



Church of Scotland Learning is a relatively new initiative which is worth exploring personally or together with Christian friends. It is located on the world wide web, though if that puts you off, you can always do it with other people, who will deal with the technical bits for you.

But don't let this put you off: registering is a relatively simple process if you have an email address. Once this is done, you can find out about a range of learning opportunities to help you in your spiritual development and to gain practical skills. These opportunities are available to all who are engaged in the life of the Church of Scotland, whether in a leadership role or not. You don't need to be an expert -- and no one is going to assess you or report on your progress!

The courses are divided under these headings: mission; discipleship; leadership and relationship; worship, sacraments and preaching; character, ethics and development; faith, vocation and spirituality. The wide aim is to equip people to embrace and embody the teachings of Jesus within their community and in the wider world.

One of the easier courses is called Talking About Your Faith. It aims to help people become more confident in sharing Jesus with others. Through the course, you can learn to listen to others carefully and with curiosity, as well as learn to listen to God. You might get to know better the Gospel story and develop your own faith story, ready to share it with others. The course is designed for small groups: in other words, for a house group or for a Bible study group or a friendship group or those who are interested in doing the course. No previous experience is required to lead it.

Interested?  
You can find out more at and register through the Church of Scotland website on the page:  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/church-of-scotland-learning](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/church-of-scotland-learning)

Alternatively, you can search using the key words:  
**church of scotland learning**

You can also watch a 92-second friendly introduction on YouTube by Albert Bogle: <https://youtu.be/4dAwwaHrftk>

**Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter July 24**

7 July	Dr Amy Orr-Ewing; National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland 2024
14 July	Rev. Jock Stein; Handsel Press.
21 July	Rev. Iain Majcher; Bothwell Parish Church
28 July	Rev. Margaret Stein; Haddington

**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.  
**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, July 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
On Summer Break	Monday Bible Study Group - Summer Break
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July 7.45pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird <a href="mailto:ruthaird@outlook.com">ruthaird@outlook.com</a>
2 July 10.00am then On Summer Break	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
On Summer Break	Friendship Hour - Summer Break
On Summer Break	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Summer Break
4, 11, 18, 25 July 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
On Summer Break	Messy Church - On Summer Break

**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)

**Tribute to Eileen Marchant - Friday 14 June**

Andrew Marchant

We said our final farewell to Eileen Marchant on Friday 14 June at St. James the Less church. Known to many of us as our regular church organist, occasionally switching to the piano when the organ refused to play properly, Eileen also led the choir back in the day.

Eileen grew up in rural Nottinghamshire - playing in the fields, getting a lift home on the hay cart, playing in an old bus with her friend Joan.

Son Andrew related the story of Eileen falling from her bike on a bank holiday during WW2. There was nobody to offer help or assessment, these were before the NHS and the local GP's were not available. What to do? Someone suggested asking at the local Prisoner of War camp. A German doctor from the camp was willing to come out and assess Eileen, offering advice for her parents to help them look after her for the next few days. They were grateful for his help; it didn't matter that he was German - even during those difficult days.

Eileen took up Pharmacy doing it with meticulous care and thought for the good of the patients. However, she would really have loved to become a professional pianist. Music was her real passion - she met husband Eric through playing percussion in the Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and when they moved to Penicuik in 1962 they they would play music late into the evening. Piano lessons for local children and the rehearsals of local music groups were the soundtrack to son Andrew's homework.

Eileen also enjoyed playing Percussion, regularly with the Penicuik Silver Band, and occasionally with orchestras. She once joined Andrew and wife Livia with the Really Terrible Orchestra. (A regular feature at the Edinburgh Fringe), to play in New York Town Hall where she brought a touch of professional discipline to the tubular bells and had a great time!

Eileen started a Maths degree. She'd always enjoyed maths at school, and decided as an adult that she would like to learn more.

Eileen became St Mungo's Church new organist. Already a capable pianist, the organ pedals were a novelty. Eileen wasn't very tall and the first difficulty was reaching the pedals. Nearly 40 years of playing the church organ and developing the church choir gave both Eileen and Eric many good times. Church music also led to membership of the Edinburgh Society of Organists and the Borders Guild of Organists. She was an enthusiastic member of both, and edited the ESO magazine "Console" for a number of years.

Eileen was a mother, a musician, a pharmacist, a mathematician, enjoying her personal passions of plants and birds to her last days. Please remember sons Andrew, Adrian and their families in your prayers.



**JULY 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)

**Annual Congregational Meeting - 16 June**

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held after the Sunday Service on 16 June. The meeting is an opportunity for the Kirk Session to present the status of the running of your church over the past years and the progress of activities declared at the previous annual meeting in 2023. The meeting includes the financial situation, buildings and property, plus planned and existing groups activities. Our minister John Urquhart opened the meeting in prayer, followed by approval of the 2023 meeting minutes.

**Toastie Tuesday** Joyce MacLean updated us on a new outreach initiative 'Toastie Tuesday' aimed at secondary school children at the High School, offering lunch each Tuesday. Volunteers were identified but the school reported that our offer of lunch time support was not the problem time.

They would however appreciate support for a morning breakfast. So Toastie Tuesday has morphed into '**Morning Breakfast**' each and every school morning! Planned to run from 0745 to 0830 a '**lite breakfast**', e.g. breakfast cereal bars, toast etc, not a cooked bacon and eggs style meal will be provided. This offer is in response to some children arriving at school not having eaten breakfast that morning, indeed some not having had an evening meal the day before! Without having eaten these children are tired and find learning extremely difficult. Joyce asked for volunteers to join a rota for this initiative to contact her at any time.

**Seeds for Growth.** Joyce explained this Church of Scotland fund which will help finance not only the above '**morning breakfast**' but also other '**holiday club**' events for children. This fund will help finance these activities to get them started. We will apply for the initial £1000 grant until we can gauge how many children will be involved. Next year, if these

initiatives are a success we can increase our bid for funding to e.g. £10000 up to £40000 each year. Experience of other churches identified up to 200 children using the morning breakfast type offering.

**Praise Band.** John talked of the efforts to setup a band to accompany Sunday morning praise. This has been difficult but we are still looking for people to sing live to a prerecorded backing track or video and lead the congregation singing. We have successfully tried this a number of



times, volunteers being requested. Speak to John if you are interested.

**Toddler Group.** Neil Cape reported on behalf of Joan, of a means of reaching young families. Joan spoke to the other churches in Penicuik to create a pool of volunteers. A lack of response means the toddler group whilst still a possibility is

currently on hold.

**Youth Worker.** John reported that work establishing reaching families and children should be a basis before calling in a youth worker to help where work has already started.

**Church Buildings.** Gordon Macdonald reported that identifying a skilled workforce for our ageing buildings is an ongoing issue. The church roof has been stabilised this past year. Removing the pews in the central aisle required levelling the floor, under which were found leaking central heating pipes. After 100-150 years of operation they have as you could say' reached their 'sell by date' and were found to leak, quite badly in some areas. Similar wear and tear on the rainwater downpipes outside. The church hall is also having damp proofing carried out, and St. Kentigern Bell tower is being stabilised and restored. Finally the refurbished Hearse House is planned to open end August, as a visitor centre on the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration project.

**Pastoral Care.** Neil again stood in for Joan, explaining how we plan to go forward with congregation pastoral support, moving on from Elder visits. Safeguarding awareness and a more flexible approach, using a dedicated 'pastoral team' to support the church family. A full report will be published in TC News next month.

**Church Directory.** Neil announced an updated of who does what and contact details now available.

**Annual Report & Financial Accounts.** Neil outlined the report, now available to view or download on our website, covering the first full year of Trinity Community Church. Joyce Maclean explained the financial accounts status, e.g. offerings, hall rents, utility bills, dividends from investments etc. <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church> After questions from the congregation John closed the meeting with The Grace.

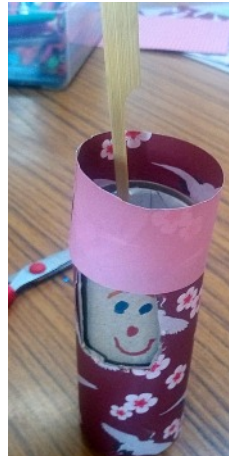
You can watch this annual meeting at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyTQtI2iQcU>



## Messy Church: June 23rd: "Together we can do it" (Luke Chapter 5, verses 17 – 26) *Report by Joan Cape*

Our last Messy Church of the session – and for once the sun shone down on us all afternoon. Our focus was the story of the paralysed man whose friends are so determined that he should have the chance to come before Jesus for healing that they carry him up onto the roof of the very crowded house where Jesus was to be found, make a hole in the roof, and lower him through the hole to the feet of a rather surprised Jesus.

We were able to make a model of this story using an envelope, a little man and a piece of string, and as we did this, talked about how we deal with things that we need to do but seem to be impossible. Getting our friends to help is often very useful in these situations!



When the man was healed, there was great rejoicing – but not everyone was pleased, And we had great fun making puppets from toilet rolls (Thanks to those who helped by bringing some along), who could turn round showing a grumpy face and then a happy face. A good chance to talk about our feelings when unexpected things happen.

Making and decorating a little hammock and then seeing how easy or otherwise it was to transport a clothes peg across the hall when two or three children were trying to hold the four strings proved great fun – we decided the man must have had a lot of faith in his friends!!



Like all groups of people, Jesus' friends needed a sign to show that they all "belonged" to the same group – their sign was the fish, but not fish like ours!

Bread, butter, cucumber, carrots, olives.....who knew that the "cucumber fish" was a thing"? It was interesting that as we talked about groups and signs, the other F word didn't feature (clearly the evening's UEFA cup match was not as high up in the children's minds as it was in the minds of the leaders!)



Of course, the sign that we all know shows who is our best friend and how much he cares for us is the cross: we hope our beautifully decorated ceramic crosses will remind us that our friend Jesus is always with us.

Then, time to go out in the garden and play a couple of silly team games. First of all we discovered by trial and error that it's quite possible to stand in a circle holding hands and pass a hula hoop round without breaking the circle yet with the hoop passing over everyone's body. We also found that carrying a man (or rather a football) on a "hammock" all the way across the garden was not very easy...paramedics do a very good job!

Our celebration found us watching a cartoon version of the bible story, after which we talked about it a little before praying for our friends and the things they need Jesus' help with. The names of our friends were written on little people who were then all laid on a "mat" which we gathered up and brought forward as an offering, while we listened to a song "You've got a friend in me. Then after a short prayer, we all enjoyed a picnic tea together before setting off home.



**Thank you for all your support throughout the year – without your prayers, and your practical help when asked for, we would be much poorer.**

**We have one ask for the holidays: if there are any families who live near you who have primary school children, do encourage them to come along after the holidays and see what we get up to – our number is presently very small, and the best way to grow is by speaking to people and inviting them along. But we need your help with this.**

**We'll be starting up at the end of September – so there's plenty of time to think about this.**

## Guild Afternoon Tea - Saturday 1 June

The best china tea service was brought out for the Guild afternoon tea on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Margaret Black had cajoled many of the ladies, to join her to create a magnificent spread of home baking. Scones, cakes of all shapes and sizes, truffles and meringues all to tempt those who arrived.



The chat around the tables meant plenty of tea was needed to keep the vocal cords well oiled.

**Agnes Haggart reported to the Sunday congregation that the event raised a total of £400. Well done and thanks to all who contributed to the afternoon tea.**

## Tuesday youth group BBQ *From Ann Dunsire*



up summer jobs, plus those heading off to university/college after the summer.'

Many thanks to all who supported our end of term Tuesday youth group BBQ. Thankfully, the weather mostly held so that we could be outside for most of the evening!

We had 10 young people along and had a lovely evening sharing food, games and hearing about everyone's summer plans.

Please remember all our young folks in prayer as some go off to be youth leaders at Keswick Convention, some are going to SU camps, one going off to Australia, others taking

## The "Big Count" - Fri 21st in PNK church. *From Janis Hogg*

The final total amount sent by Penicuik Christian Aid Group by cheque to Christian Aid this year was **£4357.36**.

Well done Penicuik- a wonderful effort! This includes all the churches' collections coffee mornings/ lunch and the duck race. It doesn't include the gift aid total or the donations many people made online. Thank you to everyone.

This is totally different from what used to happen in "the olden days"! Usually the reps from the various churches bring what has been collected ( often counted in advance) and it's all put together, counted again , cheques and gift aid slips separated, various CA forms filled in then Jim Black ( Penicuik organiser) from PNK takes everything to the Royal Bank in Peebles to be counted again and sent off.

## From the Kirk Session *Report by Neil Cape Session Clerk*

At its meeting in June, the Kirk Session received reports from the Teams set up to manage and plan the congregation's activities, and agreed the agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting, which was held on 16th June after morning service (see Jim Paterson's report in this issue).



The main financial news was a change in the Church of Scotland rules as to how money from the sale of buildings can be used – this is something that is very important for us, as the proceeds from the sale of Penicuik South church, halls and manse, and the sale of Howgate church, are held for us by the Church of Scotland. Up until recently, such funds could only be used for other building work (repair or maintenance of existing buildings, new buildings or upgrades to buildings); however, this year's General Assembly has agreed that both the interest on such funds, and even some of the capital sums held by the Church of Scotland can (if agreed that the expenditure is for mission-related projects) be used for 'mission' work.

In addition, the 'Seeds for Growth' Fund, specifically aimed at projects which support the growth of the church, has been expanded; we have applied for a 'level 1' award (the lowest level, and upgradeable later) to support a proposed 'Breakfast Club' at Penicuik High School; details of this await the outcome of a meeting by the minister and others with staff at the High School.



You'll all be waiting, like me, for news of when we can get back into the church. The new heating pipes (to replace the underfloor pipes which were discovered to be in a poor and unsafe state) are on order, and we hope they will be installed soon. Then we can proceed to finish the new floor ready for carpeting and chairs. However, I still can't give you a firm date for this.

On the mission front, in addition to the Breakfast Club proposal, a small team of people is being organised to provide activities for children during morning service; even if we don't have many children attending church services, we need to be ready to welcome them if and when they do come. Please pray for both the Breakfast Club, and the 'Kidspace' project; if you've not already thought about volunteering for these, there's still scope for more people to help – **contact Joyce MacLean about the Breakfast Club, and Joan Cape or Ruth Aird about 'Kidspace'.**



**Finally,** please also pray for the Holiday Club, running in our hall from 30 July to 2 August under the auspices of Scripture Union.

If you know of any families with primary age children who might be interested, please tell them about it; details are available from leaflets in the hall, or via the Penicuik Churches Together website ([www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk](http://www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk)).

Lastly – the **updated Members' Directory**, with contact details of all the church activities and key people, is now available in the hall at morning service time. But please contact me if you need information that you can't find there.

Neil Cape  
([tccsessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:tccsessionclerk@gmail.com))



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

12-18 May 2024



Before, we'd maybe have about 15 people in our hall counting the bags of money they'd collected door to door, with Ian Dickson keeping us on track - and that was only the St Mungo's collection. Now it's about 5 people in the North Church! The difference is that we don't do street collections any more.

**Thanks to everyone who helped, donated and prayed. This will allow CA to make a big difference in many peoples' lives.**