

Penicuik Forest Church - Fallow in 2024

From Peter Wood

Forest church began in Penicuik in January 2021 and has continued to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month since then.

From January 2024 Penicuik Forest Church will lie fallow for a season.

During the three years we have got to know each other, the woodlands around Penicuik and ways that God is revealed through nature to us.

We have walked, prayed, noticed nature, litter picked, sat around the fire, made music, built community, grown in faith...

We have also made mistakes, learned from them, joined in with folk from other places interested in Forest Church, reflected on our experiences, shared on social media.

The group preparing our times together has at various times included Peter, Fiona, Isobel, Margaret, Liz, Nick, Pete, Ben and others.

Many thanks to each person who has given their time and creativity and each creature who has blessed our gatherings. And to the many

people who have joined in and been open to trying new things. We have grown and learned and been changed by the experience. Many thanks as well to the church institutions who have supported and encouraged us.

When a field lies fallow the soil recovers and good things are happening beneath the surface to bring life and energy in the future. This is our prayer for Forest Church. We will keep the facebook page going to share things of interest, and because it has been a point of contact for people seeking a forest church. In the meantime forest church.

church things may also happen in other places where we live or work, let's see what emerges...

A Forest Church Blessing:

We have met with you Lord God, And give you thanks. Now as we take our separate paths May your goodness direct our feet And fill our hearts.

amen



Celebrate the greatest event in history!



An event that has become an Easter tradition in Scotland, **RESURRECTION** brings together Christians from all over the central belt to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in an evening of music and worship on Easter Sunday.

Led by the **Origin Scotland** band, choir and orchestra, and held annually in one of the world's great concert halls, home to the Edinburgh Festival - the Usher Hall.

An event that unites the Church around the great central truth of the Gospel, it declares to the world: Christ is risen.

Free tickets (suggested donation on booking) now available.

<https://www.originministry.org/bookings/booking.php?event=3000>



Trinity Community Diary

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
4 March 2.00pm	Guild:- Commodity Afternoon - Church Hall
4, 11, 18, 25 March 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Church Hall
4, 11, 18, 25 March 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
6 March 10.45am	Friendship Hour - Church Hall (committee room)
13, 20, 27 March 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Church Hall (committee room)
14, 21, 28 March 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
18 March 2.00pm	Guild:- Surprise Afternoon - Church Hall
24 March 11.00am	Palm Sunday - Service in the Church Hall
29 March 7.30pm	Good Friday - Service in the Church Hall
31 March 3.30pm to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
1 April 2.00pm	Guild:- AGM - 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)






TC News

MARCH 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

Easter at Penicuik Churches Together - March 24 - 31

Date	Time	Place	Service
Palm Sunday 24 th March 	10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.30am 3.30pm - 5.30pm	St James the Less Trinity Community Church Penicuik North Kirk Sacred Heart Trinity Community Church Hall	Palm Sunday service with Holy Communion Palm Sunday service with Holy Communion Palm Sunday service led by Young Kirk Palm Sunday Mass Easter Messy Church
Monday 25 th March	7.30pm	North Kirk	Joint evening service (PCT)
Tuesday 26 th March	7.30pm	Trinity Community Church	Joint evening service (PCT)
Wednesday 27 th March	7.30pm	Sacred Heart	Joint evening service (PCT)
Maundy Thursday 28 th March	7.30pm	St James the Less	Holy Communion with foot washing And Vigil of the Watch (PCT)
Good Friday 29 th March 	10am onwards 12pm onwards 3.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Penicuik Town Centre St James the Less Sacred Heart North Kirk Trinity Community Church	PCT Hot cross buns giveaway and Easter Trail round the churches 12pm: Koder's Stations of the cross; 1pm: Emotions of Jesus 2pm: Good Friday Communion service The Passion of our Lord Evening service Evening service
Easter Day 31 st March 	6.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Start from St. Mungo's graveyard, walking up to Broomhill for 6.45am sunrise St. James the Less North Kirk Trinity Community Church Sacred Heart	Sunrise service at Broomhill followed by breakfast at St James the Less (PCT) Family Communion Easter Communion Morning Worship Holy Mass



Evening of worship and prayer,
MONDAY 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm
King's Church, 104 Gilmore Pl, Edinburgh, EH3 9PL

Holiday Club 2024
The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show
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

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



Midlothian Pantry & Well-Being Hub

Back in August 23 we ran an article reporting how Food Facts Friends had transformed from being a 'foodbank' into a Pantry and how that was making a difference to those in need in our community.

Under the leadership of Mark Wells the team have progressed into a **'Well-Being' Hub**, offering direct access to other local agencies that can support those in need.

Food Facts Friends now works with care professionals, including Children 1st, Women's Aid, Health in Mind, NHS GP's as part of the Living Well programme, Citizens Advice Bureau, Homeless Accommodations, and Midlothian Council.



This 'All under one roof' service has proven so popular that the team are further extending to another new venture **'Pre Loved Furniture'**

This collaborative venture Penicuik Community Initiative (PCI) will be opening in the precinct outlet previously occupied by the Factory Shop.



Here FFF will offer furniture, microwave ovens, computers, iPads, phones, washing machines, and tumble dryers. The PCI will be offering clothes, adult and children, Televisions and other items.

So together the combined FFF and PCI team will be able to help families in distress setup a welcoming and working home.



FFF launch new Pantry and Pre-Loved Furniture Project 23 February - Report Jim Paterson

On Friday 23rd February Food Facts Friends was joined by representatives from The Scottish Pantry, all the well-being agencies, together with volunteers from FFF and Beeslack, where senior students regularly volunteer to help members in their own community who are looking for help and friendship.



Dot Fraser Mark Wells Owen Thompson (MP)

Our very own town Crier 'Mose' led the proceedings, introducing Trustee board chair person Dorothy 'Dot' Fraser who told us of the early days of Food Facts Friends in 2016. We heard of the support provided by the then St. Mungo's church providing the church hall as a base for the now charity to operate. Securing the empty RBS branch building in 2020 was a major step forward and the enabler to what we see today.

Mark then spoke outlining plans working with The Scottish Pantry Network to expand the reach and facilities offered to communities.

Owen Thompson, MP for Midlothian, and long time supporter of Food Facts Friends acknowledged the driving force of Mark Wells and the countless dedicated volunteers who have grown the Well-Being Hub from the



early foodbank days. With the supporting agencies the Pantry has seen the community support coming together through the pandemic, and continuing to expand into ever more services.



Organisations and volunteers

Finally Mark Wells gave us his story, from his childhood days in care, and troubled youth, arriving in Edinburgh from Inverness, moving to his arrival in Penicuik. The service continues to grow, and proposals to extend the Well-Being Hub into the Scottish Borders was mentioned, Mark looking at opening a new centre in Galashiels, based on the model operating here in Penicuik.

I am sure we will hear more of the good work Mark and his team are working on, and will report on the future of community support for those in need in our communities.

Messy Church - Sunday 25th February Report Joan Cape

This month we were thinking about the time when, right after his baptism by John the Baptist, Jesus found himself in the wilderness, hungry after fasting for 40 days, being tempted by the devil. Our activities were mostly focused on how we deal with temptation, and what tools we can use to help us make good decisions or choices.



We made chocolate truffles, as we thought of the devil trying to persuade Jesus to turn stones into bread (they do look quite like stones, or pebbles). And for fun we had a race, moving stones from one bucket to another and replacing them with pieces of bread!

Jenga towers were a vehicle for talking about the temptation to jump from a high place – we also made parachutes which carried our paper cups and pipe cleaner people safely (mostly!) to the ground.

Shifting jelly tots from one bowl to another with chopsticks, resisting the temptation to use our fingers...with the promised of a reward of eating the sweets moved in the allotted time in this way kept most of us on the straight and narrow! And using a stone as a tool to paint a picture proved a challenge: most resorted to using a brush, or even fingers.



In our celebration time we had a closer look at the story as found in Matthew 4, 1-11. On first reading, it is a strange sort of story: Jesus is the son of God – we know this – so we know that he can do anything.

But the story is about more than this. It shows us that Jesus really did have to deal with the same things as we do – he knew what it was to be tempted to make wrong decisions. It shows us how we can protect ourselves: Jesus used words from the Bible in his argument with the devil – if we really know what the Bible teaches, this will help us too when we are tempted to make wrong decisions.

And it shows us that God's timing is all-important: Jesus would have his opportunities to show his divine power, but this was neither the right time nor the way to do it. So it is with us – sometimes we need to be patient, and wait for God to give us permission. And then he may surprise us, and bless us richly!



Youth Alpha follow-up group Ann & Andrew Dunsire

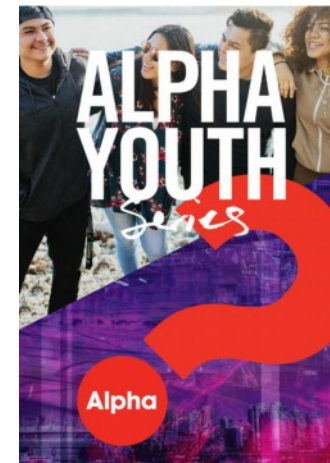
'Our Tuesday youth group continues to meet in our home and it was lovely to be back together again after the February break and hear all the young peoples' news about what they'd been doing in their holiday. We continue to follow The Prayer Course and the latest session was on Contemplation, which generated good discussion as we chatted through how best we take time out to be silent with God, whether through focused time alone with Him, while out walking or during worship. You might be interested to have a look at this link to see what part of our discussion was based around this time -

https://downloads.24-7prayer.com/prayer_course/2019/resources/pdfs/17%20Silent%20Prayer.pdf

We have another couple of sessions to go, on 'Listening', then 'Spiritual Warfare', then will have a more social event the week after that.

We've also been invited to UNITE, an event for young people from all over Lothian which will be run by Midlothian youth leaders and held at St John's & Kings Park Church, Dalkeith on the evening of Sunday 17th March, so will be great to take our group along so that they can meet other young folks from different churches. We'll also invite those attending the SU groups at the High School and Beeslack too, so that they can experience something bigger.

Andrew and I would value your prayers for our Tuesday group, as we continue for the next three weeks, then for the young people as they go into a heavy exam season after Easter, so lots of studying ahead.



Guild: Riding for the Disabled - 5 February Report by Jenny Ramage

Fiona Leslie, was joined with volunteer Rebecca from the Riding for the Disabled Association to present to the Guild



what the charity does and how it operates.

Thornton Rose provides riding opportunities for people of all ages and disabilities to enjoy a safe, stimulating, therapeutic and recreational sport. The group was established as Thornton Rose in 2004 when we relocated to Thornton Farm, Rosewell. They are a member of the Riding for the Disabled Association, where their vision is to improve the lives of people with disabilities through activities connected with horses.



Fiona began her talk telling us that she has been volunteering at Thornton Rose RDA centre situated at Rosewell for 20 years where volunteers of all ages from 12 up to 75 are involved in several different roles from helping to look after the horses to fund raising.

Their clients are both children and adults and can have a wide range of disabilities both physical and mental including a group with autism. People learn about RDA through adverts at GP's surgeries, social media and can also be referred through social work. Payment is made from families, schools, social work or grants. Client's needs are assessed to match them with a suitable horse. The horses are aged from 14 – 26 and always seem to behave so well when being ridden.

The interaction with the horses seems to be very therapeutic and relaxing offering both physical benefits using different muscles when riding and mentally calming while also increasing confidence.

<http://www.thornton-rose-rda.org.uk/>

Keeping Fit with Ageing Well - 19 February Report by Jenny Ramage

David West from Midlothian's Active Choices programme Ageing Well who hold a weekly keep fit class every Monday at 9.30 in Trinity Church Hall. The service agrees goals and action plans to help people become more active, initially with a one-to-one consultation. Activity can accompany usual treatments such as medication, or replace them, providing more holistic treatment of mental health problems, to help maintain and improve strength and balance.

To demonstrate, David led members of the Guild began with seated exercises and progressed to standing exercises, getting up from the chair was part of this! Initially he led the audience through every exercise before a second longer session exercising all parts of the body. Ina McLachlan did the Vote of thanks and David had handouts detailing the exercises so the Guild members could practice at home!



See more at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070940736530>