

From the Kirk Session



At our December meeting we decided to install an indoor defibrillator in the church hall.

We had a good look at the Roll and Supplementary Roll (the list of people who no longer attend church), and will revisit this in January.

The final survey of the bell tower is underway, but will need access from scaffolding to assess the full extent of the work involved.

It has been agreed to remove the unsightly oil tank enclosure outside the hearse house, now that the latter has been repaired.

New Chairs for church



The 80 new chairs for use in the church were delivered on the Tuesday before Christmas, and a team of volunteers made short work of unpacking them and moving them into the church, where they are under wraps until the work on the floor has been completed.

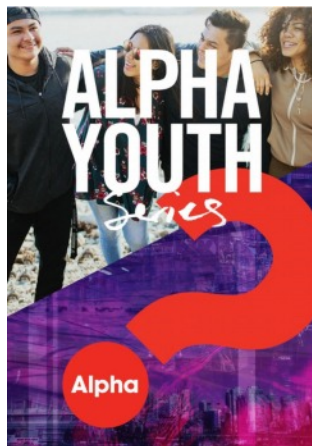


May I wish you every blessing in 2024,

Neil Cape (674276, tccsessionclerk@gmail.com)



Follow Up to Youth Alpha Ann Dunsire



Andrew & I are hosting a follow-on to Youth Alpha at our home, starting on Tuesday 9th January, from 7-9 pm.

This will take the form of a Bible study each Tuesday evening in a relaxed, informal setting.

Not planning a meal each week this time but will have drinks/snacks & cake/dessert for our young folks.

If anyone would like to contribute anything, just let us know. Look forward to meeting up with everyone again post-Alpha and growing in faith together.

Please contact Ann or Andrew for further details
Ann: 07974 605590; Andrew: 07850 593504

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.



Scripture Union Prayer Meeting - Saturday 20 Jan 10.30 to 11.30am; Trinity Community Church Hall



Our January SU Prayer meeting in Trinity Community Church Hall allows us time to focus on God, celebrate and praise him for who he is and all he has done, pray into present challenges and seek his face for future guidance.

Wherever you are, whoever you are, however little or much time you have to spare - we'd love you to join us. There are different ways you can engage. Pray personally; pray with others. Please pray!



Trinity Community Diary

7, 14, 21, 28 January 7.15 pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
8 January 2.00pm	Guild:- Caitlin Burdis talk on work of Blythwood Care
10, 17, 24, 31 January 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Church Hall (committee room)
10 January 1.45pm	Friendship Hour - Church Hall (committee room)
11, 18, 25 January 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
15, 22, 29 January 7.30pm (tbc)	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
16 January 7.30pm	Kirk Session Meeting - Church Hall
20 January 10.30am	Scripture Union Prayer Meeting - Church Hall (committee room)
22 January 2024	Guild:- Scots Afternoon
28 January 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)



Happy New Year from your church

TC News

JANUARY 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



The Christmas at Trinity Community Church

introduced some new ideas mixed with traditional worship.

Our Nativity service presented a modern if slightly surreal way of telling the story of the Christmas miracle.

Joan and Neil Cape played the hapless computer users in dire trouble, whilst Joyce Maclean took the part of the 'Technical Support' expert, driven almost to her wits end to save the day.

Families with young children also enjoyed our All Age Christmas Eve and Day services,

Christmas is a time for helping others and our collection for Christian Aid was an offering to those less fortunate than ourselves.

The new year brings a full calendar of events, some restarting after the Christmas break, others new. See TC diary.

Enjoy this review of our Christmas events and hope you can join us in some of our many events and services in 2024

Happy New Year to all our readers.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Christmas at Trinity Community Church; Advent

The period of Advent, 'waiting for the coming king', started with our service on **3 December**, when we lit the candle of 'Hope'

The theme for the service was **The promise of light**. During the service the first candle was lit and Martin Eadie, a regular visitor to our services, took the honour of lighting this candle.



There are many interpretations of the Advent candles. We believe the candles stand for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/IWK-NK6L-lo>

The service on **10 December** was both the second Sunday of Advent 'Peace', with John Urquhart using the theme **The Light that no-one can put out**, from John 1: 5; 'And the light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.'



Watch this service <https://youtu.be/hO1125LqoLY>

The third Sunday of Advent 'Joy' on **17 December** we lit our third candle, with John preaching theme **'God is Light'**.



Included in the service was this year's **Nativity Play** where the true meaning of Christmas



was presented with a modern theme. See the full Nativity story inside this issue.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/7VI3RXoT6dA>

For the fourth Advent 'Love', on Sunday **24 December**, Christmas Eve, we lit the all the candles bar the Christ candle in the centre of the ring. John preached on the theme **'Light for the World'**



Later that afternoon, Joan and Neil Cape led an 'All Age' service, where a Christmas Quiz engaged the congregation, including the younger members, to tell the Christmas story.



Watch this service <https://youtu.be/A1nLGUmKrU>

Watchnight Service led us toward the midnight hour



and Christmas Day, John Urquhart lighting the 'Christ Candle' in the centre of our advent wreath. Members of our congregation exchanged Christmas greetings with one another.



Watch this service <https://youtu.be/MGNQNGKUpGs>

Christmas at Trinity Community - December 2023

Christian Aid - Christmas appeal

Over the Christmas period Janis Hogg ran a general Christian Aid appeal, a Christmas gift for others. Your generosity was recognised with a thank you letter from Christian Aid

Thank you for your special gift of **£428.78** this Christmas. And if you have chosen to Gift Aid your donation, thank you so much.

Your gift could help transform the lives of young women in remote, vulnerable regions like Bangladesh's Kurigram district.

With training in online business skills, they could become a change agent like Kakoli.

By providing the funds needed for tools, training and access to the internet, more women could have the opportunity to generate an income and lift themselves and their families out of poverty.



'I didn't have any dreams a few years ago. I didn't have any money to do anything. To do something, I had to ask for money from my brothers and father.' – Kakoli.

With your support women and their communities can open up a world of choice in 2024. It's their time to shine. Thank you.

With warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas,

Anwar Diner,
Economic Justice Project Support Officer

Carols in the Precinct - 23 December *Report by Sheila Anderson*

There were a large group of carol singers from the Penicuik churches sheltering from the rain under the canopy provided by the Job Centre on Saturday 23rd December.

Boxes of shortbread were given to the shopkeepers in the precinct, while passers by were invited to join in with the singing and offered a chocolate and information about the Christian view of Christmas if they were interested.

It seemed to be well received and we had some great conversations.

Guild 2024 Calendar

Date	Guest Organisation	Location	Speaker
8 January	Blythwood Care 	Church Hall	Caitlin Birdis
22 January	Scots Afternoon	Church Hall	
5 Febraury	Riding for the disabled 	Church Hall	TBA
19 February	Keeping Fit with Ageing Well	Church Hall	David West
1 March 7.00pm	World Day of Prayer (Palestine)	Sacred Heart	TBA
4 March	Commodity Afternoon	Church Hall	
18 March	Surprise Afternoon	Church Hall	
1 April	AGM	Church Hall	
15 April	Lunch	Navaar Hotel	
18 December	Christmas Lunch	Navaar Hotel	

All meetings start 2.00pm unless otherwise stated

Watchnight Service



Our praise included O little town of Bethlehem, Still the night, and When out of poverty is born, sung by Kima Otung, which we reflected on as we listened.

John lit the central 'Christ Candle' as we passed the midnight hour, heralding the birth of the Messiah.

The service concluded with the uplifting 'O come, all ye faithful'.

Christmas Day All Age Family Service

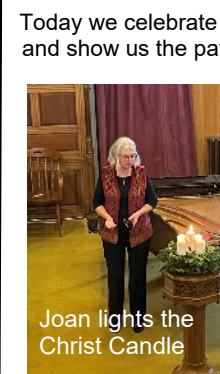
The Christmas morning service was led by Joan Cape. Opening with the carol we concluded the watchnight service 'O come all ye faithful'. Joan welcomed us all and set the scene about the Christmas story.

The story is not just about Mary Joseph and the baby Jesus. An interpreted bible reading based on Luke chapter 2 was presented by Joyce Maclean.

Arriving as Angel Joyce she called on people to 'listen up!' Explaining that the angels' work is constant, 365 days a year 24/7, not just for Christmas. Delivering messages to a world of people who are continually making a mess of running the country.



We remember their messages to the shepherds, complete with special lighting effects, the bright star. Initially dumbstruck by the angels' message the shepherds ran to see the baby Jesus, and then knocked on doors to tell everyone near and far of the birth of the Messiah, a message that has not changed. Angel Joyce then asked us if any of us had told people of the good news of the birth of Jesus? If the answer is no, then we were prompted to get a move on, or angel Joyce would be back!!!



We sang the good news message "unto us a child is born", followed by some of us showing the gifts we received this Christmas morning.

Today we celebrate because our God decided to become human to walk with us, suffer and rejoice with us, and show us the path that we must walk to bring his kingdom to our lives, the greatest story ever told. We sang 'Holy Jesus, God Incarnate'

Each of us had received a card as we came into church, with a picture on one side. We were asked to write on the reverse someone who we would like to tell this good news story to. We would take these cards home as a reminder of what we would do later.

A prayer was followed by two songs 'Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born', and 'today is the Saviours Day', which has an amazing chorus, to conclude our Christmas day service.



You can view our video of these services

Christmas Eve Watchnight <https://youtu.be/MGNQNGKUpGs>
Christmas Day <https://youtu.be/GLxLviYzwU4>

Hope 4 Penicuik Carols in the Town Hall - 15 December



It was an overcast evening but families with children filled the town hall for the annual Penicuik Churches Together 'Welcome Christmas' for All Ages. Joan Cape led the event, supported by Penicuik Silver Band, Puppet lady Sheila, and Neil Cape.

The Christmas story was told by Joan, with the appearance of our angel, shepherds, sheep and others as the familiar tale unfolded. A selection of Christmas carols had us on our feet singing, led by music provided by the Silver Band.



A selection of items 'hidden' in the audience appeared during the story, with



Christine Jackson and Margaret Webster reading supporting bible passages. Sheila Anderson led the puppets, assisted by Heather Nicholas, Caroline Toms and some of the children puppeteers.

Nativity Service - 17 December

Our service on Sunday 17 December included a 'modern' interpretation of the nativity story of the birth of Jesus. The presentation centred around a confused, frustrated and somewhat hapless computer operator, played by Joan Cape, trying to download on and run on her computer a new programme to see the Christmas Miracle. Having no success she called on husband Neil to



help. However this failed to find a solution so a call was made to the 'technical support' helpdesk to resolve the situation. Readers of this tale who are also computers users, will likely have experienced calling a helpdesk, relating to what happened next.

Our technical support helpdesk agent was played by Joyce Maclean who set the scene in amusing fashion, finding the support call an imposition whilst speaking to her friend on a social call.

Reluctantly she answered our confused Joan, only to conflate the situation with more tasks for Joan to carry out, adding to her frustration. Even Neil as helper was becoming exhausted trying to assist.



Joan only wanted a Christmas miracle scene with Santa Claus, tree, food, presents and stars. Agent Joyce explained the real miracle was the birth of baby Jesus. Eventually after much confusion and exasperation by all parties our tech support agent finally solves the dilemma to reveal the true meaning of Christmas to our now completely drained computer users.

Watch this nativity presentation at <https://youtu.be/7Vl3RXoT6dA?t=08m28s>

Messy Church Returns - Sunday 28 January 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Join the event in the Church Hall on the last Sunday

