

Friendship Group Restarts - Wednesday 6 April



'What a friend we have in Jesus'-encouraging faith through friendship with Jesus and each other.

Includes a short period of worship as well as coffee/chat: all welcome.

Wednesday 6 April at 10.45 am in the church hall

For help with transport contact Margaret Webster 672347

Easter Stone Painting Workshop - 8 April



Friday 8 April
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Church Hall

The painted stones will be used to brighten the paths in and around EH26 and to spread Easter hope.

Donations of washed stones, paintbrushes, acrylic pens and paints would be greatly appreciated. **Contact Joan 674276.**

Ukrainian Refugee Appeal support - Janis Hogg



Many many thanks from **Christian Aid** to everyone who showed such wonderful generosity to the appeal for the people of Ukraine.

A total of **£820** was sent off - and this does not include the many donations made online by members of our congregation too.

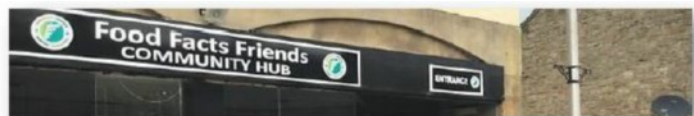


On top of that Christian Aid will be able to claim back around **£144** from gift aided donations. **TOTAL £964**

Nothing we can do ever seems enough in circumstances that are so awful for the Ukrainian people but in our small way we must have helped a bit - so thank you all once again.

Mungo's Diary - see centre page for Easter calendar

3 April 11.00am	Sunday KIP Joint CofS service - Penicuik North Kirk.
4 and 18 April 2.00 pm	Guild: Church Hall
4, 11, 18, 25 April 7.30 pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom
6 April 10.45 am	Friendship Group - Church Hall
7, 14, 21, 31 April 10 am	Coffee & Chat morning - Church Hall to 12 noon
8 April 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Easter Stone Paining Workshop - Church Hall.
10 April 11.00 am	Penicuik Trinity Community church Sunday Service
13 and 27 April 10.15 am	Wednesday Housegroup / Bible Study - Church Hall
16 April 11.00am to 1.00 pm	Easter Extravaganza - FFF Community Hub.
24 April 3.00 pm	Forest Church - See Facebook for full details.



Easter Extravaganza at Food Facts Friends Saturday 16 April 11am to 1pm

- Puppets with the Puppet lady
- Crafts for children
- Tea/coffee with Easter treats
- We will also give out straw crosses and eggs in the precinct.



Community Hub. 42 John Street, Penicuik, EH26 8AB

Alpha returns to Penicuik - 11 May

There haven't been any Alpha courses in Penicuik since before the start of the covid pandemic, but that is about to change. Starting on 11 May and running until 29 June, an eight-week series will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday mornings (10am -12.30pm).



What is Alpha? It's a practical exploration of the Christian faith. It's informal and friendly, and appeals just as much to people who have been around in the church for years as it does to new Christians, to people on the fringes of the church, or to folk who would describe themselves as agnostics or even atheists.

If you'd like to come along, you'll be very welcome. If you want to know bit more about Alpha before deciding, you'll find lots of info on the Alpha UK website: www.alpha.org.uk - or contact Bill or Margaret Webster (01968 672347; billandmags@talktalk.net).

FFF eggs for Easter

Food Facts Friends are looking for Easter Egg donations to add as a treat to the family foodbank parcels. Could you make some children happy with the message of easter with an Easter Egg? Hand in anytime at the Community Hub 42 John Street Penicuik EH26 8AB.



Our new website <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church> will launch on 7 April. You will then be able to sign up at the new website to an "e" version of this newsletter, which will be delivered to your email each month, saving paper and other resources.

Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC



Welcome to this final issue of your Mungo Messenger.

As we move into the future as Penicuik Trinity Community church your newsletter will take a new title, retaining the features and news of activities that you have come to expect in this publication.

Our website will also be changing, again to reflect the new congregation, see address above.

A link to the previous St. Mungo's website will still be available so you can read and watch our rich past of services, activities, stories and videos.

Mungo's Facebook will also move to the new name, as we enhance our social media coverage.

This issue has the full Easter calendar of services and events happening in April, as well as news from our March events.

Much to look forward to, as we continue our journey with Christ together, three churches, South, Howgate and St. Mungo's under a new banner.

I hope you enjoy your latest newsletter.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
stmungos@freeuk.com

New Era for Church in Penicuik - Jim Paterson



The new Penicuik Trinity Community Church will be opened on Thursday 7 April, with the Reverend John Urquhart leading the united congregation of Penicuik South and Howgate together with St. Mungo's who have joined to form this new church

John continued "The new congregation will use the old St Mungo's building as the meeting place of the new church. The Howgate Church and Hall and the South Kirk Hall and Manse have been sold, and the South Kirk building is being put on the market. "We have hopes of it being sold."

John reported "It's part of a strategy which goes right across Scotland in which the Church of Scotland is activating a radical action plan, to cut back the decline in the number of ministers and to give congregations a renewed sense of mission to the local community.

The Name - Trinity part is both a reference to the Holy Trinity and also to the fact that the union is comprised of three churches coming together. The Community part came from the desire to be a community church that reaches out to, and has the community at its heart.

Explaining the congregation's new name "Trinity Community", John said "the Trinity part is both a reference to the Holy Trinity and also to the fact that the union is comprised of three churches coming together, so we thought Trinity was an appropriate name.

The Community bit of it came from the desire to be a community church that reaches out to the community and has the community at its heart.

We want to grow into a church for all generations, not only caring for our members, but learning to show God's love to people in our community and sharing our personal stories of faith".

The joint congregations have already begun worshipping together as much as Covid has allowed. We have already grown together more organically than in many unions. There is a lot of work to do but we have the people and the enthusiasm under God to do it."

As reported in our last issue, the union was voted for unanimously by both congregations on February 13. Both congregations are working together. Joint prayer meetings have been held to work out our strategy together.

Sunday 10 April, Palm Sunday, the start of Easter Week, will be the inaugural Sunday service for the new church.

Much good will in both congregations is helping to make this work, with many people coming forward to do things. There is a positive attitude towards mission and making the church appeal to all generations.

We hope you can join us as we start out on this new exciting journey with Christ into the future, here in Penicuik.



Messy Church Is BACK - Sunday 6 March Report by Joan Cape



After a long gap during the pandemic, it was good to get back to Messy Church on Sunday March 6th. Yes, we did lots of Messy church bags to homes, followed up by you tube videos – but it's not the same as meeting together. Our pre Christmas event did take place, but then restrictions tightened up again and we have had to be patient, waiting for a point when we could get something going again.

Most of the team we've had for a while were keen to come back – though some have taken this as an opportunity to "retire", freeing up time for other things: we

thank them for all they did in the past. We have decided to do things a little differently for the four months till the summer holidays. We have cut things shorter (**3.30pm till 5pm**) and are not presently serving a hot dinner; instead we are having a snack together (easier to manage within the existing restrictions).

For our first session we looked at God's creation: God's Messy World.

After DESIGNING A BRICK to help build our Messy Church on the notice board (showing sort of person we are and what we like doing), the families had a number of activities to choose to do.



Making a **JIGSAW USING LOLLY STICKS**, showing something from God's creation, proved popular, as did making **PIPE CLEANER CREATURES**: there's a wonderful example on our board in the church hall, showing a good deal of imagination!

PRAYER LIGHT TUBES were also very practical reminders of God separating light from dark, while our **MOON AND STARS PICTURES** were a real messy activity: have you ever used some crumpled tin foil as a painting tool? or the blunt end of a pencil? Our guests (as well as helpers!) had great fun with this one.



MAKING A MOSAIC BUTTERFLY to hang in the window was a good opportunity to do something quiet: sticking little tissue paper pieces onto a plastic sheet takes a lot of concentration...but the results were very worthwhile.



As for the **MAGNETIC FISHING GAME**, that kept at least one of our younger participants occupied for most of the afternoon, as well as providing a good opportunity to talk about God making the sea and everything in it. And in amongst all this there was our **BUG HUNT** – searching for a dozen or so horrible plastic bugs in the garden provided an

opportunity to be out in the sunshine, as well as a lot of fun.

As a snack, everyone received a couple of pancakes and some jam, and was asked to try to transform them into something we had been talking about – that produced some interesting results: a world carefully drawn in jam, a fish, an elephant (made from bits of pancake) and some faces.

After that it was time for some exercise, as we used our bodies in an exercise dance, before sitting down and listening to the story of creation. We finished up with some noisy thank you prayers, and then it was time to go home.

Three families, five children, came along – it was great to have them there talking about who God is and what he has done. We pray that as word gets around, some regulars will return and more new families will come to see what we do.



Do you have any families near you who might be interested? Why not invite them along? You could come with them, by way of encouragement. Everyone is more than welcome.

Next sessions: April 3rd, with an Easter theme, and May 8th. Make sure to put them in the diary!

Easter Services - Penicuik Churches Together

The Penicuik Churches together (PCT) group have designed a programme celebrating Easter, a most important festival in the Christian calendar. <https://www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk/Easter2022.html>

The programme below, which has options that should allow everyone to participate in some way with the celebrations. Full information available on each church website, links at foot of this page

Event	Time	Hosted by
 Palm Sunday, 10th April	11:00 AM	Trinity Community Church
Monday 11th April	7:30 pm	Trinity Community Church <i>Joint evening service (PCT)</i>
Tuesday 12th April	7:30 pm	North Kirk <i>Joint evening service (PCT)</i>
Wednesday 13th April	7:30 pm	Sacred Heart <i>Joint evening service (PCT)</i>
 Maundy Thursday 14th April	7:30 pm	St James the Less Holy Communion with foot washing. <i>Joint evening service (PCT)</i>
 Good Friday - 15th April	2.00 pm 7:30 pm 7.30 pm	St James the Less "The Last Hour on the Cross" Trinity Community Church North Kirk
 Good Friday - 15th April "pop-up hot cross buns"	late morning	At various points in the town.
 Easter Sunday 16th April	5.30 am 11.00 am	Sunrise service (PCT) at Broomhill Starts at St Mungo's churchyard with short act of worship then walk to Broomhill. Followed by breakfast at St James the Less Trinity Community Church

Penicuik Trinity Community Church <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church>

Penicuik North Kirk <https://www.penicuiknorthkirk.org/>

Sacred Heart https://shsmparish.co.uk/Sacred_Heart_Church

Penicuik St. James the Less <https://stjamesthellesspenicuik.org/>

Pastoral Care The Pastoral visiting team can be called on at any time (672347)

Acorn, the simplest way of following God in mission

The lady seemed overly surprised and beyond happy that someone had come to her door. Our friend had arrived, with flowers. The lady said "Thank you so much for remembering me, on my birthday", and shared that no one else had come to see her.

Our friend had no idea it was her birthday. But God did. When our friend had asked God earlier that day, whom He wanted her to be in touch with, it is no surprise that He pointed this lady out. What a day they both had! There was no coincidence here; our friend is trying a practice called **Acorn**.

Acorn is a movement that seeks to connect Christians with the work God is doing in others through caring conversation. Acorn does this through missional discipleship, by involving some Christian friends and sending them out to try the acronym **A-C-O-R-N**;

Ask – 'Lord, is there anyone beyond the church You want me to connect with today?'
When God **Calls** and reveals a person for us to get alongside, we simply **Obey** and follow through by contacting them in any way appropriate. We then just ask the person "How are you?" God is already there, with the other. Our job is to find out what God is doing and join God in that conversation. God then reveals deeper hurts, desires and opening for the Gospel. Christians then frequently gather to disciple and encourage each other by; **Reporting** what God has been doing in and through them, and by **Noticing** together what God is up to and doing in the other person. Christians are then encouraged to mentor other Christian friends in this way of life.

More information available on the Church of Scotland ascend website <https://ascend.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Vine Trust visits Guild - 7 March. Report by Agnes Ovenstone



Our speaker on Monday 7 March was Robert Alexander from one of the Guild projects – The Vine Trust an international charity working in Peru and Tanzania.

They began as a charity shop in the 80's in Bo'ness and then developed into providing a medical ship on the Amazon in Peru providing health care to the local people. This was followed later with a medical ship in Tanzania as well all staffed by volunteers.



Robert told us about the latest initiative in Tanzania called Kazunzu, The Village of Hope, where they are building homes to house children who have been orphaned through HIV. The first eight homes are complete where foster parents provide homes for several children in a family unit. Robert showed us some videos of the work that is being done there, and talked about how the village will develop, providing a school, medical centre, education and training together with a community hub so that the people can become self-sufficient, growing crops, selling fish from a fish farm and also developing a transport business.

We support this charity throughout the year but the guild members wished to have an additional collection on the night and **£82.50** was given to Robert who thanked us and assured us it would be put to good use. It was good to see the happy smiling faces of the children in the videos we were shown. Such a stark contrast from the films we see from Ukraine at this time. It was a very interesting afternoon.

COMING SOON!

St Mungo's Guild are planning an **AFTERNOON TEA on Saturday 14th May**. This had to be cancelled at the very last minute just before lockdown two years ago so hopefully everything goes ahead smoothly now. **Please put the date in your diary**. Full details in next months issue.

