

A Blast from the Past

While we look forward in our search for a new minister, as reported on the front page, we take a moment to look at some of the past times we have enjoyed in St. Mungo's when the congregation was thriving and 'going to church' on a Sunday was the norm.

We came across the pictures below, dating from 1992. As you can see the numbers whilst nowhere near the above levels were still healthy and they seemed to be having a good time, whilst learning about the Bible stories. Can you spot someone you recognise? Perhaps YOU.



Tom Dickie celebrates his 90th Birthday

Tom Dickie celebrated his 90th birthday on 5th July with his daughters Mary, Helen, Gwen and Lorna. Originally from Motherwell, a town that he often returns to visit Motherwell FC when they play at home. A long time member of St. Mungo's Tom has been an active member for many years, and continues as a key member of the choir, leading our praise on a Sunday morning.

Sadly Tom's wife Ursula passed away in 2011 but he has seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren to keep him busy, when not heading off to towns across Scotland following his favourite football team.

Congratulations Tom, and may we see your face in St. Mungo's for many years to come.

Church Register

Removed by Death

Miss Jane Fairley	10 Kirkhill Gardens	29 June 2016
Mr Alan Baxter	Gilmerton Care Home	8 July 2016

Mungo's Diary

2 Aug 7.00pm Congregational Board and Kirk Session meeting in the church

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



August 2016

Mungo Messenger

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

July is the time when most of the activities take a break for the summer, and this year is no exception.

This issue catches up on some of the stories held over from last month's issue.

Messy Church had their BBQ, though the fickle Penicuik weather forced us to eat inside. Iain Anderson and Neil Cape however braved the elements to cook the food on the BBQ grill in the garden, taking cover whenever they could.

Good to see Vic Ramage back in the saddle covering a marathon mileage while raising money for charity. It seems only yesterday that he was knocked off his bike and injured his shoulder, and his pride!

While we look forward and pray for a new minister to lead us we take time to look back some years at Sunday School in the nineties.

Our locum Hugh Davidson will be preaching in St. Giles during August, and on holiday during part of September, his first real holiday in six years he tells me. Please welcome those who will lead our services while he is away.

The importance of those hats, gloves and scarves that your church creates for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal is covered as a prompt to start knitting.

Look at our webpage for extended reports and stories with more pictures.

Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor

Searching for our new minister

Those of you who follow your church activities on our web page will have noticed that the advert for a new minister had a closing date of end June for a while. This, coupled with members of the congregation spotting that the Nominating Committee members had been absent a few Sundays leading up to end June, raised speculation that an announcement was a real possibility.

Our hopes were dashed however, as Sandy Robertson announced to the congregation recently that the search continues, and the June closing date for applicants was removed.

A small light on the horizon is that July is the month many new ministers on probation, i.e. on the final part of their training, start looking for a charge. They have plenty to choose from, with 112 vacancies on the current Church of Scotland list, far out numbering ministers looking for a charge. We do have an attractive charge, with a new modern manse in a good location, and an active core of church members.

After over four years without a permanent minister, Geoff Berry leaving in May 2012, and the Presbytery failure to sustain our chosen successor, Jonathan Humphrey in May 2013, we have to believe that there is someone out there. So the message has to be 'keep praying' that someone feels the call to lead our church into the next chapter.

Minister cover August & September

Hugh is preaching at St. Giles during August, and on holiday for the latter part of September. Cover will be Aug 7, 28, Sep 11, 18 - Rev Jim Black. Aug 14 - Rev Bob Kane. Sep 4 - Rev Hugh Davidson. Sep 25 - Rev Yvonne Atkins.

Congratulations Vic & Jenny



Vic Ramage, Adelheid Cooney, Jenny Ramage

Congratulations to St. Mungo's members Vic and Jenny Ramage who, together with Adelheid Cooney, completed a sponsored cycle run from Oban to Inverness and on to Blair Atholl (150 miles) in aid of the Penicuik & District Stroke Club during the first week of June.

They were lucky with the weather and raised a fantastic total of over £600 so would like to thank everyone very much for all their support.

The Cycle club is now on its summer break and recommences meetings at Cowan Court on Wednesday 17th August 1.30 - 3.30 p.m. Further information for new member, or volunteers phone Vic or Jenny 01968 675976.

Bible Study Group



The Bible study group continue the 'Life on the Frontline' programme. This creative and practical small group resource includes DVD videos for small groups seeking to help one another live fruitfully and faithfully for Christ in the daily places of life and work. What might God want to do where we are day by day? How might he use us? How will we grow?

The group meets twice a month in the church hall and the programme can be joined at anytime, each session exploring a different aspect of discipleship. Speak to Eric Marchant 673634 for full details.

Hats Gloves and Scarves

Story - Christine Jackson

Seems a bit odd to be talking about warm clothing in the middle of summer. But wait this is Scotland, indeed Penicuik, so there is no telling what the weather may bring. However winter will eventually appear, as sure as autumn follows summer.

As you know each year the members of St. Mungo's, usually the ladies, get their knitting pins polished up and ready for action to create a range of warm winter hats, scarves, blankets, gloves and sometimes small teddy bears, a friend to hug for some small child who may have no other toys this Christmas. All these head to Blythswood Trust late November to include in their Shoebox Appeal, which last year were shipped out to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, in time for Christmas.



Margaret Tooth, Area Fundraising Manager for south and central Scotland visited projects supported by Blythswood Care in Romania, and gained a clear impression of the difference this makes in difficult circumstances. One simple way of providing very basic support to thousands of people is the annual Shoe Box Appeal.

2016 is Blythswood 50th anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1966, with the Shoebox Appeal starting 23 years ago in 1993 with 300 boxes. Today they are filling 120,000 boxes a year. Blythswood Trust have set themselves an extra challenge – to include a copy of the gospel according to John, in the language of the country, in each box. One box this year will be their 2,000,000th – but every box gives hope.



So the message is clear, every item knitted counts. Can't knit? Then buy an item for the appeal. A woolly hat, scarf and gloves is just what you need when the temperature drops regularly below zero, and there is little else to keep you warm.



Since 2009 St. Mungo's has donated over 2000 woolly hats, gloves, scarves, and knee blankets, not to mention a few hundred teddy bears, given to the Blythswood Trust for transport to underprivileged elderly and children in eastern Europe in time for Christmas. That's an impressive total and shows how much the items are appreciated.

For those who are suffering or living in poverty, even the smallest gift can make a big difference.



SHOE BOX APPEAL 2016
Give hope to someone in need this Christmas
shooboxappeal.org

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul

Messy Church BBQ - 26 June

Story and pictures - Jim Paterson



The clouds had gathered overhead by time the Messy Church started at 4.00pm, with the rain falling, but did nothing to dampen the craft activities and celebration time in the church. Iain Anderson carried on at the BBQ in the garden as the rain eased, and we enjoyed a great selection of 'grills' for the meal.

Worry, anxiety, panic, fear and all sorts of things that weigh us down. Not so the liberating assurance of new life in God's Kingdom. So is this Jesus' teaching against worry, or is He deliberately highlighting things people do worry about, and asking us to look again at the things that preoccupy us and sometimes cause us to neglect matters of equal or even greater importance.

A range of crafts followed the theme 'How to handle your worries'. To prevent worries making us unproductive, unhelpful and unwell. These verses in Matthew 6 show us the heavenly perspective. Jesus states simply: "do not worry". When faced with a problem, our only solution is to focus on him, trust him and seek him first before we do anything else. When we do that, our situation may not radically change overnight, but we can be sure our perspective on it will.

3D Paper Flowers resulted in spectacular displays, made from three or four different cupcake cases as flowers with pipe cleaner stems. We talked about our favourite flower in the vase. What colour is it? How does it smell? What do you like about it? Is there a reason God makes flowers certain shapes and colours?

Newspaper Bridge was a real construction exercise, using tape the newspaper to make a bridge strong enough to hold many tins of food. What can we do to make the bridge stronger? We talked about how we sometimes try to carry too heavy a burden. One group strengthened their bridge with triangular sections, like Father, Son, and Holy Spirit strengthen us.

Bubble Worries got us wet and sticky mixing bubble liquid in a paddling pool, using different objects to experiment with ways to make bubbles. The results were hilarious as we talked about how just as the bubbles fly away, so can our worries when we give them to God.

Bird Cake was another get your hands sticky and gloopy, filling a paper cup with bird seed and then decorating the outside of the cup with stickers. A string on the bottom of the cup finished off the feeder to hang on a tree branch at home. We talked about how God feeds the birds? What do they eat and where does it come from? What about us? Who feeds us?



Mealtime and a chance to swap experiences

Grass Head looked a bit like a Mr potato head, but in fact was a length of ladies old tights cut below the the knee and filled with grass seed

mixed with sawdust. At home, the children were to fill the plastic cup with water and place the grass head on top of it so the fabric soaks up the water and the grass will begin to grow. We talked about what is needed to make plants grow, and how God provides those things?

Rice Cake Clock had us spread cheese over top of rice cake, placing small pieces of vegetable round the edge to make a clock face, and different longer vegetable pieces in the middle of the rice cake to make clock hands. We thought about time, and what we would do with an extra hour if we could have it? Are there things we could do without, or do less of, or do more efficiently.



Joan Cape led the Celebration Time in the church, talking about handling our worries, while Sophie McDonald read a passage from the Bible. Rae Hunter brought along a 'kit bag' full of boxes containing all her 'worries' telling the children what they all were. One box had worries of what to take on holiday, another with worries of what the future may hold. We sang the song 'Do not worry about anything' which tells us to pray and ask God for everything we need. When we pray to always give thanks, and the peace of God will keep our mind on Jesus.

Returning to the hall for the BBQ the rain had all but stopped. Iain Anderson and Neil Cape had been busy outside barbecuing the burgers and sausages which we served inside with a salad and a selection of toppings and dressings. A dessert selection of cup cake sponges with chocolate or vanilla cream followed.

Messy Church at St. Mungo's heads off on summer holiday, returning on the 28th August for the start of the



Sophie reads Bible story

Food Facts and Friends

Story and pictures - Jim Paterson



We reported the formal launch of the Food Facts and Friends drop in centre and foodbank, hosted in St. Mungo's church hall, in the June issue of Mungo Messenger, when Sister Rita Lee, who runs a similar centre in Manchester, opened this new service to our community. Since then a lot has happened, using the experience and successful methods employed by Sister Rita.

Mark Wells and his team have been busy supporting an ever growing number of people referred to the centre by Citizens Advice Bureau, or Midlothian Council Social Department.

To provide the basics of something to eat requires a lot of food, and a large part of Mark, Grace and Gill's time has been spent forming links with local supermarkets and others to secure food at or near its sell by date, that would otherwise end up as waste in a skip.



Currently Mark has secured links with Tesco and Greggs here in Penicuik, and the Edinburgh City Mission who all supply food and toiletries. Mark is currently forging new relationships with Asda and Sainsbury in Straiton, as well as Costco, and Morrisons.

As the venture grows and more people are referred to the centre, the need for help to support the day to day work of creating food parcels for those who turn up at the door, and spend time with those who are often lonely as well.

This is where members of St. Mungo's can exercise their true discipleship. From Matthew 25, Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."



If you could find it in your heart to help in any way at all then speak to Mark, Grace or Gill any Monday or Friday between 9.00am and 2.00pm, or you can see Mark in church most Sunday's.

Mark will be speaking to members of the Café Connect team after the summer break, on September 2nd, to detail what type of help we can offer, "to serve before we preach". Come along and see what you can do to support this much needed service in our community. Full details nearer the time on the church website and Facebook page.

