

St. Mungo's Guild - 19 March

Report by Agnes Ovenstone

Our speaker at the meeting of the Guild on Monday 19 March was our own minister the Rev John Urquhart telling us something about himself and his family.



He began by going back to his grandparents and parents time showing us some old photos of the family and himself as a young boy when he was growing up in the Highlands.

There followed a beautiful video showing the beach at Arisaig accompanied by the theme music from the film Local Hero.

He spoke about coming to faith in Jesus as a boy and showed us a note written as a child about this. This was reinforced through the school chaplain and at university. At important moments, he felt he was guided by God. After completing courses at both Oxford and Loughborough universities he went on to have a career as a librarian with Age Concern Scotland before coming to the ministry. It was when he was on placement at Liberton Kirk that he met his wife Rebeca.

We enjoyed seeing their wedding photo and also a photo of their son David. In 2015 he suffered a stroke which affected his speech which was devastating for him as a minister but with speech therapy together with prayer and laying on of hands he recovered.

To finish he told us about the Church of Scotland programme of the Path of Renewal and the Cairn programme, showing us slides of how we can learn from the ministry of Jesus. It was a very enjoyable and interesting evening hearing John's story.

Christian Aid book sale - 12 May

St Andrew's and St George's West Church George Street, Edinburgh



The annual Christian Aid Book Sale begins on Saturday 12th May 2018. Over 100,100 books will be on sale in the Sanctuary and both courtyards. Since it

began in 1974, the Book Sale has raised well over £2 million.
<http://www.stagw.org.uk/work/christian-aid-sale>

Christian Aid Week - Volunteers wanted



Christian Aid Week runs from the 13th to the 18th of May this year and more volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

It takes less than an hour to put envelopes out and around two hours, depending on the district, to get them back in.

Some areas don't produce much money, but when added to the donations from all the other districts, it makes an impressive total. (£ 1505.02 last year !)

Please consider giving up some time for this work, which is so important in helping poorer countries in need because of famine and disaster.

Let me know if you are able to help in anyway - Thank you.
Janis Hogg (hogg-d2@sky.com / 676350)

Church Register

Removed by Death

Mrs Eleanor Forbes	168 Rullion Road	22 February 2018
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Mungo's Diary

16 Apr, 7.30pm	Guild - Commodity Evening. Church Hall
29 Apr, 4.00pm	Messy Church to 6.00pm - in the Church Hall
2 May, 10.45am	Friendship Circle - 44 Cranston Street For help with transport call Margaret 672347

Foodbank Fundraiser Concert - 23 March



Beeslack Jazz Band play Glen Miller Medley

Over 60 people gathered in Penicuik Town Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 23 March to see and hear over two hours of entertaining music, song and dance from a fantastic line up of talented musicians, singers, and dancers.

The fund raising concert was introduced by Food Facts Friends foodbank and drop in centre founder Mark Wells.

Good friend singer, guitarist and songwriter Megan Adams, a long standing Food Facts Friends supporter, came over from Stirling to play several numbers in both first and the second half of the show. Megan included her fantastic debut single 'Travellin Soldier' which you can see on YouTube.



Sophie Penman sang several songs with her guitar, followed by singing her own compositions while playing piano.

Song and music changed to dance as the Dancepointe Academy girls stepped out to entertain us with a dance number, followed by a solo tap dance. A quick change and they returned for another amazing display of synchronised dancing.

A coffee break provided time for the audience to catch their breath and take part in the raffle, with lots of prizes on offer.



Fully Refreshed they were once again entertained by the Penicuik Beeslack Jazz Band. A very popular band at many functions, we were privileged to have them play a series of numbers for us.

Megan Adams returned to top off the evening with more of her favourite numbers including Hallelujah.

A big thank you to all the performers and all those who bought tickets,



including St. Mungo's members, and came along to enjoy the concert. All funds raised go to buy food and supplies for those in our community struggling to put a meal on the table for their families.

The foodbank is open every Monday and Friday in St. Mungo's church hall, with many volunteer helpers coming from the church congregation.



Mungo Messenger

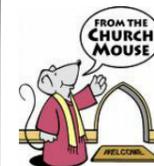
April 2018

monthly newsheet from St. Mungo's Church Penicuik

You can sign up to an extended "e" version of this newsheet, with full length features, and colour photos which will be delivered to your email each month, saving paper and other resources. Use "eSignup" on St. Mungo's website www.stmungos.freeuk.com

Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC



Easter is a major festival in the Christian calendar and your church at St.

Mungo's joined the Penicuik Churches Working together team to host four of the services throughout the week.

Messy Church followed the theme to show how Easter offers a 'second chance' to come to God - it's never too late.

The Guild opened the new season with our minister telling us something about himself and his family. The second meeting, to have seen Lady Clerk as the guest speaker, had to be postponed on Monday 2nd as the snow once again returned. Indeed as I write this column on Wednesday 4th the snow is still falling and around 6 inches deep now as I look out the window.

Global warming? Not in Penicuik, not today!

The Foodbank team, which operates out of St. Mungo's and has many volunteers from our members, put on a great fundraising concert at the end of March. With a range of supporters offering their services to the charity they are able to continue the good work helping the poor and distressed.

Don't forget the Quiz Night in May. Always a good fun, and a brainteasing evening. Put the date in your diary now.

Enjoy this issue

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
stmungos@freeuk.com

Easter at St. Mungo's

St. Mungo's joined the Penicuik Churches Working programme of Easter services throughout Holy Week, commencing with Palm Sunday, the hosting of a joint Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday - 25 March

John related the story of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, illustrating with a short video, which you can view as well. For the sermon we heard the story from the book of the prophet Jonah, and the comic events to make a serious point. When God instructs him to go preach to the city of Nineveh a terribly cruel place in Assyria. He sets out heading west by sea, the wrong direction as Nineveh is east across land! Is Jonah running away from God? The story leads to Jonah ending up thrown into the sea and into the whale. Are you still with this story? Listen to how Jonah makes it to Nineveh, and what he does next.



Maundy Thursday - 29 March



MAUNDY Thursday

The Penicuik Churches Working Together team, saw Rev's Ian Cathcart, Lynsay

Downs, and John Urquhart lead our service celebrating the Last Supper and washing of feet. Opening with the Gathering where we heard of Jesus and His disciples in the upper room. The Peruvian Gloria, was followed by our first reading from Corinthians. Rev Lynsay Downs explained the significance of the washing of the feet.



Good Friday - 30 March

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion, a day of mourning in church. Our service took the gospel of Luke to follow the journey to the cross. Starting with the denials, read by Gordon Macdonald, we progressed to the questioning read by Agnes Ovenstone, followed by the verdict read by Ian Dickson, and the execution read by Margaret Webster. John's address told us of Simon of Cyrene, returning for the Passover, but seized by the Roman Soldiers before celebrating Passover, and forced to carry Jesus's cross on the road to Calvary. It was a hard and painful task.

This Good Friday we remembered Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for our faith.



Easter Sunday: He is Risen - 1 April

The sunrise worshippers walked from St. Kentigern Church at the rear of St. Mungo's to Broomhill to welcome the new day as the dawn broke, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. The Rev Lynsay downs led the service.



The Easter day service at 11.00am continued this joyful day with praise and worship. He is risen. John told the story how the disciples heard the good news, and how confused they were. We took the example of 'texting' on our mobile phones as how we communicate today. How much faster the good news would travel across the world now.

John's sermon took us on a journey to catch 'pleasure', how difficult it is to find and keep. Jesus said 'My ways are ways of pleasantness, and all my paths are peace'. By following Christ we can know and find that elusive pleasure.

You can hear the full stories of all these Easter week services, the stories, readings, and hymns, available on our website www.stmungos.freeuk.com

From the Manse - Rev John Urquhart

Dear friends,

Thank you for everyone who helped during the events of Holy Week and Easter. The cross and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of our Christian faith and it is good to take time to concentrate on them. The Apostle Paul says to the church in Corinth in one of the earliest apostolic writings:

Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing.

I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. He appeared to Cephas [i.e. Peter], then to the Twelve, and then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once.... So then, whether you heard the message from me or [the other apostles], this is what we preach and this is what you have believed. 1 Corinthians 15: 1-6a, 11 (CEB)

I would be interested in how next year we can involve the wider community in Penicuik more and take the message out to them. If you have any ideas about how we can do this, please get in touch with me and I'll share them with the other churches. May we all know the joy and peace of the risen Christ.

John



Guild - Lothian Presbytery Annual Gathering - 17 March

Report by Agnes Ovenstone

The gathering this year was held in St Mungo's Church hall on Saturday 17 March 2018. We began with tea/coffee and cakes and biscuits and a chat as there were members there from all over the presbytery.



The meeting was opened by Cath Munro, Convener of Lothian Presbytery Guild and we began with "O, come, and let us to the Lord" to the tune Irish. The rest of the hymns were all to tunes with an Irish connection as it was St Patricks day.

We also took part in a quiz about patron saints. Our speaker was Mrs Maureen Kelly who is the Guild President at Wardie Church in Edinburgh. She gave us a very interesting and sometimes humorous talk on "The Strange World of the Amish and the Shakers".

First of all the Shakers who are officially the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearance but because of the ecstatic dancing the world called them the Shakers. They were celibate, they did not marry or bear children yet theirs is the most enduring religious experiment in American history. They increased their numbers by adoption or conversion. When they reached the age of twenty-one they were allowed to leave if they wished.

The Amish, founded by Jacob Ammann, lead a much stricter lifestyle than the Shakers. They tend to be very strict on living life as God as revealed in scripture. Anyone disobeying any of the rules is shunned and members of their family are not allowed contact with them. Teenagers are allowed to go out into the world for a year to decide whether they want to stay Amish or leave.

Both Shakers and Amish are mostly based in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The meeting closed with an Irish Benediction.

Alpha Course

The current Alpha courses are half way through and are going well.

We hope to offer another course later this year. Look out for dates in the Messenger and on the website.



Pastoral Care The Pastoral visiting team can be called on at any time (Margaret 672347)

Messy Church : Easter, a second chance - 25 March

Messy Church looked at how Easter offers a 'second chance' to come to God – it's never too late. With crafts, activities and celebration time in the church, finishing with a meal for the whole family.

We recalled how two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Jesus to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'

Our crafts included:

Easter garden in a jar - We made small circles of oasis or playdough and attached the moss and three cross shapes, using six tooth picks or sticks and double-sided tape, placing the whole item into an upturned glass jar. Screw the lid on to the bottom of the jar. We talked about what happened in the garden before Jesus' arrest.



Plastic egg planters - We decorated eggs with stickers, then opened them and placed moist cotton wool in the bottom, sprinkling on a few cress seeds. We then talked about the new life we can have through Jesus.



Easter Cross - We decorated a big cross as a team effort for display outside the church over Holy Week, using pictures and words. We discussed all the events that make up Holy Week.

Celebration time in the church told the story that our crafts had illustrated that afternoon. With song and prayer we found out why Jesus died on the cross to save us.



The afternoon came to a conclusion with a family meal where we could all swap experiences of the afternoon.

The next Messy Church is on Sunday 29th April in the Church Hall

For more information on Messy Church contact Joan Cape 674276 capefamily@talktalk.net

ST. MUNGO'S CHURCH



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 25th May

at 7.30pm

in the Church Hall

Refreshments

Donations

Always a great fun evening. Plenty of brainteasers, with lots of conferring. Put the date in your diary now.

Treasurers Report from SAGM - 18 March Report by Frank Duns - Treasurer

I gave the following report at the Stated Annual General Meeting (SAGM) on Sunday 18th of March, but since the meeting I have received the new Council Tax bill for the manse and for those of you who were at the meeting there are some changes. The manse Council Tax, the first year we will be liable for the full amount, is more than was initially budgeted for and thought would be, There is an increase of £500, so I have changed the figures accordingly.

At the beginning of 2017 our General Account was not in good shape. You'll see that £4000 was transferred from the Fabric Account, that was in March. That was to enable us to be able to continue paying our normal overheads.

Our regular income did increase once Rev Urquhart took up his position although not quite as much as expected as many members still give no financial support whatsoever.

What really made a difference last year was a very generous donation of £3000, which with Gift Aid came to £3750, and an increase in fund raising. You will see that Gift Aid increased by over £2000, mainly due to the extra fundraising, compared with 2016. This made a noticeable difference to our income.

Take these amounts off the General Account income and we would have spent more than we received.

Expenditure: This is where we will see our biggest changes.

Our Ministry and Mission contribution for 2018 is £40552, an increase of £11813 compared with 2016, the last year we had Rev Davidson for the 12 month period which is a more accurate comparison than 2017. We're obviously not paying for a locum so we subtract a year's locum costs, around £8500, which gives an increase of over £3000. We then have to pay the rates and other costs for the for the manse, around £3000.

We basically need to find around an extra £6000 a year to pay for the extra costs of having a permanent minister and that has to come from somewhere. The Board are actively looking at ways to attempt to encourage lapsed members to return and ways to attract new members but it's not going to be easy.

Our utility costs for the year for the church and hall were just under £5500. They were all up for renewal last year and I managed to get an extremely good deal for gas with no standing charges, but to get that I had to accept a small increase in electricity costs. As gas is our biggest expense I am hopeful that we should see an overall reduction this year although an unknown problem with the hall timer for the heating caused excessive bills for 3 months until the problem was rectified.

We also now don't have a hall cleaner so our wage bill is reduced. After the resignation the Board decided we simply could not afford to employ someone else at that time. This may of course change but currently we cannot justify that expense.

We could also be facing a very expensive repair to the organ. You'll all have heard the problems Eileen is having with it. We are currently attempting to limit the damage by leaving the heating in the church on 24 hours. It does seem to be helping but this is adding to our costs, an increase of £400 in gas usage over a 3 month period.

Our reserves and total funds are currently healthy. The main reasons are the manse rental, over £15500 over a 2 year period, fundraising and investment income. We won't see that £15500 again and we only paid out just over £8500 in repairs over 2 years so we have been extremely fortunate.

This will probably quickly change. We are going to be looking at the buildings next month to see what is required to maintain them or renovate them to keep them in good usable condition. This was meant to be done earlier but we have been waiting for the estimate for the organ, which could be substantial.

However we now have an opportunity to carry out maintenance and renovation and we need to take advantage of our current position and we simply cannot sit back and wait until something major happens. I feel we can't put these things off any longer and if we do what may be a minor repair could easily become a major issue.

The budget for 2018 £10000 has been allocated for repairs but I have recently paid over £2500 for a relatively minor roof repair to the hall which was carried out at the end of 2017.

If we find major work is required, which is a distinct possibility for the buildings and the organ and we then need to use some of the reserves to pay our overheads then we could possibly be facing problems.

Ian Dickson had looked back to 2014 at the figures for the amount due from the Manse Account which are to be repaid to the Fabric Account and the amount due was not quite as much as the £20000 that was the target. We have now reached that target which is £19717 so if any of you here are still giving to this fund please cancel your standing orders or if you are giving cash please stop doing so. I would like to thank all of you who have given to this fund over the years.

The change of banks is unfortunately going to cost us. We have been very fortunate that the RBS do not charge businesses or charities at the level we are operating at but all other banks do. We simply cannot bank outwith Penicuik. We could use the post office for RBS transactions but that would mean someone taking the collection home with them and the money would not be insured should it be stolen.

We're probably looking at around a minimum of £200 a year after our six month free period. These are the little things that added together can become a substantial amount of money.

So where do we go from here? Our overheads are going to increase, that is fairly certain, and we don't know at this time if our income will increase or decrease.

Since Rev Urquhart came to us there is a very positive feeling in our Church and I am hopeful that this will continue and will encourage lapsed members to return and attract new members.

Irrespective of us not having had a permanent minister for such a long time, I feel we have coped well with the situation we found ourselves in through no fault of our own but with the changes in expenditure we won't really know until later in the year what our financial position will be.

It is only then we will know if we are heading in the right direction.

Frank Duns, Treasurer, St Mungo's

Used Stamps

Thank you for saving used stamps.

Participating congregations raised £2,194 in the 2017 Appeal helping to buy books for a Christian Training Centre of South Sudan.

The 2018 Appeal will benefit the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) who run a number of day care centres, providing educational and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, thus enabling young people to live life in all its fullness, and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

You can leave your stamps in the deposit boxes in either church vestibule.

