Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter November 2026

https://www.heartofthematter.biz/

Date	Guest	
1 November	Elaine Duncan	CEO Scottish Bible Society
8 November	Remembrance Sunday	Reflections with Gordon Haxton
15 November	Rev. Douglas Creighton	Chaplain HMP Edinburgh
22 November	Near and Far	from Penicuik to Uganda including Barnabus Aid
29 November	Pastor Eric Mensah	Hope Church Musselburgh

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





At our teas & coffees after church on Sunday 15th November, Comfort International will have a Craft Fayre Stall. One of the ladies at Comfort (Libby) who now runs the Comfort crafts, will be coming that day to run the stall. An opportunity to buy some original hand crafted products from Rwanda to fill your Christmas stockings while helping those struggling in far off lands.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Thank you for your continued support of Stamps for Testaments. Your wonderful parcel arrived safely yesterday and every stamp was gratefully received.

Much appreciated Pauline Ferguson



Trinity Community Diary

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
2 November 2.00pm	Guild meeting - in the Church Hall. Operation Hope - James Fraser
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Hall Meeting Room. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird rutheaird@outlook.com
3, 10, 17, 24 November 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Church Hall Meeting Room. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
3, 10, 17, 24 November 7.00 to 9.00pm	Tuesday Youth Bible Group. Details Ann or Andrew Dunsire 07974 605590, 07580 593504
3, 10, 17, 24 November 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
04 November 10.45am	Friendship Hour in the Church Hall (Meeting Room)
4, 18 November 1.00 - 3.00pm	Grief Support Group ; Find healing in togetherness - FFF Community Hub 42 High Street
8 November 10.45am	**Royal British Legion Remembrance Service - Note early start for 2 minute silence at 11am**
11, 18, 25 November 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Group in Church Hall Meeting Room - Details Agnes Haggart 07790 766417
15 November after morning service	Comfort International Christmas Fayre - Church Hall. Bringing Rwanda to our community
16 November 2.00pm	Guild meeting - in the Church Hall. Shetland Bus - Kath Hay
28 November 10.00am to 12 noon	Christmas Fayre - in the Church Hall. (Hall open Friday 27th 2 - 4pm for donations

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, 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)*



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 headline feature this month is our 5 year plan for the future of our church in Penicuik.



We hope you can take the time to have a look over our Soup Lunch on Sunday 1st November.

Contact Neil Cape if you would like a copy to look at if you can't manage along on Sunday 1st.

Church of Scotland Day of Prayer 'Light in the Darkness' on Saturday 31st October will be reported on in next issue.

The restart of the TYBG gatherings has begun so all you youngsters welcome any Tuesday evening.

Full reports on the October events and a full calendar for November inside this issue.

Remembrance Service returns with the march down Kirkhill and to the Memorial in Montgomery Park on Sunday 8th.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com

Congregational 5-Year Action Plan



Over the summer various groups of people have been working on our 5-Year Action Plan, which has to be submitted to Presbytery before December. This is something all Church of Scotland congregations are doing, some started over a year ago, and some, like us, are nearly there.

The idea is to look at 8 different aspects of congregational life, to decide on what we want to aim for in each of these aspects, and to come up with a number (no more than 3) of 'actions' which we can start on to meet these aims. The whole process replaces the quinquennial (5-yearly) Local Church Review which has been used over many years to evaluate how congregations have been doing – but now our 'Action Plan' will be looked at every year, so that there is an ongoing check on how we are doing….and also an opportunity to modify our 'actions' if necessary.

The 8 aspects of congregational life are:

1. **WORSHIP and TEACHING:** Including all ages – this is the heart of all that we do (contact John Urquhart)
2. **PASTORAL CARE & FELLOWSHIP:** To ensure that all people from the oldest to the youngest feel that they are loved and cared for, as this helps to develop a sense of belonging (contact Joan Cape)
3. **YOUNG ADULTS & CHILDREN:** To support our younger Church family by providing a range of services and activities for young people, giving them a safe and fun place to learn, worship and grow their faith (contact John Urquhart)
4. **LOCAL MISSION AND OUTREACH:** To reveal the love of God for all people in our parish and our wider area (contact John Urquhart)



5. **PRESBYTERY PLANNING:** Requirements of the Presbytery Plan (contact Neil Cape)
6. **WIDER MISSION:** Including ecumenicalism and interfaith with the World Church (contact Ann Dunsire)
7. **PROPERTY:** (contact Joan Cape)
8. **SUSTAINABILITY AND FINANCE:** Including use of all people and capacity to achieve your five-year vision for your church (contact Neil Cape)



The various groups have come up with some draft actions, which will be presented to the congregation at the soup lunch after church on Sunday 1st November, when you will be able to ask questions and comment on the 'actions', which are the result of many hours of thought and meetings! The final list (and wording) of the Action Plan will be agreed at the Kirk Session meeting on 10th November, and sent to Presbytery,

Please let us have your constructive comments...we are starting on year 1 of a 5-year plan, so there will be scope for changing course, and we don't have to get everything complete in year 1. If you can't come to the lunch on 1st November, and would like to see the draft action plan, please let me know.

Neil Cape, Session Clerk (tccsessionclerk@gmail.com 674276).

Harvest Thanksgiving - 11 October



The front of the church saw the communion table covered in a wide range of foods, both fresh and preserved, displaying the results of the harvest from the fields, nowadays from across the world. Members of the congregation had filled bags of produce surrounding the table which added to the displayed items.



Our church was also supporting Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal which focuses on supporting families fleeing conflict—especially mothers and children from the Democratic Republic of Congo—by funding food, medicine, hygiene supplies, and emergency shelter.

The All Age and Reflections John used the Christian Aid story of Anok Kon and her family who have been facing the dual challenges of droughts and floods, made worse by the climate crisis. She's responded by training with Christian Aid's partners to grow climate resilient crops.



Janis, our Christian Aid support leader had brought her famous collection 'bucket' for us to donate to the Christmas Appeal. We received a thank you from Jay Senior, of the Christian Aid Harvest Celebration Team.

Thank you for your generous donation of **£322.00** on behalf of Penicuik Trinity Community Church to our Harvest Appeal.

Your Harvest donation comes at a vital time. Around the world, families who rely on farming are facing increasingly unpredictable weather, from devastating floods to prolonged droughts. For many, harvests are failing and food is becoming harder to grow.

With your support, our partners can walk with communities and families facing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis as they find ways to adapt and rebuild, ensuring everyone can grow enough food to live with dignity.

In South Sudan, Anok, a farmer and mother of seven, has faced years of flooding that destroyed her crops and livelihood. But with support from Christian Aid partners, she has received practical training, seeds and support to protect her land. Today, she is growing food again, earning an income, and sharing her knowledge with others in her community.

Together, we are helping families like Anok's to protect their harvests, build resilience to the climate crisis, and create a more secure future. Your generosity is part of that transformation.

Thank you for standing with communities this Harvest and sharing your hope with those who need it most.

With every blessing, Jay Senior

christian aid

You can watch our harvest service at https://youtu.be/Lofv6dmaNXA

The foods on display were divided equally between Food Facts Friends and PNK Foodstore, to be distributed to their clients experiencing distress in obtaining enough food for their families in these difficult times.

Guild Meetings - October *Reports by Jenny Ramage*

Poppy Scotland - Monday 5th October



Our speaker today was Jess Gillespie from Poppyscotland. She began by looking at the history of the poppy symbol and of Poppyscotland which is part of the Royal British Legion. It was in 1921 that Earl Haig noticed some French widows selling silk poppies to raise funds for disabled Servicemen, having been inspired by Lt. Col. John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" describing how the iconic flowers survived in the battlefields.

The first Poppy factory was opened in Richmond in 1922 and following the huge demand for the poppies Lady Haig established a factory in Edinburgh in 1926 which still operates today. A team of disabled veterans work in the factory producing 3.5 million poppies for the annual Poppy Appeal. The design of the poppy has changed over the years and the Scottish design differs from the other nations.

poppy scotland

It is a symbol of remembrance and peace and is sent to people all around the world. All funds raised in Scotland remain in Scotland and are used for the welfare of Servicemen and their families in many ways including employment, advice, mental health, mobility, housing and respite. As well as the annual appeal there are many other fundraising challenges involving cycling, walking, swimming and the Kilt Walk.

Railway Chaplain - Monday 12 October



Our speaker today was Dereck Grant, a chaplain with the Railway Mission a charity focused on mental health support for everyone in the railway family. It was founded in 1881 as a Christian service to improve spiritual and physical wellbeing for railway workers, and in those days one object was to prevent drunkenness at work. These days there are many issues that the Railway Mission is there to give support with such things as marriage breakdown, bereavement, physical and mental health, stress and financial problems, working together with welfare services.

Railway Mission

Dereck went on to tell us about his own life history and family and how his personal experiences have helped him in his work. There is a network of chaplains across England, Wales and Scotland all trained in mental health support offering a confidential, impartial and independent listening ear and shoulder to lean on. They are funded by donations from the railway industry and individuals and are non-judgemental offering support to all genders, religions and cultures.

Dereck's working day can be very varied from crisis response to emotional support, pastoral care and spiritual guidance. He covers the whole of the east of Scotland so travels between Aberdeen in the north and the Borders in the south and can be involved in traumatic situations such as suicides and accidents but is always there to help people with their life's journey. Dereck also had pens, calendars and leaflets



Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Blankets. – 25 October



Our annual contribution toward the Blythswood Shoebox Christmas Appeal was on display during the Sunday 25 October service. An amazing collection woollen beanie hats, gloves, scarves and blankets for both adults and children had been lovingly knitted by members of the congregation and their friends, over the previous weeks. For those less confident with knitting needles an option to provide bought items was also warmly welcomed (pun intended).



A shoebox filled with simple, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, clothing, sweets and a small gift can bring joy to someone who may have very little. It is about more than the things inside. Each box is personal. Each one is an expression of care. Each one lets someone know they have not been forgotten.

Ruth Aird led the All Age Spot in the main service and made reference to the collection as part of her theme 'Sharing'. We watched this years Blythswood Shoebox Christmas Appeal video followed by the children in Kidspace walking round the congregation handing out a gift of confectionery, sharing their gifts with others.


The children distribute their gifts

On completion of the children 'sharing' their gifts with the congregation, Ruth presented a box full off delights for the children to choose from, reflecting that God rewards us if we are prepared to share our good fortune with others, especially those experiencing difficult times.


Ruth offers the reward to the children

After the morning service members had another opportunity to view the knitted gifts before they were packed and taken to the Blythswood collecting point to fill shoeboxes and head off to eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

You can watch the All Age Spot in our Sunday service https://youtu.be/f3wMcBzvcN0 which includes the Blythswood video.

Blythswood