



## A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

17 - 25 November 2018

Led by the Rev Keith Mack

9 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee  
departing from Edinburgh



### A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND with the Rev Keith Mack 17 - 25 November 2018

It is always very moving to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, there is so much to see and experience and learn together. St Jerome said: 'Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and the one you will find in the land they call Holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you.'

We invite you to come and know this for yourselves whether you are new to the Holy Land or have been many times before; there are always new sights and sounds to reflect upon. Reading the gospels will never be the same again and by visiting the Holy Land.

To find out more contact Margaret Webster 01968 672347

### Nehemiah - Rebuilding the Wall

Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. John Urquhart is taking us on a journey through this book of the Old Testament. We are looking at what he did, why, where he got inspiration from, how did he get it done, and who did he call on to help.



Using modern day examples using video and visual presentations, we are following this story as it unfolds. Join us to explore this fascinating and exciting story, every Sunday morning.

If you can't manage go to our website [www.stmungos.freeuk.com](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com) and listen again to each episode. This Bible story will keep you asking for more.

### Mungo's Diary

- 5 Feb 7.30pm Bible Study Group - Church Hall
- 7 Feb, 10.45am Friendship Circle - 13 St. James View. For help with transport call Margaret 672347
- 7 Feb, 7.30pm Housegroup / Bible Study - at 21 Mauricewood Bank
- 19 Feb, 7.30pm Bible Study Group - Church Hall
- 25 Feb, 4.00pm Messy Church to 6.00pm - in the Church Hall
- 28 Feb, 10.00am Alpha in the Church hall. Call Bill Webster 672347
- 28 Feb, 10.45am Edinburgh Gathering - Augustine United Church
- 1 Mar, 7.30pm Alpha in the Church hall. Call Bill Webster 672347
- 2 Mar, 7.30pm World Day of Prayer. North Church.
- 5 Mar, 7.30pm Guild 'Women's Aid Refuge'. Church Hall

## Alpha Course - starts 28 February



After a gap of several years, St Mungo's is running Alpha again in 2018. Alpha is about exploring the Christian faith, and people from all sorts of backgrounds and age-groups come along. Some of them will be members of a church and others won't; some would say they were Christians and others would say they weren't; and some would say they don't really know what they believe. It really is for everybody.

Alpha has eight sessions. They each start off with tea/coffee and light refreshments, then there's a video talk (about 30 minutes) on a particular theme, e.g. Who is Jesus?, How can we have faith?, How does God guide us?, Does God heal today?. After that there's a chance to chat together about anything arising from the talk. Everyone's views and questions are welcome, but nobody will ever be put on the spot.

To give as many people as possible the chance to come along, we are running two parallel courses, one on Wednesday mornings from 10am - 12 noon, and the other on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm. The Wednesday course begins on 28 February and the Thursday one on 1 March. They both run until the last week in April.

If you'd like to come, or need a bit more information, please contact Bill Webster (07955 234 849 or [billandmags@talktalk.net](mailto:billandmags@talktalk.net)) - or just turn up. You'll be very welcome.

### Christian Aid Gathering - Edinburgh 28 Feb

Come to Edinburgh and celebrate the work of our partners in Bolivia, and learn how they are transforming lives by standing up to climate change, overcoming inequality and tackling injustice.



Hear from Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, and discover new ways to support Christian Aid's work. Be inspired to raise awareness, to raise money and to raise your voice. Wednesday 28 February at 10.45am

Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL Full details at [www.christianaid.org.uk/events/gathering-edinburgh](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/gathering-edinburgh)

### Christian Aid at Lent - Count your Blessings

Walk into the wilderness this Lent.

Through daily reflections, share your journey with your sisters and brothers around the world.

As we follow Jesus' journey this Lent, let's confront the wildernesses in our own world. Let's walk with our neighbours, like Dimma, Ibrahim and Sori, who have been forced to flee their homes. You'll reflect on the blessings in your life, and you'll see how your support gives people hope.



Download your Count your blessings copy from [www.caid.org.uk/lent](http://www.caid.org.uk/lent)

Or speak to Janis Hogg in church for a copy



## February 2018

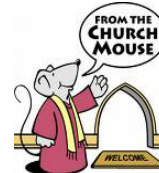
# Mungo Messenger

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](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com)

### Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC



A busy start to the New Year. Our Souper Sunday attracted many of the congregation to enjoy a plate of soup and bread whilst raising over £300 for the Church of Scotland HIV work.

Burns Night was a great success with some hilarious moments played out for the audience.

Messy Church too has returned with some unusual crafts to illustrate the theme of the month.

John is taking us on a journey with Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. Join us to see how this story unfolds. You can catch up by listening to the recent episodes on line.

Looking forward we start an Alpha event, exploring the Christian faith, with people from all sorts of backgrounds and age-groups coming along. Full details in this issue.

Christian Aid offer help with Lent, through their 'Count Your Blessings' material. Janis Hogg can help or you can go on line.

CA are also holding an Edinburgh Gathering and celebrate the work of their partners in Bolivia, and learn how they are transforming lives by standing up to climate change, inequality and tackling injustice.

A lot happening in your church. Come and join us.

Jim Paterson  
Newsletter Editor  
[stmungos@freeuk.com](mailto:stmungos@freeuk.com)

### Burns Night at St. Mungo's - 26 January

Our evening began with a warm welcome by Gordon MacDonald our Master of Ceremonies. This was followed by the Selkirk Grace given by our minister Rev John Urquhart.

The haggis, carried by Mark Wells, was piped in by Vic Ramage. After addressing the haggis Gordon then asked everyone to raise their glasses in a toast to the haggis. Vic then piped it out. We then had our meal of haggis, neeps and tatties followed by trifle and biscuits and cheese with tea or coffee.



accompanied by Eileen.

This was followed by Christine Jackson reciting "To a Mouse" which was very brave as she and mice do not get on.

A very amusing and amazingly complimentary Toast to the Lasses was given by Bill McCall. He was certainly trying to keep on the women's side.

David Hogg was then back with "A rosebud by my early walk" accompanied by Eileen. Dorothy Paterson then followed with the Reply for the lasses. She said she couldn't believe how much Bill had praised the lasses then she said it dawned on her that Helen (Bill's wife) must have written his speech. He denies this of course.

The next item will go down in history and no one will ever forget the Battle of Bannockburn again. Heading back to 1314 Ian Dickson and Bill Webster were two "sodgers" talking on the battlefield while waiting for King Robert the Bruce to give his address.

They spoke about how they were going to be beaten by the English as they had a far bigger army. After the king, played by Gordon MacDonald, arrived and gave his address "Scots wha hae" they were all behind him and raring to go. A hilarious sketch.

Marion followed this with the Star of Robbie Burns. Agnes Ovenstone then read a poem written in 1992 but in the style of Robert Burns about how mankind is spoiling the earth which is still happening today. The evening closed with the vote of thanks and Auld Lang Syne.

**It was a great evening enjoyed by everyone and raised £555 for Church funds.**





## From the Manse - Rev John Urquhart

Dear friends,

The church season of Lent is near. **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is Wed 14 Feb.** This date will be familiar to many as this year it coincides with St Valentine's Day. (This is a reminder, if you need reminding!)

Lent provides an opportunity to focus on praying to God, seeking to help those in poverty through giving, practical action and prayer, and, additionally (and only if our health and circumstances permit) to take on some kind of fasting or readjustment of our activities, and so focus less on ourselves.

These exercises are not intended to be an awkward burden to prove our 'spirituality' to ourselves or others, but an opportunity to make space for God and God's concerns in our lives. They are not a way of persuading God to look more favourably on us: God already looks favourably on us and accepts us when we have faith in Jesus, who has done all that is needed to make the way to God open for us, by dying for us, the righteous one for the unrighteous. This, St Paul insists, is where we should base our confidence

*Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace, and here we take our stand, in happy certainty of the glorious things he has for us in the future. This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys—we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. (Romans 5: 1-3; JB Phillips NT)*

So don't look on these voluntary disciplines as a way of establishing your credentials with God, but as means of deepening a 'relationship of grace' and as chances of helping others, through re-prioritising our lives: seeking to put first God's kingdom. Of course, we don't need to confine our spiritual disciplines to one season of the year. However, we sometimes find the encouragement of a set time, when others are engaged in these things, a useful impetus to take a step forward in training ourselves to live closer to God.

Here is one suggestion: Lent is a time traditionally of giving up, but **Love Your Streets** encourages you to give out.

**#Do1NiceThing** is about loving the person in front of you:

servicing others and the wider community. It is about making positive steps to make life better for others (and yourself in the process). The ideas are generally very simple and don't require much thought or planning. If you don't like one of the ideas, do something else. I'll get some sheets duplicated for people who don't have

access to the internet. For those who do, you can find out more at:

[www.loveyourstreets.org.uk/do1nicething-lent.html](http://www.loveyourstreets.org.uk/do1nicething-lent.html)

If you prefer, you could sign up for '40acts', a generosity challenge created by the Christian charity Stewardship, which encourages participants to do at least one different act of kindness each day of Lent. 40acts can be found at [www.40acts.org.uk](http://www.40acts.org.uk)



May you know God's blessing in bringing blessing to others.

John

## World Day of Prayer - Friday 2 March

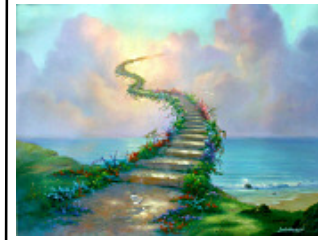


All God's creation is very good; at least it was – until humans began to destroy it! God must be very disappointed by our selfishness and thoughtlessness.

The service from Suriname is one of the more challenging ones we have had presented to us. And, as happens so often with WDP services, it is also very topical. Caring for God's very good creation is hugely important and highly relevant to people of all ages and beliefs. **Held in Penicuik North Church. 7.30pm**

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

## Messy Church : Stairway to Heaven - 28January



The first Messy Church for 2018 took the theme 'Stairway to Heaven', based on Jacob's dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Jacob had left Beersheba to set out for Haran, stopping for the night because the sun had set.



Above the 'stairway' stood the Lord, and he said: 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'

Jacob was on a long journey, running away because he and his mother deceived Isaac, his father, into giving him a blessing that was rightfully due to his brother Esau. This is a story of forgiveness. Our craft activities included

### A Rock or a Pillow

We placed some large rocks and some soft cushions on the floor. The children tried laying their heads on the rocks and on the cushions, telling us the differences. 'The hard rock had sharp bits that dug into my head' was typical response. Whereas 'I liked the pillow. It reminded me of my comfy bed at home'.



We talked about how, in the story, Jacob is in the desert and when he goes to bed he uses a stone as a pillow. We wondered what it's like only to have that as your bed. What about homeless people who have to live with this every day?

### Angels

We made angels using card, feathers, paper and glue. When they were dry they were ready to 'fly' to the Giant Ladder.

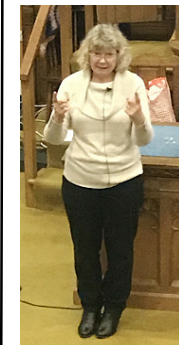
### Giant Ladder

Staying with the 'ladder' theme a group built ladders from cardboard rolls and we slung it over a rafter in the hall. It was very high, and we pinned some Angels to the rungs, some going up, others coming down.

We thought about how big the ladder Jacob saw would have to be, to go all the way from heaven to earth. Then asked ourselves which person in the Bible is the clearest 'ladder' between heaven and earth?

### Curly Wurlly Ladder

We must have a craft that can be eaten at the end. We used a 'Curly wurlly' chocolate bar stuck into a 'fairy cake', trying to make the chocolate 'ladder' stand up. We wet the back of the jelly baby 'angels', to stick them to the ladders as if they're moving up and down between heaven and earth.



We talked about how, in Jacob's dream, there was a constant flow of angels going up and down between heaven and earth. This wasn't a physical ladder – Jacob didn't see it while he was awake, but God showed him something he would understand. How would we describe angels coming and going between earth and heaven today? Maybe a lift? Maybe an escalator?

Sheila Anderson led the celebration time in the church, with Neil Cape playing the part of Jacob, complete with stone pillow (ouch! that looks sore for his head). With the help of song and actions we got involved with the whole story.



You can listen to the whole story in the church on our website [www.stmungos.freeuk.com](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com)

After a closing prayer we headed back to the church hall for a meal of meatballs, chips and vegetables, followed by cake and juice. A great time for families to chat amongst themselves swapping their experiences of Messy Church.

**The next Messy Church is on Sunday 25th February in the Church Hall**

For more information on Messy Church contact Joan Cape 674276 [capefamily@talktalk.net](mailto:capefamily@talktalk.net)

## Souper Sunday - 7 January

Story and pictures - Jim Paterson



St. Mungo's was supporting 'Souper Sunday', a Church of Scotland initiative, with the elders of our church leading the acts of worship. There followed a simple lunch of soup and bread.

Margaret Webster led our service, supported by members and elders of our church. The service was focused on the work of your church supporting the fight against HIV virus and the impact it has on many lives across the world. After offering a new year welcome to the congregation, this being the first Sunday service of 2018, Eric Marchant then introduced the purpose and background to the service.

The All Age talk saw Janis Hogg play the part of 'Doctor Janis', complete with stethoscope, borrowed from her grandchild's nurses set, diagnosing the pains and ailments of her patients. First up was Mary Paterson, suffering with a severe cold and sore throat, something many in our congregation had recently experienced. Dr. Janis offered the rest and paracetamol cure as her hospital could not afford the new decongestant.



Next up was Agnes Ovenstone suffering from a sprained wrist following a fall. Dr. Janis tried to strap it up but the hospital had run out of bandages. Advising Agnes to have a friend tear up a tea towel into bandages, strap the wrist, and another tea towel as a sling, take some paracetamol, and pray!

Finally Margaret Black came into the surgery suffering a severe migraine headache. Poor Dr. Janis again had none of the effective medicine, so prescribed, you guessed it, paracetamol, lie down in a darkened room, and drink plenty water!.

Not a very helpful hospital, Dr. Janis reported. We know the NHS is in trouble, but we know that help is there, and that plans were being made to improve the situation. Unfortunately many millions around the world have no access to anything like our NHS, for all we complain about it.

Many diseases have available medicines, with HIV being one. However it isn't available to millions, including children that are suffering this disease. Dr. Janis told us how the Church of Scotland, with our congregations help through Souper Sunday, is committed to helping all those in need. Jesus told us to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, and look after the sick. That is what we are intending to do today. We finished with a prayer, thanking God for our good fortune, and to give us strength to reach out and support those less fortunate than ourselves.

Time to sing Hymn 360 'Jesus is waiting'. Our bible readings were read by Dorothy Paterson; Matthew chapter 25: verses 35-40, and Isaiah chapter 1 verse 17. Hymn 259 'Beauty for brokenness' led us into the main stories about the HIV project.



The Talk, was in four parts, starting with Christine Jackson, then Ian Dickson, Gordon MacDonald, and Sheila Haig. Margaret Webster provided a conclusion to what we had heard, followed by a prayer. Hymn 544 'When I needed a neighbour were you there' was followed by our offering, and prayers, led by Bill Webster.

The kitchen team had meantime been working hard in the hall with a selection of piping hot home made soup and fresh bread on offer, together with cheese and biscuits, tea and cake to follow. A collection box gathered donations from many in the hall, with Gift Aid envelopes meaning that our HIV giving would realise an extra 25% on the money we donated.

A thank you to all who took part in the service, those who attended to hear the plight of those across the world suffering from HIV, and prepared to do something practical in the Church of Scotland's plight to help those in need.

Souper Sunday offered a brilliant opportunity to raise **£332** toward much needed funds for a wide range of HIV initiatives at home and overseas.