

Anyone between the ages of 11-17 interested in attending is most welcome to come along. We are currently following Youth for Christ material. The group is very informal and always includes food/drinks and time for people to chat and get to know each other better. **[Note - NO meeting 17 Feb. School Hols]** Contact Ann or Andrew Dunsire for further details (07974 605590 / 07580 593504).

World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



St. James the Less - 6 March 7.30pm

World Day of Prayer Is an ecumenical movement led by Christian Women, who encourage you to join them in Prayer and Action for peace and justice.

Nigeria, an African country on the Gulf of Guinea, has many natural landmarks and wildlife reserves.

Trinity Community Diary

1, 8, 15, 22 February 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
2 February 2.00pm	Guild - Project Bear Necessities, Build My Church Bulgaria; Cathy Reece/ Christina Ross
2, 9, 16, 23 February 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
2, 9, 16, 23 February 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
2, 9, 16, 23 February 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
2, 9, 16, 23 February 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird rutheaird@outlook.com
3, 10, 17, 24 February 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
3, 10, 17, 24 February 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
3, 10, 24 February 7.00pm to 9.00pm	Tuesday Youth Bible Group. Details Ann or Andrew Dunsire 07974 605590, 07580 593504
4 February 10.45am	Friendship Hour in the Church Hall (Meeting Room)
5, 12, 19, 26 Feb 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
11, 18, 25 January 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - (Meeting Room)
7, 14, 21, 28 February 10.30am	Penicuik Alpha: Unpack the Christian faith together. - North Church. Details Rev John Urquhart
16 February 2.00pm	Guild - Butterfly Trust – Cystic Fibrosis. Presented by Anne Shanks
27 February 7.30pm	Holiday Club Team Meeting; 'A Tale of Two King 4 - 7 August' TCC Hall. You are warmly invited to come and discover what a Holiday Club is all about. For more information contact Agnes on 07790 766417.
2 March 2.00pm	Guild - Dalkeith Palace. Presented by Charlotte Rostek
6 March 7.30pm	World Day of Prayer - St. James the Less Penicuik Churches Together

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)



Bible Teaching Day for Women

Saturday 18 April 2026
10.00am - 5.00pm
Grange Manor Hotel
Glensburgh, Grangemouth FK3 8XJ
£40.00 day rate plus £22.00 for dinner

Speakers: Rhona Black, Helensburgh
Wendy Bathgate & Daisy Belton, SU Scotland
For more information please contact
riseupscotland@yahoo.com
or call 01324 410046 (answer machine)

Click link to download your registration form from our website at :-
<https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church/gallery/2026%20Registration%20Form.pdf>

Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter February 2026



<https://www.heartofthematter.biz/>

Date	Guest	
1 Feb	LeAnne Martin	Atlanta; CS Lewis Institute
8 Feb	LeAnne Martin Part 2	Atlanta; CS Lewis Institute
15 Feb	GOLD 52	A Special from the Archives Isobel Monaghan
22 Feb	Gordon Haxton	Hamilton

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.
All above on FM and online



FEBRUARY 2026



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

Church mouse

From the mouse of
Editor's PC



The restart and new activities for the new year are now in full flow. This issue covers a full diary of events now and coming soon.



If you wonder how your £1000 donation plus £250 purchase of crafts following Callum & Izzy Henderson visit to us last October has been used to assist the people of Rwanda then see their annual report of progress.

Click on the above image to read, or download from our website www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church



Food Facts
Friends are celebrating their 10th anniversary on Saturday 21 February in the Community Hub, 42 John Street. Our church is a supporter of this organisation so pop in to see them if you're able.

Enjoy your read of the news of past events and what's coming soon.

Remember our Sunday services are recorded and available to watch anytime, full programme list on our website and Facebook channels.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Improvements at Trinity Community Church

Report by Jim Paterson

In past issues we have reported on repairs and refurbishment to your church, including removal of pews for comfortable individual cushioned seating, repairs to the sanctuary heating system, to replace all the leaking and rusting pipework.



Just before Christmas our friendly contractor John Findlay and his crew rebuilt the rear window frames, both upstairs and down, which had suffered severe wet rot, letting more rain in than they kept out. Being a listed building we are unable to fit UPVC frames so wooden sash windows have to be repaired. The sills were all replaced, and the frames repaired, with immense skill required to remove the expensive glass panes to work on the wooden frames. The front stained glass windows are metal framed and they too were in a sorry state. Removing these windows is not an option taken lightly, and fortunately John Findlay managed to effectively rebuild them in situ making them wind and waterproof. Job done? Not quite.

Gutters and downpipes get blocked with leaves and grit. Some downpipes had to be completely replaced. We are all familiar with what happens when water freezes in a milk bottle, the same in a downpipe, as the water in the blocked pipe freezes then melts it expands at around +4 degrees. With nowhere to go it cracks the cast iron downpipe, requiring a replacement section or in severe cases a complete top to ground replacement. Renewing the plumbing where all that water goes when it reaches the ground has also been upgraded. Choked drains have been rebuilt, note the new manhole cover as you reach the church entrance, making it easier to access any future blockages for rodding to dislodge blockages and clear.

All done now? Not yet. The building requires a complete rewiring. Upgrading the lighting and power outlet sockets will be included. This is due to start soon, and during the works our Sunday services will be held in the church hall, similar to what we did during the pew removals.

Meantime the old Kentigern Bell tower was approaching completion with new roof now fitted and walls pointed

A bit like the Forth Bridge I hear you say. Yes, but if we keep it under control it should be easier to manage and less costly to repair.

Our building convenor Gordon MacDonald has decided to gradually pass on the baton, after 45 years of unfailing service, against at times seemingly impossible odds. A committee from the Kirk Session is looking at how to divide up the huge breadth of responsibilities that Gordon has carried out. If you have skills in maintaining church or large commercial buildings and are willing to join a team then please speak to Neil Cape (Session Clerk), who will welcome you with open arms.



Advance Notice of Prayer Breakfast - Saturday 28th March

The next prayer breakfast to pray specifically for the work of all the Penicuik young peoples' and childrens' work will take place on Saturday 28th March, from 9-11 am at Penicuik Trinity Community Church Hall. All who have a heart to pray for this work are most welcome to come along, enjoy breakfast together and connect with one another as we pray for the work. Further publicity will follow.

Departed but not forgotten

Graham Bell - 9 January



Graham grew up in Surrey, one of three brothers. He loved music, which he played on the piano, by ear, with the service including some of the hymns he used to play. The theme from his favourite film 'The Sound of Music' welcomed the congregation to this service. In his youth he helped to form the South London Witness Team, taking many services singing and telling other young people about Jesus.

Graham was also well known for his Artwork producing wonderful gifts for both family and friends. He also passed his driving test as a Bus Driver and was much used by Oakhall Christian Holidays, travelling as far as Poland and Czechoslovakia.

On the occasion of Graham's parents' 50th wedding anniversary he drove a double decker bus around the villages to pickup some 60 guests from bus stop pickup points!

When he moved to Scotland he settled in Penicuik, and joined our Sunday morning praises.

Brother Mick, niece Kate, and nephew Dave all presented memories of Graham.

You can watch a video of the service that we made for family in Australia and New Zealand. https://youtu.be/7sF_r6UTUyA

Penicuik High School SU Group - Wednesday lunchtimes



Katy McDonald, who has led the Penicuik High School SU group, has now technically left school, although will continue to lead the group as a visitor, hopefully up until the end of June, but maybe earlier. After meeting with Gemma Morton, the new Regional SU Worker for East & Midlothian, she advised that most SU groups are led by adult volunteers and not so many are pupil-led.

In light of that, we are seeking volunteers to help on a rota basis (fortnightly or monthly) along with myself, it being very important to keep the school connection. The group meets on Wednesdays between 1pm-1.45pm. If anyone is willing to commit to a rota, please could you let me know as soon as possible, as it's important to get the PVG process started in good time. Many thanks.

Ann Dunsire (ann1010@btinternet.com or tel: 0797 460 5590)

Songs of Praise - 24 January Report by Jim Paterson

St. James the Less organised the Penicuik Churches Together Songs of Praise on Saturday 24 January. A change of location to the Town Hall gave us more space and the use of their powerful projector, which is also used for the Sunday Cinema films.

It was a cold and damp morning with even the Saturday coffee morning on the ground floor noticing a drop in footfall. Around twenty brave persons, well wrapped up joined the praise event.

Each of the PCT churches provided two videos featuring one of their congregation nominating a hymn / song, and why they had chosen that particular title.



The Rev Nick Bowry introduced the event, followed by a prayer for the week celebration of Christian Unity, which was drawing to an end on Sunday 25th. We were introduced by Ruth from St. James the Less to our first of two songs, 'A Little Child the Saviour Came', followed by Geoff King from PNK introducing 'This Little Light of Mine'.

A scripture reading from Ephesians 4: 1-7 & 11-13 led us into the second set, with Sara from St. James introducing her favourite 'Lord of the Dance'. Marie Fielding from Sacred Heart followed with 'God be in my head and in my understanding.'

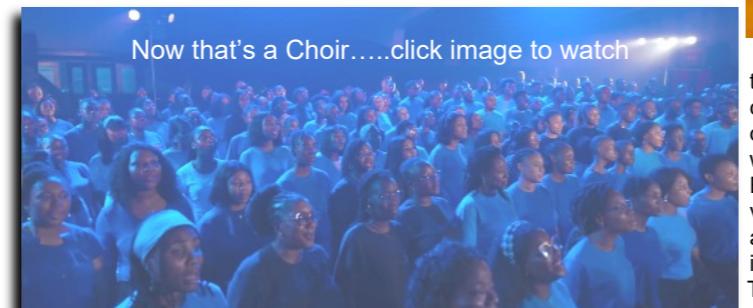
The second Reading was from Psalm 85 7-13. The third set was Arma from Trinity Community introducing 'What a friend we have in Jesus' which he also sang as part of his introduction. Another member of Sacred Heart introduced 'I watch the sunrise', before our final reading from John 17 20-23, and the Lord's Prayer.

Our last songs were from Graham Astles at PNK with 'One thing Remains' and Geoff and Sheena Dawe from Trinity Community choosing that well known favourite Mat Redman's '10000 Reasons', this version was presented by Voice of a Thousand, African choirs, making it a 'big sound'. A larger 'choir' I have yet to see. Nick Bowry closed the event with a Blessing.



Without microphones available in the town hall it was not possible to hear the live scripture speakers clearly, certainly not loud enough to record, so my video recording caught the vision but insufficient audio to be useable.

A Saturday morning, despite the inclement weather was also not a good time, with other coffee mornings and the Alpha course at PNK running concurrently at the same time. The town hall was too large for the size of the audience. Future events will take



event adverts end up in an issue after they have taken place.

Christian Aid - Christmas Appeal - Janis Hogg.



The final total raised £417, including money raised at the Christmas Fayre, from items left over from the May coffee morning (£75). Many thanks to all who helped in any way.



Guild - A Voyage Through the Scriptures By Boat - 5th January

Report by Jenny Ramage

The first Guild meeting of the new year welcomed David Hogg, presenting 'A Voyage Through the Scriptures By Boat' in both poetry and song.

Beginning with some audience participation and a vocal warm up we joined in with My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean. David then started the journey across the sea at the beginning of Genesis with the Creation of the Sky, the Earth and the Sea. More songs followed with The Skye Boat Song and then The Mermaid – a tale set in the North Atlantic about a seaman's encounter with a mermaid.



We moved on to the story of Noah who God was pleased with and built the Ark to survive the Great Flood. A poem by W. D. Cocker followed entitled The Deluge and written in Scots, an amusing description of Noah's story. We were then ready to sing What Will We Do With a Drunken Sailor. Next was the story of Jonah being sent to Nineveh by God and also being swallowed by a whale.



Following this we needed some Calm after the Storm with Jesus in the fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. Continuing with the nautical theme we sang The Leaving of Liverpool before joining Paul on his travels to Rome including being shipwrecked.

Finally we arrived in Iona with St. Columba where a divinity centre was founded. To finish the voyage we sang the Iona Boat Song and the Mingulay Boat Song. David hoped we hadn't got too seasick !

Guild - Ruth Kirkpatrick; The Storyteller 19th January Jenny Ramage

The speaker today was Ruth Kirkpatrick a Storyteller. She began with telling us about when she was working as a social worker 28 years ago, going into Craigmillar School to work, together with the teachers, with the pupils many of which came from challenging backgrounds resulting in disruptive and unsettled behaviour in the classroom.

One of the teachers had an interest in traditional oral story telling which is when Ruth learnt about it. The roots of this tradition are kept alive by the travelling community. Ruth began using the stories in the classroom and found the children really responded well and would sit down and listen fascinated by the tales. She went on to study performance story telling and travelled the world doing this.

There is a Scottish Story Telling Centre in Edinburgh and Ruth's mentor was Stanley Robertson a renowned Romani Storyteller from Aberdeen. Ruth's work is varied from shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, local festivals and working in schools. We then heard some history of the Kirkpatrick family who came to Scotland from France in William the Conqueror's time, settling near Dumfries in the 1300's and building Closeburn Castle the oldest continuously inhabited tower house in Scotland, with links to Robert the Bruce and William Wallace and which Robert Burns visited.

It was then time for us to hear Ruth perform one of these traditional stories, a tale about a herring fishing family whose father was away at sea for a year so they ran out of food but when the children went to the neighbour she shut the door on them. A wee troll then visited the family and the mother made him a thin porridge, all she had. This kind act led them to be blessed and find gold coins in the peat so they could buy everything they needed. The neighbour heard about this and stole the peat but all that she found were mice which ate all her food so she went to the family to ask for food but the boy refused and shut the door. However the mother heard and went after the old lady and said I am your neighbour and whatever she needed she could have, a real example of a good neighbour.



Ruth Kirkpatrick

THE PEOPLE OF THE SEA

a wonderful fusion of traditional storytelling, contemporary music and personal reminiscence presented by

Ruth Kirkpatrick & Colin Urwin



Community Arts Penicuik

St. James the Less Church Hall, Broomhill, Penicuik, EH26 9EE

15th February 2026, 3.00pm

Tickets £12/£8

online from www.penicuikarts.org/shop/ or from Pen-y-Coe Press, 7 Bridge Street, Penicuik, EH26 8LL (Tue-Sat 12 noon - 4pm)

Ruth let us know about a storytelling event she is doing in Penicuik on 15th February 'People of the Sea'. Full details <https://www.penicuikarts.org/event/>