



There will be a Duck Race at 11 am on 10 June in Montgomery Park in the burn opposite the North Kirk in support of Christian Aid.

Grand prizes are to be won for the holders of the three winning ducks! You are asked to pick up a sponsor form today and next week – sponsor a duck and gather more sponsors from your friends and family.

**Please return your form next Sunday or to the North Kirk café by Wednesday 7 June.** When the completed forms are all returned numbers will be allocated to match the numbers on the ducks.

[Click to download Duck Race Sponsor Form](#)

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

At our meeting in May we finally approved the Annual Accounts for 2022, and the independently examined report has been submitted to Presbytery. Once we've heard back from them we can organise the (delayed) Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) of the congregation – the first for Trinity Community Church! Before that, I will make available copies of the Annual Report so that you can come to the SAM with any questions....I am happy to receive questions beforehand (by phone, mail, email, or just through my door), so if you have a specific question that might need some research on my part, do please let me know.



This is your opportunity for questions and comments. This past year's accounts have been quite complicated, because of the amalgamation of the two 'founding' congregations' funds and assets, and cover the period up to the end of December 2022. Some of the details (in particular, on property sales) had not been received by the year end. My grateful thanks go to the Treasurer and Finance Team for all their hard work.

Money is not everything, of course, and PCT (Penicuik Churches Together) activities at 'Gather on the Green' have been going well. We heard at the Kirk Session of a possible new venture, staffed by people from all the churches, and held in our hall – a **Toddler Group**. It's still in the planning stage, possibly starting after



## Renew26

Join us at the  
Glencorse Centre Thursdays 2-4pm  
Penicuik North Kirk Fridays 10am – 12 noon

Glencorse Centre, Firth Road, Auchendinny  
Penicuik North Kirk, John Street, Penicuik  
For more information contact 07956738481  
or [renewtwentysix@gmail.com](mailto:renewtwentysix@gmail.com)

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

**Holiday Club Signup – Forms in Vestibule and Hall**  
SU Scotland  
It's not too late to sign up.  
Penicuik Mission 1-3 August 2023  
First team meeting  
Friday 9 June 10am  
Trinity Community Church Hall.  
Further details from Sheila Anderson,  
Agnes Haggart or Marion Mather  
[penicuikchurchestogether@gmail.com](mailto:penicuikchurchestogether@gmail.com)

PENICUIK CHURCHES TOGETHER

the summer – if you'd be interested in helping, please speak to Mary Darling, Joan Cape or Elaine Jacobs.

You'll also have noticed the newly painted doors on the church and hall – and the work which has started on the 'Hearse House' in the graveyard. The whole graveyard is owned by Midlothian Council, so it falls to them to keep it in good repair. I understand that the plan is to use the refurbished building as an information centre for the town.



Work is continuing on a reorganisation of how we keep in touch with people in the congregation, and provide appropriate support. In the meantime, if you need to talk to someone you can phone the Minister (382116) or Margaret Webster (672347), or me (674276).

Finally, Gordon MacDonald was re-appointed as our representative elder on Presbytery for the coming year, and he, Joyce MacLean and the Minister attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at the end of May....there may be more to report in due course.

So, look out for the notice advertising the date of the Stated Annual Meeting, and how the Annual Report will be publicised.

Neil Cape, (joint) Session Clerk, [tccsessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:tccsessionclerk@gmail.com).

### Trinity Community Diary

4, 11, 18, 25 June 7.15pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
5 & 19 June 2.30pm	"Wednesday" Housegroup - Church Hall (Committee room).
7, 14, 21, 28 June 10.00am	Alpha - Church Hall (Committee room).
7 June 2.00PM	Friendship Hour - Church Hall. (For help with transport call Margaret 672347)
5, 12, 19, 26 June 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Capes 674276
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 June 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat (Warm Spaces) - Church Hall (29th last event then summer break)
10 June 11.00am	Christian Aid Grand Duck Race - Montgomery Park opposite the North Kirk
11 June 2.00 - 4.00pm	Gather on the Green BBQ : Foster Road
24 June 10.00am - 12 noon	Summer Fayre - Church Hall. Many stalls, plus refreshments.
25 June 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall



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)

## Penicuik Churches Together 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday *Report by Jim Paterson*

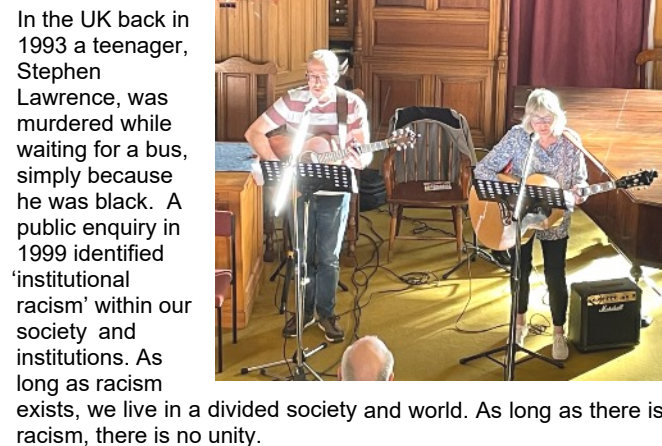
Trinity Community Church hosted the 'Pentecost' service, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday evening 28 May. The 2023 theme is 'Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice'. It also was a celebration of Penicuik Churches Together reaching its 50th birthday.



The church was filled with members of all the churches in Penicuik for the event, Penicuik North Kirk (PNK), St. James the Less (SJL) and Sacred Heart (SH).

Fiona Charleson welcomed us all and introduced the event, while standing beside a birthday cake baked specially for the occasion.

The Penicuik Council of Churches, as it was known was formed on 3rd June 1975. Fiona explained the service theme Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice' which is based on material provided by churches together in Britain and Ireland, who in turn was guided with resources from America, used in the churches in Minnesota. The murder of George Floyd provided the focus for their prayers for unity and justice. They have reflected on how we pray for Christian unity, when Christians may be part of racist and unjust structures.



In the UK back in 1993 a teenager, Stephen Lawrence, was murdered while waiting for a bus, simply because he was black. A public enquiry in 1999 identified 'institutional racism' within our society and institutions. As long as racism exists, we live in a divided society and world. As long as there is racism, there is no unity.

Cathie Ramsay led us in the Gathering. Musicians Andrew Dunsire and Caroline Toms led our praises, opening with Bless the Lord O my Soul. Marion Mather led our Invitation to Confession and Forgiveness, leading to prayers. Bible readings from Micah, Psalm and Luke followed, with Everyone Needs Compassion being our next song.

Sheila Anderson introduced Stones and Stories, using videos about racism in the church. Each member had been given a stone to hold during the service, the purpose would be apparent later.



John McCulloch then talked about the formation of Penicuik Churches Together from its early days, with Fiona Charleson talking of the present activities and events.

Sheila Anderson then talked about 'what has the stone in our hand come to represent', which covered many different responses. Sheila then asked the congregation to bring their stones forward, while we played 'Touching Place' quietly in the background Listen here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQCqNPZQASM>).



Fiona returned to lead the concluding prayer, followed by 'Lord Reign in me' by Caroline and Andrew.

The Sending: A Franciscan Benediction was led by church leaders; Graham Astles (PNK), Nick Bowry (SJL), Tom McEvoy (SH), and John Urquhart (PTC).

We then enjoyed the cutting of the birthday cake, which we all enjoyed with tea and coffee at the back of the church.



You can hear this service at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iESDeWjhs\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iESDeWjhs_I)

### 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)



## Guild Afternoon Tea: 13 May *Report by Agnes Ovenstone*

What a great day we had on Saturday 13th May at our afternoon tea. There were around eighty people attended and it sounded like we were at a football match as people laughed and joked with each other.



We were asked if this could be an annual event. It was a delight to hear people say it was one of the best they had ever been to and just to finish everything off one lady from Edinburgh who came with her friend said to me that she had thoroughly enjoyed herself and what a happy friendly church Trinity Community is.



The success of the afternoon is due to the guild members who baked, made sandwiches, served tables and set up everything. Thanks to them all.



The Guild Team

## ACORN Evening - 21 May *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.

It was part of an Acorn Season in sessions on the fringe of the Assembly and in churches around Edinburgh.

Acorn is a movement that seeks to connect Christians with the work that God is (already) doing in others through caring conversation.

Paul started with a verse from Psalm 32, which was a watchword for the evening: 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.' Do we really believe this? For if we do, God promises, not only to be with us in life, but to direct us and teach us in love. From taking very small steps in obedience to God, we will be amazed at becoming part what God is doing in people's lives.

Paul invited us to share Acorn stories around each table in the hall, and then asked us to reflect on a passage from the Gospel as told by Matthew (28: 16-21), which has come to be known over the last century or so as 'The Great Commission'. We have tended to stress the words 'go' (and sometimes we have thought of this command, only in terms of going overseas), or we have perhaps put the stress on 'go and make disciples' to the exclusion of the whole feel and tenor of the passage, which might show us how to go about it.



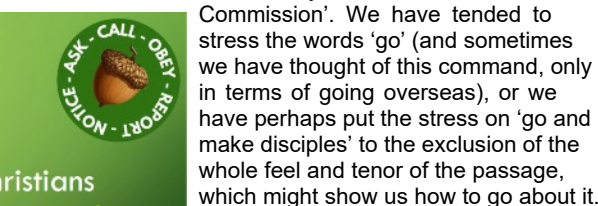
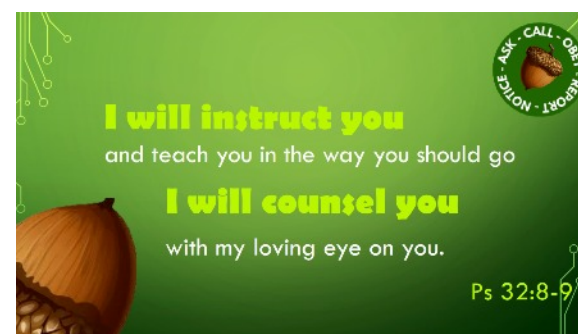
who practised an awareness of God's presence as he went about his daily duties as a lay brother in his monastery.

The disciples had gone where Jesus 'had told them to go'. They weren't all full of faith: some were hesitant and doubted, but Jesus still spoke to everyone in this mixed group, with the doubters included. The main stress was not on them but on him: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' Then Jesus says: 'Therefore, go and make disciples...' It all depends on his presence and authority being with us, and that thought can give us great comfort and strength, as it enables us to concentrate, not on ourselves, but on Jesus.

After the sometimes-daunting list of things that we as a church together are to do, comes the reminder of the presence of Jesus which empowers us in what we are called to do, because it's all with his promised help: 'And surely [in other words, certainly] I am with you always...' We find as we obey God's call that 'God was there before we ever got there'.

Paul quoted from Tommy MacNeil's book, *Sleeping Giant*: a call to the Church to awake and arise! 'Mission must shift from being an activity the church engages in (or not!) to being the core of who we are as God's people.' (Tommy is minister at Martin's Memorial Church in Stornoway and has been appointed Convener of the newly formed Faith Action Programme Leadership Team of the Church of Scotland. Please pray for him, as this is a key role at a crucial time for the Church of Scotland.)

Paul introduced some examples of God at work in people's lives, highlighting how they moved from a largely cynical and sceptical view of Christianity to 'further up the Engel scale'. I'll explain more of Paul's introduction to the Engel Scale in part 2 of this article in next month's issue.



Paul introduced another way of seeing these important words: 'The Great Confirmation by the Great Comforter'. The emphasis was on practising the presence of God, borrowing the title of the spiritual classic, which follows the life and witness of Brother Lawrence,



## Gather on the Green: May 14th



Gather on the Green on 14th May was a little quieter than normal as the weather maybe wasn't the best but we still welcomed quite a few children for drinks and nice chats.

We want to express huge thanks to Charis Lee and Jamie Tidder from City on a Hill Church for very generously refunding the cost of our PCT flag, so kind and thoughtful of them and they were delighted that they could see it out of their window from their home in Foster Road!

Next gathering will be our Barbeque



Sunday 11 June, 2-4 pm.

Trinity Community Church

# Summer Fayre

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

10am – 12 noon

In the Church Hall

Kirkhill Road

Many Stalls

## Christian Aid Lunch

It started so quietly. I knew we had lots of help coming but David and I went down early to get things going all the same. David was putting out tables and I was quietly cutting cheese cubes in the kitchen.

Then suddenly! An explosion of activity arrived ! Lots of voices, aprons being put on, things being unloaded - pots of soup bread, baking, milk biscuits - cheery chatter - kettles being boiled, urns being filled. It was amazing - all the help - all the teamwork - all the happiness.

All that willingness to help.

I can't name all the helpers for fear of missing someone out - but thank you so much to each and every one ! The lunch was a huge success- not only financially ( £750 to date ) but also in terms of fun, laughter and teamwork.

Thanks a million. Janis and David

