



The new session of TYBG starts on
Tuesday 13th January 7-9pm.

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.

Contact Ann or Andrew Dunsire for further details
(07974 605590 / 07580 593504).

No
crib
for a
bed

...when you're
fleeing violence.

Chance escaped armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, running on foot with her newborn as bombs fell. This Christmas, your church could fund emergency shelters for families seeking refuge, and cosy bedding to comfort traumatised children.

Will you donate today?
caid.org.uk/
ChristmasDonation

christian aid 80 years

Christmas Appeal

<https://www.caid.org.uk/christmasappeal>

Trinity Community Diary

4, 11, 18, 25 January 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
6 January 2.00pm	Guild - Commodity Afternoon
5, 12, 19, 26 January 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
5, 12, 19, 26 January 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
5, 12, 19, 26 January 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
5, 12, 19, 26 January 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird rutheaird@outlook.com
6 13, 20, 27 January 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
6 13, 20, 27 January 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
7 January 10.45am	Friendship Hour in the Church Hall (Meeting Room)
8, 15, 22, 29 Jan 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
14, 21, 28 January 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - (Meeting Room)
17 January 10.30am	Penicuik Alpha: Unpack the Christian faith together. - North Church. Details Rev John Urquhart
24 January 11.00am	Songs of Praise - Penicuik Town Hall (The Cowan Institute) 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)

Songs of Praise

Sat 24 Jan, 11am

Penicuik Town Hall

(The Cowan Institute)

A range of
hymns and songs,
introduced by those
who chose them,
telling us why they
are special to them

PENICUIK
CHURCHES
TOGETHER

Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter January 2026

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

Date	Guest	
4 Jan	Heartbeats of 2025 Part 2	A selection of guests from the past year
11 Jan	Sing Global 2025 Part 1	Items from the Sing Global Conference
18 Jan	Katherine Crawford	CEO Age Scotland
25 Jan	Sandra Knox	Penicuik Trinity Community Church

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



Happy New Year from all at your Church

TC News

JANUARY 2026

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

Church mouse

From the mouse of
Editor's PC



Christmas at Trinity Community church welcomed members and visitors to enjoy the advent, nativity and Christmas Eve and Day services.

Joan and Neil Cape created a different way to tell the nativity story, which was both entertaining and at the same time made you think.

Christmas Eve offered an All Age service in the afternoon, introducing the upside down Christmas tree, in addition to the Watchnight service that took us into Christmas day, celebrating the birth of Jesus.

A short Christmas morning celebration completed our Christmas season of services.

Lots of other news of recent activities, including two Christmas concerts, the Penicuik Community Choir and the Kevoch Choir. Links to these concerts in this issue.

A full calendar of new year events, restarting after the Christmas break,

We hope to see you at some of the 2025 programme of events at your church.

Happy New Year to all
our readers.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Christmas at Trinity Community Church

The period of Advent, 'waiting for the coming king', commenced with our service on **30th November**, when we lit the candle of 'Hope'

Our eyes were drawn to the advent wreath of holly mounted at the front with the five candles, 4 in a circle and one in the centre, the 'Christ candle'.

Stanley volunteered to light the first candle. John spoke about a much earlier Joseph, and the shepherds story.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/YWusUt-1LkU>

There are many interpretations of the Advent candles. We believe the candles stand for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

The service on **7 December**, the second Sunday of Advent, with the Bethlehem candle lit by Salva.

Our minister John went back in history to the time of Samuel, when There are wars with other nations, there's corruption in the priesthood, and quite shocking lawlessness among the people. We hear again of Hannah and the miraculous birth of Isaac to Sarah. We hear how Samuel at a young age becomes a prophet of God and in adulthood the last Governing Judge of Israel. We then jumped forward to the time of Isaiah, whose hope is in something that God is going to do. He looks forward to a king of David's line, the Messiah, who will bring that hope to fruition, and that through a child who's born to rule.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/BOpGLOQYiV4>

The third Sunday of Advent on **14 December** Amira lit our third candle Joy, supported by Salva and Stanley.

John turned to Exodus to begin his reflection where the old shepherd climbs the mountain to hear the words of God commanding him to help His people who are crying and suffering under the Egyptians. Moses will be the prophet par excellence; the model for all Old Testament prophets to come.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/Fq3LUlvtK9Q>

For the fourth Advent Sunday on **21 December** was 'Peace', where all the candles were lit by Aila (Isla in French), bar the Christ candle in the centre of the ring.

The service included our **Scratch Nativity**, led by Joan Cape involving members of the congregation who arrived dressed as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and some even as sheep! Ruth Aird involved the young children with 'nativity' activities, which continued at the back of the church in 'Messy Church' style.

John continued his reflection with Moses from last week, and Susan Wong led the Prayers for Others.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/8Bksz-UpPc0>



Christmas Eve All Age Service

Joan Cape led the All Age service, which attracted families with young children from across the town, to hear the story of the birth of Jesus.



Joan opened the afternoon, welcoming everyone and setting the scene. We opened with Come on and celebrate. A departure collection for Christian Aid Christmas Appeal for women in the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) who are struggling in that war torn part of the world.

Bill and Margaret Webster, with help from members of the audience lit the four advent candles. Joan then asked everyone if they were ready for Christmas day? Parcels and cards complete and posted, turkey and trimmings ready to cook. We then sang Ding dong merrily on high.



Attention was drawn to an upside down tree hanging from the pulpit. Not a set of antlers as one person thought! Joan told us of this ancient tradition in some countries where the poorer people living in small houses found hanging the tree from the rafters took up less valuable floor space.

A quiz that followed found that Poland is the country that still observes this custom. Some people roller skate to church, which turned out to be Venezuelan's. Which country eat Kentucky fried chicken as their Christmas

meal? Finally which country leave a shoe outside their bedroom door? The answer to these teasers are shown on the recording of this service, see link at end of this story. We completed the story of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem with a song 'Let me tell you about a baby'.

We switched to the shepherd tending their sheep, when the angels came down and told them the good news message, and their journey to see the new born king in a manger. We sang Away in a Manger, complete with actions. A video 'Upside Down' relates the story presented by two angels looking down on the birth of Jesus. It was as God had planned years earlier as in the Old Testament, come down to earth, and be born in a stable as human, not as a king in a palace. Seemed to be upside down, but really it was the right way up! Joan completed the Christmas story with the arrival of the wise men. We finished the afternoon service singing 'O little town of Bethlehem.



Watch the service here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP5tywhysh4>

Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

Opening the doors at 11pm for hot drinks attracted many of the people in Penicuik to join the traditional watchnight service at Trinity Community Church.



John Urquhart led the service starting with a new song, The Thorn and the Thistle, followed by O little town of Bethlehem, and readings from Luke 2 v8-20 read by Ruth and David Aird, and John 1 v1-14 read by Joan and Neil Cape. A short address took us over the midnight hour into Christmas Day, with John lighting the Christ Candle to complete the lighting of all the advent candles. The congregation then wished those around them a happy Christmas

bleasing.

Our first carol for Christmas day was 'Still the Night', followed by a video from Christian Aid Christmas Appeal raising funds for women in war torn DRC. A closing prayer took us to that firm favourite 'O come all ye faithful'. Christmas Day, heralding the birth of Jesus had arrived.

Watch the service here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_y7kzY-jaCQ



Christmas Day Family Service - 25 December

The families gathered for the Trinity Community service at 10.30am on Christmas Day. Joan Cape led the service and welcomed everyone, including a mention of the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal that our church is supporting. The service opened with a call to worship and singing O come all ye faithful, followed by .



Joan told the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of the baby Jesus, including the shepherds vision, journey, and faith. Following a reading from Hebrews 1 v1-4 we listened to Away in a manger by Phil Wickham, and a prayer led by Neil Cape.

Joan referred to the upside down Christmas tree, why and when it appeared, which was explained in the Christmas eve all age service. Joan's talk ended with us singing It came upon the midnight clear, leading into a Christmas day blessing as we departed to continue our family celebrations. Watch the service:- <https://youtu.be/VPgYb3w0Vmk>



Kevock Choir Christmas Concert



On Tuesday 16 December the Edinburgh Kevock Choir presented their Christmas Concert in Trinity Community church sanctuary. Some 38 choristers led by musical director Graham Lovett entertained an audience drawn from the Penicuik Churches Together and beyond. Entry to the concert was by donation, raising funds for Broomhill Day Centre which is in need of local support to keep the facility running. The sum raised was a fantastic £671.

The concert began with The Beautiful Impossible by Joseph M Martin, followed by the audience singing that well known carol 'While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night'. The choristers first set for the evening were 'New Noel' composed by Travis I Boyd, followed by 'African Noel' by Victor C Johnson, 'Mary's Lullaby and 'Sans Day Carol' both by John Rutter

Two readings, 'Immortal Babe' by Joseph Hall c.1597 was presented by Sheila Idessane and 'Christmas' by John Betjeman 1954 presented by John McCulloch.

The choir returned on stage to lead the audience in 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', then presented 'Walking in the Air by Richard Blake, 'Infant Holy, Infant lowly' arranged by David Willcocks, finishing with 'Donkey Carol' by John Rutter.

Two further readings from Fiona Macaulay and David Hogg followed, with Fiona reading 'Just Doing My Job' by Clare Bevan, and David reading his own story 'Christmas Crisis'.

The final set with the full 'Christmas' theme from the choir commenced with 'Twelve Days After Christmas' by Frederick Silver, followed by 'Santa Clause Is Comin' to Town' arranged by Kirby Shaw. A sing along with the audience for 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' brought the concert to a conclusion, or did it?

As an encore we heard Schneewalzer (Snow Waltz) is a very popular German/Austrian folk waltz from Carinthia, capturing the joy of dancing in the snow. The audience joined in the chorus, all in German of course.

Great evening of songs and stories Midlothian-based Kevock Choir, one of Scotland's leading mixed voice choirs, known for its varied and high quality programme, whose members come from all walks of life. You can read more about the choir at <http://www.kevockchoir.org.uk>.

The concert in Trinity Community church can be seen at <https://youtu.be/TZiC2cxFFFs>

Guild - A Week in the Life of the church - 1st December

The speaker today was Kirsty Forsyth Deacon at Richmond Craigmillar church and she said that she would tell us about 'A Week in the Life of the Church'. She began by speaking about her connections with Penicuik and then Aberdeen and how she had worked previously as a paramedic with the Ambulance Service before rediscovering her faith.



Kirsty explained what a Deacon's work involves, being a fully ordained minister working together with the Minister, elders and volunteers based on 'Word and Service' to give practical help, social justice and caring for the vulnerable particularly out in the community.

Richmond Craigmillar is a challenging parish with unemployment, poverty and diversity being some of the issues. Kirsty's week begins with a day off on Monday, Tuesday she deals with administration and ordering and Wednesday there is a community café which is a mental health wellbeing hub where support groups can meet. Thursday they have Fare Share where food and also clothes are available for those in need and up to 60 people attend.

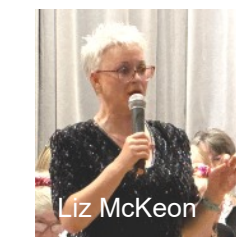
Several groups meet at the church including one for those bereaved, music for those with learning difficulties, a cookery class, baby massage and recovery groups. She told us about the Hope Tree in the church which is for people to put a leaf on in memory of anyone they have lost. Another positive feature is their logo over the entrance – a rainbow with the words All Are Welcome.



Penicuik Alpha:
17th January 2026 @ 10.30am
Penicuik North Kirk
Unpack the Christian faith together.
Find out more from John Urquhart.

- Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together.
- Alpha is for anyone who's curious.
- No judgement, no pressure.

Penicuik Community Choir Christmas Concert 12th December



The church hall was filled on Friday 12 December with an audience from across Penicuik and beyond, to hear the Penicuik Community Choir present their annual Christmas Concert.

Their selection covered traditional carols, classical and modern Christmas songs from across the world. From composers such as JS Bach, Leontovych, and many more, with a few of the favourites used as a 'sing along' with the audience.

Leader Liz McKeon introduced the concert which opened with Joy to the World, Still, Still, Still and Carol of the Bells before an audience singalong of O Come All Ye Faithful.



Keeping on Christmas vocals Mid-Winter, Winter Wonderland, Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy and Mary's Boy Child.



A pause for breath before we switched to German language with Stille Nacht, Schneewaltzer (Snow Waltz), Away in a Manger, another singalong with the audience. Heading toward the finish we listened to A La Nanita Nana, and Christmas Medley with the audience joining in.

The finale was again with the audience, 12 Days of Christmas and When a Child is Born

You can see the whole concert at <https://youtu.be/ehvxKAWDY10>

