrating at the Sacred Heart on Friday 1 March starting at 7.00pm.



Guild Meetings Reports by Jenny Ramage

Blythwood Care - 8 January

For the first meeting of 2024 the Guild welcomed their speaker Caitlin Burdis from the Blythwood Trust charity.



Caitlin is area fundraiser for Blythwood and covers a large area of Scotland.

We all knew about the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal, which Trinity Community Church donates a range of knitted hats, gloves, and scarves, but Caitlin went on to tell us about the numerous other projects they have internationally, giving us individual stories of people around the world who have benefited from this work.



Some of the countries involved are Armenia, Poland, India, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Asia and Africa. Nearer home they have a project in Invergordon supporting visiting seafarers with Bibles, New Testaments and Christian literature in a range of languages to enable men and women at sea to grow in their faith.

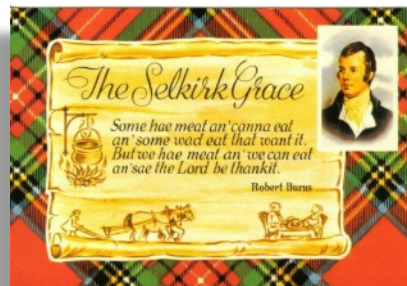
Projects varied according to local needs but can provide opportunities in education, skills, sports, literacy, support and food packages and at the same time sharing the Christian way of life. Ways to support the work include prayer, volunteering, keeping in touch and donating.

The Full story at <https://blythwood.org/>

Scottish Afternoon - 22 January

Liz Chisholm welcomed everyone on such a wet and windy day when we were holding a Scottish afternoon in honour of Robbie Burns. She then read the prayer - A Scottish Blessing.

Janice Hogg did the first reading Matthew Caa'd taken from A Scots Gospel by Jamie Stuart and written in the Scots language. Second reading was Makin Fishers O Men taken from the same source and read by Jenny Ramage. First to entertain us was Janice Hogg with a song her father taught her I Had a Small Barra which she had us all singing. Anne Hamilton was next with Burns famous poem To A Mouse and then Twa legged Mice an amusing tale by J K Anand.



Two more Burns poems were read by Jenny Ramage – Winter A Dirge and Yon Wild Mossy Mountain. Cicely McCulloch then volunteered to do Three Crows Sitting on a Wall for which she used three members to represent the crows. Anne then had another amusing poem about A Dag by Billy Keys.

We then had the Selkirk Grace before tea and refreshments were served, a lovely selection including cheese and biscuits, grapes, shortbread, crisps and homemade gingerbread.

A request had been made for the Burns poem To A Louse which Jenny Ramage read.

Puppetlady Sheila Anderson Moves home

My husband, Iain, and I have made one of the biggest transitions of our lives. On 15 January we left Penicuik and moved to Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire. We have swapped our amazing view of the Pentland Hills for one which takes in Stirling Castle.

There will be lots of gains and also many losses that accompany our move but Trinity Community church and Penicuik Churches Together cannot be replaced. Thursday morning PCT prayer walks, Penicuik Messy Church and Ruth Aird's bible study group are some of the activities that I will miss most. I have received so many blessings during my time at TCC that can't be replaced. I will miss the joy that becoming Martin's friend has brought, John's talks, the conversations at coffee time and the Sunday evening prayer time all jump to mind. Thank you for these wonderful memories.



Renew26

Join us at the

Glencorse Centre Thursdays 2-4pm	Penicuik North Kirk Fridays 10am – 12 noon
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Glencorse Centre, Firth Road, Auchendinny
Penicuik North Kirk, John Street, Penicuik
For more information contact 07956738481
or renewtwentysix@gmail.com

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

There will be some activities that I will not be losing. **I will be continuing as a host at Renew 26 at least for some time, I think I will need it for my own wellbeing.** Do please come and join me there if you are not ok or know someone who might enjoy being in the company of others who know what not being ok can feel like. There are always opportunities to become a host. If you think that this might be something for you, please go along to experience either the Glencorse Centre or Penicuik North Kirk Renew 26 and speak to one of the lead hosts.

Zoom means that I can continue to serve as a Lothian and Borders safeguarding trainer and with the ongoing mental health crisis I would like to continue to deliver the Sanctuary Mental Health course. Do get in touch if you would like to host or to participate in such a group. The puppets have come with me, I'm sure they will find something to do. Most importantly, I will also continue to meet up with friends for a cuppa. If you consider yourself one of my friends please drop me an email or text.

Thank you for the many blessings I have experienced at TCC and PCT.
Sheila (Puppetlady)

From the Kirk Session

At the start of every year we have to send a report on membership to the Presbytery, which then gets used to provide data for the Church of Scotland.



You may be interested to know that at the end of 2023 we had 187 members on the Communion Roll, in addition to 6 adherents. Adherents are entitled to vote in, for example, the election of a new minister, but have not formally joined the church – this could be for several reasons...perhaps because they are a member of a different denomination but choose to worship as part of our congregation.

There was one wedding, one service of blessing of a child, and 18 funerals were conducted by the minister and members of the congregation (Margaret Webster, David Hogg, Joan Cape).

In 2023 we gained one new member, but lost two who moved elsewhere, and one who has moved away without leaving a contact address. In addition 10 members died during the year, and we remember them, thanking God for their contribution and witness in this community, and remembering their families and friends in our prayers.

Their names are given below, in alphabetical order:

Christine Baxter	William Little
Wilma Craig	Helen Millar
Elizabeth Ferguson	Jean Parker
Isabel Gracie	Harry Scott
Jean Hannah	Margaret Stoddart

There was no Kirk Session meeting in January; the next is scheduled for Tuesday 13th February.

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

Messy Church - 28 January Report by Joan Cape

Sunday, January 28th, found us once again in the church hall for our monthly Messy Church Session. Our theme was "Searching for Jesus", based on the story of the wise men as told in Matthew 2, 1-12.

It's the bit of the Christmas story which is often overlooked, either being rolled into the Nativity story (where it doesn't quite fit) or lost as we move on to something else in the New Year, skipping over Epiphany on the way. We don't know much about these three slightly mysterious characters other than what we read here. But we do know some important things: they came from a foreign land far away, they had to trust in the star to guide them, and they didn't really know where they were going or what they would find there. But they did know they'd find someone important, so they brought special gifts. We assume this little fellowSHIP travelled on camels, the SHIPS of the desert, and that they experienced a number of hardSHIPs along the way. When they found the baby Jesus they recognized he was to be worSHIPPed.



Using lollipop sticks and scraps the youngsters made a wise man (or even three). **Bookmarks or puppets:** reminders of the story. We talked about what it feels like to be lonely, and how the fellowship we find in Messy Church, and through knowing Jesus can help. Using some very sticky brown paint we made **hand print pictures of camels**, and thought about some of the hardships the travellers must have experienced on their journey: perhaps it was as difficult for them to keep clean as it was for us to get our hands clean of paint!! Full marks to Ina for being willing to supervise this activity!



Our **rocking rolling camels**, made from card, bottle tops and cocktail sticks demonstrated how uncomfortable it must have felt, riding along on a camel – another hardship. We talked about what helps us feel safe when things are a bit wobbly. The camel is often called the "ship of the desert". It can go for a long time without drinking, and it can deal with hot and cold temperatures, putting up with hardships that we don't find easy to deal with.



As we made some little **edible ships** using salad veg and humus or cheese, we thanked God for the wonderful ways in which he provides for our needs, and thought of all the "ships" that crop up in this story! Plastic pots were painted and decorated – **gifts fit for a king** – to be used to save pennies for those experiencing hardship. And an interesting **cut and fold star** gave everyone some verses to guide them, just as the star guided the wise men.

In our celebration time we thought a bit more about the journey of the three wise men – and Joan shared the story of "the other wise man", who fails in his quest to find Jesus, as he stops to help a variety of people in need along the way, selling his treasures (gifts for the king) to do so. Reaching Jerusalem just as Jesus dies on the cross, he is struck on the head by a falling roof tile as the earthquake occurs. Lying there dying he hears a voice: "Verily I say unto thee, Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) He dies at peace, filled with wonder and joy, knowing that his treasures were accepted, and that he had found his King. We're all making a journey to find Jesus, we're all different and we'll all do it different ways – but if, like the wise men, we persevere, we will find him.

And then we had tea together: baked potato, beans, cheese and of course haggis (remember the date!), with jelly and healthy fresh fruit salad to finish.

Do pray for our families, that they would come to know you, and give thanks for the faithful team who make these sessions work.

* *The Story of the Other Wise Man, a long short story by Henry Van Dyke*

Friendship Hour 7 February 10.45am

'What a friend we have in Jesus' - encouraging faith through friendship with Jesus and each other. Includes a short period of worship. All welcome.

Meet Church Hall (committee room)

For help with Transport contact Margaret Webster 672347

Bible Study

Tuesday 10 to 12 noon.

Mary Darling

We welcome NEW members

Meet in the Church Hall Committee Room

(contact Mary 01968 660585 for details)