

Church Wall repairs help skills of school students



Pupils from Beeslack and Penicuik high schools have been given an opportunity to experience hands on training repairing and restoring some areas of the stone boundary walls in St Mungo's Churchyard in Penicuik.

Many traditional skills are being lost as a result of experienced craftsmen retiring. This project teaches young people some of these skills to help buildings be safeguarded for the future.

This is part of the final phase of the **Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project** (PHRP) traditional construction skills training plan.



Final Total

The total amount banked for Christian Aid from the Penicuik Christian Aid group (Trinity Community Church, Penicuik North, St. James, and Sacred Heart) was

£3068

A wonderful total and many thanks again to all who contributed in any way! Janis

Messy Church *Report by Joan Cape*

It's been a busy three months! April 30th found us thinking about Kings, Queens and coronations (wonder what inspired that?!) We thought about the qualities needed to be a good king: things like leadership, honesty, and trust. We wondered what happens when a king (or queen) gets things wrong: how dealing with mistakes in the right way means that people still respect their leader.



To help us, we looked at King David in the Bible, the late Queen Elizabeth and our new King Charles. And we thought about how they are like, but also very different from, Jesus, the King of Kings. Making orbs, decorating crowns and sceptres were just some of our activities. And of course, how else could we finish but with party tea?!

Our May meeting was on Pentecost Sunday: talking about the events of that first Pentecost involved thinking about the Spirit. It also got us thinking about "church": what it is and who it's for. As part of this we went on adventure...crossing over to the church building and finding out some interesting facts about what's in it and why. Blowing bubbles big and small, making "flame sticks" to use in the celebration, creating flying doves from paper and straws, as well as chatting about the gifts of the Spirit, as we tried to identify our own gifts – there was plenty to keep us busy. We were keen to have a barbecue that day – it seemed to tie in well with the fire and flames of Pentecost. But weather and safety concerns made us hesitate: our oven cooked sausages and burgers were a well received substitute!

The last meeting of the session was last **Sunday (June 25th)**. We gathered up some of the things we had looked at over the year, in a set of fishy stories. From Genesis and the creation of the sea creatures on the 5th day, through Jonah (no, it wasn't a whale, it was a big fish!), to Jesus calling the fishermen to be disciples, feeding lots of people with only a few fish, and helping his friends

with a catch of fish so big that the boat nearly sank: we had a good old hunt through the bible. Making fish from old CDs, wonderful creatures from shells, pipe cleaners and other bits and pieces, fishing with nets for a variety of objects floating in water, as well as creating boats from tin foil – great fun was had by all as we chatted about what these stories tell us, some of us getting very wet in the process. Parachute games to use up some excess energy were followed by a welcome sit down, with dinner of fish fingers in wraps, and ice cream (in cones or oysters, according to preference) to finish. A fun end to the session.

We haven't had large numbers at any one meeting this year; instead we have a good sized group who tend to each come every two or three times – so always a different mix of people. It's good to see them getting to know each other, and building relationships (perhaps this is easier when the groups are smaller). Thank you for your support – in person, in prayer, and in gifts of money and materials. It would be so much more difficult without you all!

We're on holiday for a couple of months. Then, from September, we'll be meeting on the **FIRST** Sunday of each month till after Christmas, when we go back to last Sundays. (In case you're wondering, that fits in slightly better with holiday weekends!)

Messy Church on its travels

As well as our annual outing to Penicuik in the Park, a great opportunity to meet new people and introduce them to what Messy Church is all about, this year we received an invitation to go elsewhere: to take part in Cornbank School's fun evening on June 16th. Half a dozen of us spent a very pleasant evening, doing crafts and chatting to children and adults about Messy Church, church itself and other topics which arose out of this. These opportunities are very welcome: just one more way of sharing with the community who we are and what we stand for, in an accessible way.



TC News

JULY 2023

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

ACORN Evening - Part 2 *Report by Rev John Urquhart*

Paul Haringman, Acorn's National Director for Scotland, came to Trinity Community Church during the General Assembly to lead us in an Acorn Evening. Acorn is a movement that seeks to connect Christians with the work that God is (already) doing in others through caring conversation. **In June's TC News, I wrote about the first half of Paul's talk; this article is based on the second half of his talk:**

Ask
Call
Obey
Report
Notice

'How are you?'



Sunday 21 May
7.15pm

Acorn Evening
with Paul Haringman
(Church Hall)

I've been reading in Acts 10 about Peter's encounter with Cornelius. I was reminded of how Peter, prompted by the Spirit, finds a non-Jewish household in which God is evidently at work. Peter may have been aware of it in theory, having spent time with Jesus, but discovering the actual thing amazes and humbles him -- and begins to revolutionise his approach. It can do so with us as well.

Jesus says that 'he can do only what he sees his Father doing' (John 5:19). That makes him reach out to a woman at a well (John 4) and that makes him stop under a tree and say to the most unlikely person in Jericho, Zacchaeus (Luke 19), 'let me have lunch at your house'.

Paul introduced various versions of the 'Engel scale': a tool that helps us visualise and understand the journey that people might be on. However,

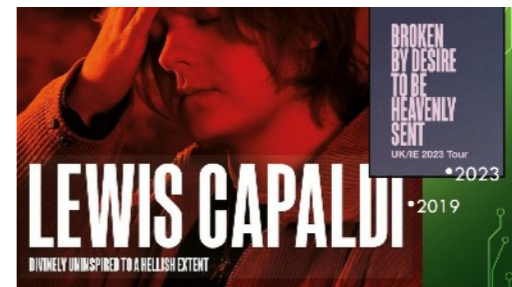
CYNIC SKEPTIC SPECTATOR SEEKER BELIEVER DISCIPLE



Paul introduced us to his dog who came to the family as a rescue dog. He showed before and after photos: a nervous, scared animal and then, a few years down the line, a happy, more confident one. If that change can be observed over time in a

dog, how much more can we see changes in human beings?

He spoke briefly about the singer, Lewis Capaldi, and the biblically derived language he often uses in his songs: how it changed in tone from the title of his 2019 album, 'Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent', to his 2023 album, 'Broken by Desire to be Heavenly Sent'. If only we could talk with him about what is going on inside him.



By allowing people to talk and share their innermost thoughts and feelings, we can find out how God is already active in their lives. And the prompt for that comes from God when we pray, 'Is there someone today you want me to connect with outside the church?' Paul talked about his friend of one and a half years, Brian, and his journey with God. Just asking Brian initially, 'How are you?' was a key moment in finding out how God was already engaging with Brian.



You can hear an extended interview with Brian on the Acorn Faith YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@acornfaith/videos, click on the image above, or just type Acorn Faith YouTube into Google or whatever search engine you use. Do listen to it, it is eye-opening.

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)

Trinity Community Diary

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July 7.15pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
9 July 2.00 - 4.00pm	Summer Gather on the Green: Foster Road
	"Wednesday" Housegroup on summer break
	Friendship Hour on summer break

From the Kirk Session *Report by Neil Cape*

At the last Kirk Session meeting, in June, we dealt with the 'formal' business of the Annual Report (now available on the church website) and spent time on other administrative details. However, this necessary 'stuff' was enlivened by reports from some of our teams on new opportunities for developing congregational life and work over the coming months and years.

The Mission Team, for example, as part of the 'Growing Young' initiative has suggested three approaches which were welcomed by the elders: the first of these, 'Toastie



Tuesdays', is to offer toasties and other refreshments to school students at lunchtime on a Tuesday. This would be a joint venture with other churches, and if you would like to find out more, or have suggestions or offers of help, please speak to Joyce MacLean (677714). The second suggestion was to prepare a proposal for funding for a Youth/Families worker – the deadline is next June, so we have time to come up with a good proposal. The third suggestion was to try to form a praise band to help lead worship on two Sunday mornings a month.



Comfortable seating in church

One idea for moving forwards is now much closer to realisation. We had received verbal agreement from the General Trustees (the body in the Church of Scotland responsible for the use of buildings) for our plan to remove the central section of pews in the church, and replace them with chairs...more comfortable, but there will still be plenty of pews left if you prefer them! We can't move the other pews easily because of the heating pipes. We have now had written approval, so have started to work out a timetable for this to happen – a lot depends on when a builder is available, as we have to level the floor in the area where the chairs will go. This will mean some disruption, and having to worship in the hall, but hopefully only for a few weeks. One suggestion is that you might like to 'sponsor' a chair.

You may wonder who is involved in all these 'Teams' and activities. We will be providing you shortly with a Members' Directory, with the contact details of all the elders and also a note of who is involved with which areas of church life. This is supposed to be a 'working' document, so any suggestions for things that have been missed, or are wrong, would be welcome – send them to me, please. **We will not be putting all this information up on the website because of data security issues** (for example, published phone numbers can be used by spammers) but paper copies will be available in church, and on request. The idea would be to print an updated version each year.



If you're interested in the details of how the

Kirk Session operates, I plan to put a copy of the Minutes of our meetings in a folder at the back of the church, once they have been approved (usually a month after the latest meeting).

Anyone is welcome to attend Kirk Session meetings (but not to speak unless invited to do so)...it would help to know if you were planning to come, to make sure there is space, as we usually meet in the Committee Room of the hall. Also, if there's something in particular that you want to find out about, let me know, because we may be able to take that item of business early on, and then you'd be free to leave if you wished. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, but the dates and times do change, so again it would be a good idea to contact me, in case the date has changed.

Wishing you well for the summer – our next scheduled meeting is in September, but you can contact me or the Minister at any time. Neil Cape (Session Clerk) 674276 or tccsessionclerk@gmail.com

Membership news: we welcome Sandra Knox (from the North Kirk) and wish Alan and Janice Johnston well, having moved to the North Kirk. We note the deaths in June of Jean Parker and Jean Hannah, and send our condolences to their families and friends.

KIRK SESSION
Minutes



Summer Fayre - 24 June *Report by Jim Paterson*

The Trinity Community Summer Fayre displayed a wide selection of goodies for the visitors to browse.

Margaret Black was on the door to encourage you to enter, plus the chance to take part in a quiz. Home baking was first to tempt visitors with Sandra Knox showing a wide range of cakes, scones, loaves of all flavours, begging to be bought and eaten.

The bottle stall with Joyce Hunter helping visitors dip for a winning ticket from their three tickets for a pound was fairly depleted by time I arrived, all the best bottles having been won!



Home knitting for babies and young children was next, all lovingly crated and presented by Jenny Ramage and her daughter.

Marion Mather and Liz Chisholm were on the Bric a Brac stall, displaying many items from children's soft toys, to a magnificent selection of 'novelty' teapots. Someone was an avid collector as you can see.

Joan and Neil Cape were displaying a wide range of books which included thrillers, romance and crime novels, along with a few non fiction items as well.

No Fayre would be complete without a tombola stall with Jean Lennie and Linda Mackay on hand to tempt you to part with three tickets for a pound. Lots of goodies to win, if you were lucky.

After my journey around the stalls it was time to visit the refreshments counter and select some scones, fruit loaf and cake to go with my cup of tea. Helen McCall and Margaret Barry were helping in the kitchen, and serving tables to keep the cups filled with a seemingly endless supply of tea and coffee.



Soon it was time for the raffle to be drawn, which Agnes Ovenstone drew the winning tickets. The prizes started to fly off the table as delighted winners stepped forward. The knitted soft toys were a great prize to give to a young relative or friend.

A great morning was had by all and though it seemed cloudy outside when we started the sun was shining by time we had finished, a sure sign that summer is here.

Agnes Ovenstone announced to the Sunday morning service congregation that the fayre had raised £750, with more to come in!

Well done to all who visited the Fayre, contributed in any way, and supported your church fund raising activities.



Raffle winners

Gather on the Green Summer BBQ: 11 June *Report by Ruth Aird*

The heart of the new housing estate on the edge of Penicuik was beating wildly on Sunday 11 June as families gathered on the green next to the beautiful new play park for a BBQ.

As the smoke from the BBQ curled gently up in a balmy breeze the sun shone on everyone, from the very old to the very young. Veggie met meat sitting side by side on the two BBQ's and there was enough for all who came.

The chat went on all afternoon, as people came and went, meeting neighbours they had not previously seen as well as chatting to those they knew. A large quantity of tea, coffee and juice was consumed with the odd muffin thrown in as well.

There were representatives from all the churches in Penicuik and it was a real joy to see adults sitting learning how to play Big Chess along with children



from the estate, who generally were better than anyone else at playing! Grandparents were there with their grandchildren, some children brought their grandparents, but all were welcome under the banner of Penicuik Churches Together.



Our thanks to Taylor Wimpey for sponsoring the BBQ along with the Churches in Penicuik, and huge thanks to Charis & Jamie who donated all the food for the BBQ.



All photos used with permission Summer Gather on the Green - Sunday 9 July 2-4pm