



NEW ALPHA YOUTH SERIES

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

CONNECTION

Every Alpha Youth session includes time to connect, over food and games

CONTENT

10 sessions over 8 weeks exploring faith, life and purpose

CONVERSATION

Nothing is off-limits and you can say whatever's on your mind, or nothing at all.

Penicuik Youth Alpha continues to run each Tuesday evening up until 25th March from 7-9 pm at Penicuik North Church cafe area. Anyone aged 12-17 is most welcome to come along.

On Tuesday 1st April we'll have a pizza/games/social evening to finish up before breaking for the Easter holidays.

Grateful thanks to all those from the churches who continue to support this ministry, both in prayer and in practical ways.'

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



Planned Guests for Heart of the Matter March 2025

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

Date	Guest	Location
2 March	Dr. John Young	Liberton Kirk
9 March	Karen Gillon	General Secretary of Church of Scotland Guild
16 March	Robin McIntosh	Penicuik North Kirk
23 March	Jenna McGuiness	Community Outreach Director, Centrepont Church Bathgate
30 March	Alice Cooper	Musician

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

Deep Sea Divers is the theme for this years Holiday Club

It will be 29th July - 1st August in Trinity Community Church Hall

if you are interested in being part of the "dive team" or the "support (prayer) team" then please see Agnes Haggart or Ruth Aird.

Trinity Community Diary

1 March 9.00 to 10.30am	Prayer Breakfast - Trinity Community Church Hall
2 March 3.30 to 5.30pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
2, 9, 16, 23 March 7.15pm	Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting. - Church Hall
3, 10, 17, 23 March 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
3, 10, 17, 23 March 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
3, 10, 17, 23 March 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird ruthaird@outlook.com
3, 10, 17, 23 March 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
4, 11, 18, 25 March 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
4, 11, 18, 25 March 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
4, 11, 18 March 7.00 to 9.00pm	Youth Alpha - North Church Café area. Details Ann Dunsire 07974 605590
5 March 10.45am	Friendship Hour - Small Hall (Details contact Margaret Webster 07761 096472)
6, 13, 20, 27 Mar 10.00am to 12 noon	Thursday Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
7 March 7.30pm	World Day of Prayer (Cook Islands) - Trinity Community Church
12, 19, 26 March 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Small Hall
17 March 2.00pm	Guild - Annual General Meeting. Church Hall
31 March 12noon	Guild - Lunch. Navaar House Hotel
6 April 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)



TC News

MARCH 2025

Newsletter of Penicuik Trinity Community Church

Youth Group lead praise and prayers

Sunday service 16 February welcomed members of our youth team to lead parts of our service.

Andrew Dunsire and Caroline Toms on guitar were joined by Holly Hadwen to lead us in our praise 'Splendour of the King.' Your Kirk Session have talked about introducing live music to lead the congregation praise singing. Andrew and Caroline have on occasion led songs, and we have had members singing to accompany the service video introduction song.

Ann and Andrew Dunsire have been leading initiatives aimed at bringing the youth in our community closer to God through activities such as the Tuesday Youth Bible Group which we have reported on in previous issues, and a new Prayer Breakfast event.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

In addition Holly was joined by her sister Lucy, who together with Ann led the Prayers for Others and Ourselves. Each speaker took the lead of parts during the prayers. Lucy prayed for those suppressed in Afghanistan, especially women and girls with no right to education, those living under harsh dictatorships as in Nicaragua, where Christians are persecuted for their faith. We prayed for those in Ukraine and for those surviving in war zones. Lucy prayed to the Lord to provide hope, and to lead us in these dark times with His love to light the way.



Andrew Dunsire

Holly Hadwen

Caroline Toms



Lucy Hadwen

Ann Dunsire

Holly Hadwen

Holly brought us closer to home, praying for those in Penicuik, especially in Beeslack & Penicuik high schools, that the students can grow and learn in a safe environment. We prayed that our Lord will bless all the volunteers in the community support groups including foodbanks, community kitchen, Messy Church, and the Beeslack family disabled club. We thanked God for the Youth Alpha activity and the safe space for young people to ask questions about God.

We thanked the Lord for the Breakfast Club where sharing food together assist relationships and connections to spread and understand His teaching. Finally Holly prayed for our church.

Ann prayed to our Lord that he will support all those who are experiencing grief and hardship in our church and community, finishing with us joining together in the Lord's Prayer.

Our minister John thanked the group and hopes that we can do similar activities in future services.

See and listen to the team in our video on the service recording <https://youtu.be/1tCRjXWvKlc>

World Day of Prayer - 7 March @ 7.30pm



Trinity Community Church will host the world day of prayer service on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm. This years theme is "I Made You Wonderful" Psalm 139:14, and comes from the Cook Islands.



This tiny island nation is only two thirds the size of the Isle of Wight. However, the surrounding sea, the island's exclusive economic zone, is seven times larger than that of New Zealand.

The islands lie between the Tonga and Samoa Islands to the west and the Society Islands to the east, in the centre of the Polynesian Triangle. They came into being

through at least two stages of volcanic activity: around 2.3 million years ago and then approximately 1.1 million years ago.

The islands are divided into two groups:

The Northern Islands: Manihiki, Nassau, Penrhyn, Pukapuka, Rakahanga and Suvarrow.

The Southern Islands: Rarotonga Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Manuae, Mauke, Mitiaro, Palmerston and Takutea.



Christianity

Prior to the arrival of missionaries, the Cook Islands had their own ancient religion, which was shared by island cultures throughout Polynesia. Tangaroa, the god of the sea and fertility, is one of the most important gods and the inspiration for carvings produced throughout the Cook Islands to this day.



The first Christian missionaries arrived in 1821 and had an immediate impact. Reverend John Williams and members of the London Missionary Society sought to suppress what they saw as the inhabitants' carnal desires, and no singing, dancing or drumming

was allowed. They failed to recognise that these actually underpinned the Cook Islanders' cultural heritage.

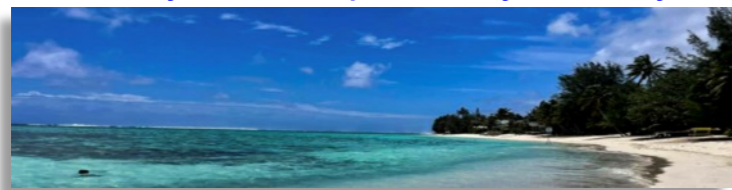
Nevertheless, the Cook Islanders have preserved their Polynesian heritage, blending it with their Christian faith. Christianity is now the religion most prevalent in the Cook Islands, with approximately 84.2 percent of the population identifying with one of the Cook Islands' major Christian denominations. Religion is important, and Sundays are widely observed as days of worship and rest.



Artists: Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa

The message that women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces the WDP movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

Join us Friday 7 March 7.30pm in Trinity Community Church



THE NICENE CREED

At the start of February John commenced a new theme, introducing us to the Nicene Creed, drawing on the work of Dr. Phillip Cary, Professor of Philosophy at Eastern University Pennsylvania, and author of 'The Nicene Creed – An Introduction', and Kevin De Young, an American Reformed theologian, pastor, and author.



The Nicene Creed originated at the council of Nicaea, in modern-day Turkey, AD 325, sponsored by emperor Constantine. It reached its final form at the Council of Constantinople in 381.

John told us about Arius, the founder of Arianism, which denied the full divinity of Christ. The Arians talked as if Christ were not God the creator but merely one of the things God had made—which meant that he was created out of nothing and that there was "once when he did not exist."

The Nicene Creed was written to say otherwise.

It aims to make absolutely clear that the Son of God is just as truly God as God the Father, equal to him in divinity, equal in eternity, equally omnipotent, and equally the creator of all things. In other words, the same person who was born of the Virgin Mary and crucified by Pontius Pilate has always existed as the eternal Son of God.

This is why he rightly sits on the throne of God and we worship him.

Later in the series John introduced Athanasius, a Church Father, the chief proponent of Trinitarianism (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) against Arianism, and a noted Egyptian Christian leader of the fourth century. Conflict with Arius and Arianism, as well as with successive Roman emperors, shaped Athanasius' career.

Why say the Nicene Creed?

Many of us will remember learning to recite the Nicene Creed at school. The creed is a Bible-based summary of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To say the creed is to say who God is—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and who Christ is: the only-begotten Son of the Father, God from God, who for our salvation became incarnate, which is to say fully human, and now sits enthroned at the right hand of God the Father. To join other Christians in saying and believing the creed is thus a way to come to know God.

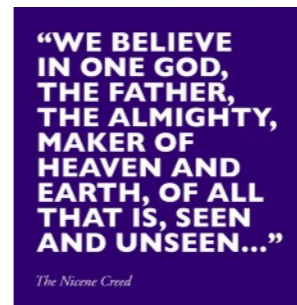
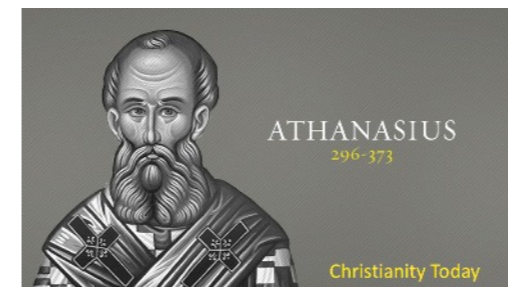
You can watch John's Reflections in the series so far. Click on the links below:

Episode 1 The Nicene Creed https://youtu.be/E4nbx_vlu6k?t=1023

Episode 2 Nicene Creed 2a <https://youtu.be/6JFbE7xYhQg?t=1335>

Episode 3 Nicene Creed 2b <https://youtu.be/1tCRjXWvKlc?t=971>

Further episodes will appear on our website <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church/>



KIDSPACE happens every week for any of the primary-aged children who come to the church.

We have a very enjoyable half-hour of songs; stories; games and crafts.

There is presently a rota of eight people, but we'd love some additional help so that the rota is not too tight. No qualifications needed.

Please see Ruth Aird or Joan Cape for details.



KIDSPACE

Guild February Meetings

Relationship Counselling - 3 February

Cicely McCulloch spoke to the Guild members about her 30 year career in Relationship Counselling. She began by looking at the history of what was originally in 1938 the Marriage Guidance Council. The Second World War intervened but in 1947 offices opened in Edinburgh and Glasgow.



In the early days the service was for married couples and they were advised about their relationship problems but over the years as society changed this developed into counselling for couples.

Cicely went on to tell how she began her career when her children were older and she was looking for something for herself and following completing a New Horizons course she went on to train as a counsellor and began her work with Relationships Scotland. After 6 years she went on to complete a course as supervisor.

She described the general format of meetings, saying that some meetings are on zoom now but feels body language is missed with this format. Couples usually attend several sessions and then have a review. Looking back Cecily discussed how technology and developments in society had affected relationships as people were increasingly able to travel and communicate more.

Difficulties encountered varied from affairs, money problems and IVF could cause stress. When she reached 75 Cecily thought about retiring but decided on the compromise of reducing her hours. A very interesting, informative and amusing at times talk.

The Guild - a force for Good - 17 February

The speaker was the Guild National Convenor Christina Paterson. She began by saying that we are all part of the same body and everyone has some talent or gift which should be used as illustrated in the Parable of the Talents and also that about hiding a light under a bushel. God having given us these skills to use in service to others.



Christina continued her talk by looking at the history of the Guild in a unique and imaginative way using the imagery of a train journey stopping off at different 'stations' in time and place. Beginning in 1838 in a schoolroom in Wamphray, Dumfriesshire where a 3 year old boy called Archibald Charteris was playing and already reading. He went on to become a Church of Scotland minister and then in 1892 Moderator of the General Assembly. He was very aware of women's place in society in those days and it was in 1887 that he founded the Women's Guild.

We continued this journey through history with the war years, the General Strike and Depression, women's suffrage. The Guild became a force for good and also known for their top class catering!

Prayer Breakfast

Focused on praying specifically for all our Penicuik children & young people

Saturday 1st March, 9.00-10.30 am,
Venue: Penicuik Trinity Community Church hall, bottom of Kirkhill Road, Penicuik.
Also Saturday 3rd May 9.00-10.30 am,
Same Venue