

## Guild 2025 Calendar

Date	Guest Organisation	Location	Speaker
6 January	Commodity Afternoon	Church Hall	
20 January	Scots Afternoon	Church Hall	Margo Falconer
3 February	Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project	Church Hall	Rod Lugg
17 February	"...go together like a horse and carriage or not!" A Thirty Year in Relationship Counselling	Church Hall	Cicely McCulloch
3 March	Bethany Christian Trust World Day of Prayer (Palestine)	Sacred Heart	TBA
7 March	World Day of Prayer (Cook Islands)	TBA	TBA
17 March	AGM	Church Hall	
31 March	Lunch	TBA	

All meetings start 2.00pm unless otherwise stated

### Bethany Meals - 16 January

Trinity Community Church are providing a meal for the Bethany Trust on Thursday 16 January. The team creating this meal would be grateful for any donations you could offer to help purchase the food to make these meals.



The Bethany mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the long term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. To do this we partner with communities, churches, organisations, local and national government, to offer tailored support and services.



Bethany support around 7,000 people a year with over 30 different services across Scotland. Whether someone is at risk of losing their home, in recovery or already out on the streets, Bethany will be there to help.

[Speak to Sheena Dawe for more information](#)

### Messy Church Returns

The new year welcomes the return of Messy Church, this year on the FIRST Sunday of each month 3.30 to 5.30pm.



All families with young children welcome

### Trinity Community Diary

5, 12, 19, 26 January 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
6 January 2.00pm	Guild - Commodity Afternoon
6, 13, 20, 27 January 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
6, 13, 20, 27 January 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
6, 13, 20, 27 January 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird <a href="mailto:ruthaird@outlook.com">ruthaird@outlook.com</a>
7, 14, 21, 28 January 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
7, 14, 21, 28 January 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
9, 16, 23, 30 Jan 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
13, 20, 27 January 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
15, 22, 29 January 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Small Hall
20 January 2.00pm	Guild - Scots Afternoon with Margo Falconer
21 January 7.00 to 9.00pm	Youth Alpha - North Church Café area. Details Ann Dunsire 07974 605590
2 February 3.30 to 5.30pm	Messy Church - 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)



A new way for young people to explore life, faith and purpose.

The series consists of 10 episodes run over 8 weeks exploring life's real questions – made for youth by youth. It features stories, street interviews and 8 Gen Z hosts.

**When?** Starts Tuesday 21st January from 7-9 pm and each Tuesday evening until 18th March. It will also include a Saturday session in February.

**Where?** Penicuik North Church café area at front of church (95 John Street, Penicuik, EH26 8AG) All interested S1-S6's most welcome

**CONTENT CONNECTION CONVERSATION**  
10 sessions over 8 weeks exploring faith, life and purpose  
Every Alpha Youth session includes time to connect, over food and games  
Nothing is off-limits and you can say whatever's on your mind, or nothing at all.

If you're interested check out the course here by scanning the QR code!



### Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter January 2025

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

Date	Guest
5 Jan	Heartbeats of 2024 Part 2
12 Jan	Don Palmer Lead Pastor Central Church Edinburgh
19 Jan	Corrie Douglas Young Communications Officer Church of Scotland
26 Jan	Rev. David Bartholomew Minister of Glenkilns (Retired)
29 Dec	Heartbeats of 2024 Part 1

**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

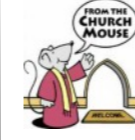
JANUARY 2025

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](mailto:penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com)

### Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC



Christmas at Trinity Community church welcomed members and visitors to our refurbished sanctuary, enjoying the new comfortable chairs in the centre aisle

The Advent services presented some of the recent activities, with Ann Dunsire telling us about the Tuesday Youth Bible Group

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 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 and a full calendar, 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](mailto:penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com)

### Christmas at Trinity Community Church

The period of Advent, 'waiting for the coming king', commenced with our service on **1st December**, when we lit the candle of 'Hope'

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

Amira, who was celebrating her 1st birthday lit the first candle, assisted by her parents. John spoke about a much earlier Joseph, and the shepherds story.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/hmdvWc9117A>

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



Martin

The service on **8 December**, the second Sunday of Advent 'Peace', with the candle lit by Martin, a regular visitor to our services. Our minister John explained how celebrating the birth of Jesus can be very different in other countries. Using a video we saw how the people in Egypt and celebrate Jesus' birth openly, whereas those in Iran are not openly allowed, not even to display a Christmas Tree. However, through the wonder of television the channel Sat 7 provides a way of taking part in the birth of Jesus story.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/GWwKaPSw5M>

The third Sunday of Advent 'Joy' on **15 December** we lit our third candle, Ann Dunsire spoke about the Tuesday Youth Bible Group (TYBG) work she and husband Andrew have been involved, bringing together a group of young people to experience and share their faith in God. A short video featured a number of the young people explaining what the TYBG means to them. John preached on good and evil, using the Adam, Eve and the serpent to illustrate.

Watch this service [https://youtu.be/yUtPb\\_d7b2l](https://youtu.be/yUtPb_d7b2l)



Joan - Question master

For the fourth Advent Sunday on **22 December** was 'Love', where all the candles were lit, bar the Christ candle in the centre of the ring.

The service included our Nativity Drama, entitled **Christmas Family Fortunes** by Lesley Crawford, led by Joan Cape.

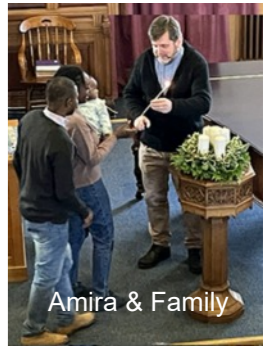


Team A

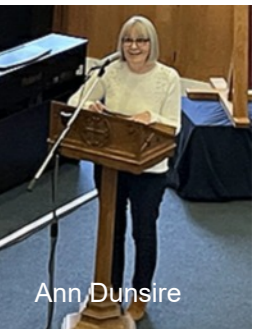
The two teams defined what they thought Christmas was all about, which led to some wildly different ideas.

John's reflections explored Christmas in dark places and how the light of God breaks through.

Watch this service <https://youtu.be/043oRBqhF8E>



Amira & Family



Ann Dunsire



Team B

## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

We celebrated the coming of the new King with two services on Christmas Eve, a family 'All Age' service at 4.30pm and a traditional 'Watchnight' service at 11.30pm which took us through the midnight hour into Christmas Day.

### 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. Assisting the telling of the story was Andrew Dunsire who accompanied our singing.



Joan opened the afternoon, welcoming everyone and setting the scene. We opened with Angels from the realms of glory, followed by a video, 'Christmas According to Kids' with angel Gabriel trying to explain how Mary was pregnant. He was having a bit of a problem finding the right words for the kids to understand!



We stood to sing again, this time the 'Christmas Calypso' The lyrics are easy to follow and explain in simple words what Gabriel was getting tongue tied over.

Joan then took up the story once again drawing on the bible account to bring the previous explanations together and hopefully make it understandable for our younger audience.

Andrew joined Joan at the front to lead us in Away in a manger, followed by Still the Night.

Joan then returned to the story, this time the shepherds, how they reacted to seeing the angels appear to them. This led into the song 'It was on a starry night'.

Time for a practical exercise to keep the youngsters, and parents moving. Each had a kit of items provided as they entered church. The challenge was to create something to do with Christmas. We soon had quite a few angels and stars.



Shopper Neil  
Shopkeeper Andrew

A last minute shopper appeared trying to purchase the last items for their Christmas Nativity. Neil played the shopper, with Andrew the shopkeeper. Whilst Neil's requests seemed simple enough they were rather vague as the shopkeeper quizzed Neil for more information. The shopkeeper however had an instant response to the last item on Neil's list 'a baby Jesus', as there is only one baby Jesus, as he explained. Perhaps Jesus is all Neil really needed.

Joan returned to talk about Christmas in other far away countries, and we watched a video on celebrations in Iran, where Christians are forbidden to display any items, e.g. Christmas tree. They can watch and join Christmas activities broadcast on Sat7 TV channel.



There followed a Fishy Music video 'Peace and Joy' where we heard Merry Christmas in a selection of foreign languages including, French, Spanish, and Chinese.



We wish you peace and joy

The afternoon was completed with singing 'holly and the Ivy' followed by Joan wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

Watch the service here  
<https://youtu.be/RfJfF-pxWMc>

## Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

Visitors were welcomed from 11pm for hot drinks before we sang some pre-service Christmas carols. 'The first Nowell', 'Hark! The herald angels sing' and 'Once in royal David's city'. All were accompanied by Graham McDonald playing our recently refurbished pipe organ.



John Urquhart opened our service with O little town of Bethlehem, followed by readings from Isaiah and Luke. John's talk was based on Debt by Alistair Begg, offering a different view of the Christmas story. A video of 'Presence' by Dan Stevens, showing how throughout history God has shown his presence.

It came upon the midnight clear had us singing again to reach the midnight hour when John lit the Christ Candle, completing the lighting of all 5 of the advent candles.

A prayer for others and ourselves led into our closing hymn 'O come all ye faithful. Christmas Day, heralding the birth of Jesus had arrived.

Watch the service here <https://youtu.be/upmr-ktaaow>

## Christmas Day Family Service

The service opened with a rousing welcome to Christmas Day from Rend Collective - Saviour's Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxrvo1a1xJg>

After a welcome to everyone, and a short opening prayer, we joined together in our call to worship, using words from Isaiah 9., then sang together O come all ye faithful, happy to be able to sing all four verses.

After another time of prayer, we sang again: the Christmas Calypso, which tells the story of the birth of Jesus, flowed by a version of God rest ye merry gentlemen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aSQSQpAexw>

Our first reading was a poem by Charles Causley, The Shepherds, a retelling of the angels' song to the shepherds. This led into a short talk: as we thought about what Christmas means for each of us, things both happy and more serious, the topic of gifts came up. Various members of the congregation told us about something special they had received. Joan used a box of Celebrations to illustrate some aspects of the Christmas story:

**Celebrations:** what more appropriate for a day like Christmas

**Bounty:** a reminder of God's bounty poured out on us. Of his generous provision for us, his immeasurable love for each of us, demonstrated in a very real way by his gift to us of his one and only son, Jesus.

**Malteser:** a reminder of Mary, when confronted by the angel telling her not to be afraid .... Was he joking? Wasn't he taking teasing a bit too far?

The **Galaxy** reminds us of the shepherds the whole sky, lit up as the angels sang their praises. Later come the Milky Way and Mars, as the wise men who follow the star (apparently seen in the region of **Mars**, beyond the **Milky way**).

**Snickers:** the challenge of some of the reactions we fear will come our way if we try to tell our friends and neighbours why Christmas really matters ... they may not laugh out loud, but there may well be a few sniggers.

Our last song with its note of foreboding reminded us that this is not just a light hearted happy story. As we joined together singing In the bleak midwinter we remembered the **Twix**. This lovely

carol is a reminder that the first Christmas wasn't a time of unmitigated joy. Just as Christmas is for many of us today, it can be a bit betwixt and between. The baby was born in the middle of winter, the darkest and coldest time of the year. Bethlehem is high, at an altitude of 2, 400 ft, and not infrequently gets snow. Hardly the best time to be wandering around looking for somewhere to stay with a baby on its way. And the baby – yes, he was the son of God, but he came a little tiny baby, with nobody there to celebrate with them except the animals watching in the place where they had been allowed to shelter. Not for Mary and Joseph the angelic hosts celebrating with them.

How are we to celebrate this baby: the shepherds brought a lamb, and the wise men brought appropriate gifts? But the only gift he wants from us is ourselves, that we open up our hearts and let him in. And when we do that, we shall truly know the gift of Christmas.

John writes in his gospel these words of Jesus,

Jesus spoke to them, saying,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." What a gift we have been given – the knowledge that whatever may happen, however the darkness may close around us – if we choose to follow Jesus, to walk in God's ways, we have the gift of his light, the light of eternal life.

After this we took time to think about people and things on our minds this Christmas, and came to the front if we wished to light a candle for the people and places in our thoughts.

Then, after a short time of prayer, the service ended with the singing of See in yonder manger low.

## Guild - Visit to Romania; Ruth Aird. 2 December

Ruth Aird told the Guild meeting about her visits to Romania working with the Medical Mission there providing Christian humanitarian services.



Romania to be a beautiful and very large country with a population of 19 million. They have a tradition of crofting but up to date in other ways e.g. mobile phones. During the Communist years Christians had to remain 'underground' but following the fall of Communism were able to be open in their fellowship and a Bible college was established to train pastors.



Some basic medical care is provided free but many services have to be paid for. When Ruth first went to Romania money was needed for very basic things like curtains and window glass. Things have improved but G.P's have to pay all the costs of setting up a practice and are very poorly paid.

Mission work involves outreach visiting local villages and setting up pop-up clinics using available rooms and taking all necessary equipment. Other services provided are a pharmacy, optician, dentist and a café. People at home who can't get to the clinic are visited too. Dressings and analgesia are in short supply and are taken/sent out.

There is also a library, clothes bank and food parcels.

Christian fellowship and bible teaching are shared, this all being a way of showing love to your neighbour whoever they are.



## Guild - Christmas Lunch at the Navaar. 9 December

The annual Christmas lunch at the Navaar for members of the Guild.



Could this be the last visit to the Navaar, now that the owner is retiring and the hotel may close.

The **Navaar House** building has an illustrious past. In the early twentieth century, it was the home of James Cossar Ewart, who worked at the University of Edinburgh as a professor of natural history for forty-five years. Born in Penicuik, 26 November 1851, he was educated in the town and went on to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Between the years 1895-1905, Professor Ewart lived at The Bungalow, the building which is now the Navaar Hotel.

But there is more. Just down the street from the Bungalow resides **Craigiefield House** which Ewart himself commissioned to be built acting as his own laboratory of experiments.

It was within these grounds of 50 Bog Road that Ewart performed his most notable study, breeding hybrid zebras to assess the genetic make up of foals. Ewart wanted to properly analyse the extent of which prominent genes from a sire can infiltrate into future offspring from a dam. At Craigiefield House, Ewart bred a male Burchell zebra with a female pony to create a horse-zebra hybrid.

Read the full story <http://penicuikheritage.org.uk/the-professor-and-the-penicuik-experiments/>