

## Look out for the Membership Questionnaire!

Along with next month's Mungo Messenger everyone on the membership roll should receive a Membership Questionnaire. The Kirk Session is aware that we don't know very well how some of our members view their relationship to the congregation. We might think that we know you well, but are also aware that we might get some surprises!



All members made promises when they joined the church, and you will be reminded of these in the introduction to the questionnaire, and then asked some questions about these promises. For some of you these promises will have been made several decades ago.....and life may have changed for you since then. We'd like to explain what we see as our expectations of members, and what the church offers in return. In this way we hope to be able to make sure that both our and your expectations can be fulfilled.

It's therefore important that you read the document carefully when you get it, and think about how you are going to respond. We'll need a response sheet (a simple 'tick box' for one of 6 options) for each member of your household who is a member. And it's also important that we get all the forms back in good time – we will provide several places where you can 'post' your replies, and someone to talk to if you're not sure how to reply.

So, if you don't get a questionnaire with next month's Mungo Messenger, please let me know, so that you don't get missed out. I am coordinating the questionnaire on behalf of the Kirk Session.

Neil Cape (674276 or [capefamily@talktalk.net](mailto:capefamily@talktalk.net)).

## Christmas Hampers

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas hampers for families in Penicuik. They consisted of groceries, chocolates, Christmas cakes, fresh fruit etc. and presents for everyone.



They were greatly appreciated by all who received them, there were tears of joy & one Mum said "its the nicest thing anyone has ever done for us". Thank you very much from Elaine & John Jacobs.

## 'Jesus at Home' weekend of teaching at Biggar Kirk - 25/26 January

Michele and Peter Guinness - a weekend of teaching at Biggar Kirk. The theme for the weekend is 'Jesus at Home'

**Saturday 26th January:** Ladies Session at 10.30am -12pm in St Mary's Hall, ML12 6DE Biggar. Join us for coffee and pastries with Michele speaking - open to women only.

**Saturday 26th January:** Evening worship at 7pm with Pete Crockett and teaching by Michele and Peter Guinness in Biggar Kirk

**Sunday 27th January:** Sunday service at 11.15am led by Michele and Peter at Biggar Kirk.

If you are interested in going to any of the sessions, please give your name to Margaret Webster 672347 and please let her know if you can help with transport or if you would like a lift.

## Mungo's Diary

7 Jan, 7.30pm	Guild : Embroidery with Jean McLure - Church Hall
9 Jan, 7.30pm	Housegroup / Bible Study - at 21 Mauricewood Bank
14 Jan, 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study - Church Hall
21 Jan, 7.30pm	Guild: Scots night - Church Hall
23 Jan, 7.30pm	Housegroup / Bible Study - at 21 Mauricewood Bank
25 Jan, 7.30pm	Burns Supper - Church hall.
26/27 Jan	'Jesus at Home' Weekend of teaching - Biggar Kirk
27 Jan, 4.00pm	Messy Church, to 6.00pm - Church hall.
28 Jan, 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study - Church Hall
6 Feb, 10.45am	Friendship Circle. Call Margaret 672347 for details and help with transport

## Girl Guiding Christmas - 5 December



On Wednesday 5th of December St. Mungo's played host to Penicuik and Midlothian Girlguiding, Rangers, Brownies, Trefoil and Rainbows girls, parents and friends, for their annual Christmas Service. The church had been decorated with lights

and ribbon so looked very festive. St. Mungo's minister, the Rev John Urquhart joined the celebration, providing the blessing and prayer.



This year Girlguiding were supporting those in need at Christmas, with no food to feed themselves or their families. They brought over 45 bags of food to donate to Food Facts Friends foodbank which operates out of St. Mungo's church hall every Monday and Friday.

Division Commissioner Kathryn Topham welcomed everyone and introduced the event, with special guests, Gill Amos the County Commissioner, with Jan her assistant, Margaret the County President, and Midlothian Councillor Debbie McCall. David McGavin played the piano. The Rangers told us the nativity story, with Christmas carols in between each episode. Rev John Urquhart then led us into a prayer where we thanked God for his gift to us, Jesus who turned sad into glad.

## Feeding those without at Christmas Christmas Lunch - Friday 21st

Food Facts Friends Christmas lunch on Friday 21st welcomed over 60 visitors to St. Mungo's church hall. Town Crier 'Mose' opened the event and our traditional Christmas



meal was introduced by the Rev John Urquhart saying the grace. We started with soup, followed by roast chicken and all the trimmings.

The Salvation Army band played Christmas carols throughout our meal which was followed by a thank you from charity patron Michelle Ballantyne MSP. She thanked supporters Tesco, Asda, JB foods, Forth Demolition, the team of volunteers who prepared, cooked and served the meal, and Mark Wells who organised the event. Before our dessert Rev John told us the true meaning of Christmas using a video carol as Christmas pudding arrived.



A visit by Santa Claus, handing out gifts to all the children and adults was followed by a free raffle where four lucky winners collected large Christmas hampers donated by JB Foods.

Thanks to all who made this Christmas lunch possible. Those who donated food, gifts or financially, and those who volunteered their time and talents.

## Christmas Eve donations - Monday 24th

Thanks to Aldi at Cameron Toll, M&S stores at Straiton and Morningside, over 60 crates of food, arrived at St. Mungo's. Turkey's, chickens, all the trimmings, potatoes, vegetables, pudding, salads, and fruit. Nearly 500 kilo (½ tonne) of food provided a traditional Christmas meal for many families that would otherwise be looking at 'beans on toast' to celebrate the birth of the new King, Jesus Christ.



Thanks to all who helped, through donations, transport, displaying and packing the food parcels. Your work is much appreciated by all those who arrived to the call on Facebook.



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



Your church had a full calendar of events over Christmas

2018, celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus. We hosted and supported a number of services for various organisations in Penicuik.

You can read the stories in this issue or go on line to our website and read the full articles including listen again feature.



With 2019 now with us it is time to look forward, and there are plenty of new activities on the way, see Mungo's Diary.

Remember that our Sunday worship during January will be in the Church Hall, as access to the church may be restricted during the town centre improvement, which restarts after the Christmas break.

A members questionnaire will be circulating soon so you can have a direct say in what you would like from your church

Your church has a lot in store for 2019. Will you be part of it?

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

## Christmas at St. Mungo's - Pageant of Christ's Nativity

The Nativity Story was the main feature of our service on Sunday 17th December. Rev John Urquhart handed over the reins to Agnes Ovenstone

Our third Sunday in advent started with Katie lighting the third candle.

Our narrators, played by Ian Dickson, Christine Jackson, and Gordon MacDonald, set the scene for the prologue, introducing the prophet Isaiah, played by Rev John Urquhart, who storms on to the stage to a drum roll and clash of cymbals. Isaiah tells us of Gods blessing to mankind, a second start. A lass will will bear a boy who will lead us back to peace and joy. As Isaiah departs he narrators wonder if his prophecies will come true.

Mary, played by Joan Cape, enters to be visited by the Angel (meaning messenger) Gabriel, played by Charlie Sprott, who tells Mary that she will bear a son. Mary argues that as she is unwed it can't be done. However when Gabriel tells her it will be the son of God, she will serve the Lord. Later Mary and Joseph, played by Neil Cape, are wed and head to Bethlehem for the Roman census.

On their journey Mary and Joseph stop to rest and bump into a shepherd called Sim, played by Margaret Black, looking for a

lost sheep. Soon two other shepherds, played by Elaine Jacobs and Fiona Hutcheson, wrap Sim in a cloak to keep him warm and eat. Sim looks up while they eat and spots the bright star in the heavens. This was the sign foretold that the shepherds would know as the new born boy, heavens joy.

To the sound of 'Gloria in Excelsis' the angels enter, played by Janis Hogg, Jenny Ramage, Helen McCall, Ruby Sprott, and little Katie, to tell the shepherds of the new born king. As the angels depart, again to 'Gloria' the shepherds set off for Bethlehem.

We catch up with Mary and Joseph in the stable, there being no room at the inn. Baby Jesus is born in a manger. The shepherds arrive to see the new born Messiah, offering their modest gifts. The shepherds left and spread the word all around Bethlehem that night.



Finalé lineup, Herod, Joseph, Mary, Shepherds, Gabriel and Angels, Wisemen, Calcas.

We switch to King Herod, strutting on his palace walls, while his herald Calcas, played by Rev John Urquhart, enters to a drum roll and clash of cymbals to read Herod's decree, that no one will pass unless they pay 5 gold coins.



Katie lights the 3rd candle

Calcas departs to the cymbals once more, before we see a wiseman, played by Sheila Haig, appear. Soon a second wiseman, played by Mary Paterson, appears completely lost. At this our third wiseman, played by Margaret Webster, appears and they all join together. They travel to Jerusalem and the palace of King Herod.

Calcas introduces them to Herod as seeking a new boy king. Intrigued Herod offers free passage for a hundred days to seek this new king. But as the wisemen leave Herod instructs Calcas to cutoff their heads when they return and kill the upstart child king.



We return to Bethlehem where Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus are preparing to return home, after paying their tax to the Romans. The wisemen appear to a trumpet fanfare, kneeling and offering gifts of gold, incense, and Myrrh. The wisemen say they have to return to Herod but tired they rest on a

grassy bank. As they rest the angels appear, to the strains of 'Gloria in Excelsis', to warn the wisemen not to return to Herod. They leave in separate directions.

Joseph has a dream the night before he, Mary, and Jesus set off home. An angel warns Joseph that Herod will play a trick. To a clash of cymbals Joseph wakes Mary and the three head off, to a clash of cymbals, before Herod finds them.

And so our story was told. Herod died as tyrants will, but Christ returned and is with us still.

You can listen to the complete service, sermon, hymns, blessing, and videos on our website.



## Hope4Penicuik Carol Concert - 8 December

The much loved annual Hope for Penicuik carol concert in the town hall on Saturday 8 December saw the Penicuik Silver Band, the Puppets and much more, bring us the real meaning of Christmas through story, theatre and song.



Many familiar faces from the monthly Messy Church, which the team also organise, joined the audience, of families with children young and old.



To open the evening the Silver Band led us in that favourite Christmas carol, Hark the herald angels sing.

Joan Cape welcomed the visitors and introduced Mrs Grumpy, who had her

own disparaging thoughts about Christmas, complaining that we were doing 'all that old stuff again!'

After some discussion Mrs Grumpy agreed, with some grumbling, to listen to our story.

Hitting the 'rap' scene were our angel, shepherd and narrator from our 'Beatbox Bible' team video. Taking Luke chapter 2 they sang out the story as a great rap song. We provided subtitles so those unfamiliar could follow what was going on. You can watch their performance by clicking on this link.

Mrs Grumpy was not sure if she liked that but it was different. Joan asked her to bear with us and see what happens. Margaret Webster read the poem 'Mary' by Shelley Spiers, a primary school teacher from County Armagh with a passion for writing and telling children about Jesus. You can read the poem by following this link.

In a video from the Bible Society 'The Mystery of the New Noisy Neighbour we watched the first part of the story as Mary and Joseph set off to Bethlehem. Watch the video on this link



Time for a carol, with the silver band leading 'O little town of Bethlehem', with our puppets helping explain the story. Our new group made up of Carolyn Toms on guitar, Mary Ritchie lead singer, and Neil Cape on bass, led us on the carols 'Away in a manger' followed by 'Still the night.'

Bill Webster read the 'Angels' song, before we returned to the next part of new noisy neighbour video, the shepherds. The Silver band led us in two carols, 'while humble shepherds watched their flocks', followed by 'Angels from the realms of glory'.

Mrs Grumpy was beginning to see the light, why Jesus was sent us by God. Part 3 of our video told us of the wisemen. 'We three kings of Orient are' was led by the silver band, and followed by Carolyn Toms and the group leading 'In the bleak midwinter'.



The puppets then took us into 'People need the Lord', followed by Mary Ritchie reading 'Adoration of the Magi' and Carolyn Toms leading 'What kind of greatness', before our final video 'Searching for a baby'. A transformed Mrs Grumpy now told Joan that she could indeed see the true purpose of Christmas and that people do need the Lord.

A final prayer of thanks for the gift of Jesus at Christmas took us into our closing carol 'O come all ye faithful' with the Silver Band raising the roof for the finale.

Thanks to Joan and Neil Cape and the Hope for Penicuik team putting together another great family Christmas carol concert.

## Christmas Fair Quiz

The Christmas Fair on 24 November included a quiz. There were only two correct in all of the ones returned so the prize was split between them. Thanks to everyone who bought copies, I hope you enjoyed it. The answers are available on the website - [www.stmungos.freeuk.com](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com). Agnes



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

## The Christmas Journey - 7 December



visitors visit the scenes on their journey

In an afternoon of expectation, looking forward to the Penicuik lights switch on, St. Mungo's provided a welcome sanctuary against the biting cold wind and rain. Families with young children flocked to the church to discover the true meaning of Christmas travelling a journey visiting a series of scenes and activities culminating in the birth of Jesus.

On entering the church we were greeted by the Angel Gabriel, played by Marion Mather from St. James the Less, describing the journey we would be taking, and providing each visitor with a passport to record each scene they visited. A paper sack was also provided to carry the results of their activities as they moved on their journey.



Proceeding into the church we were greeted by Joseph, played by Jordan Hope, leader of our Destiny congregation in Penicuik, who told us how he and Mary, who was expecting a child, were to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Mary Darling and Debbie Hall from the South Church helped us make blankets to keep the newborn child warm, with young fingers working hard to make each blanket colourful as well as warm.

We continued onward, meeting a shepherd, played by St. Mungo's Bill Webster, with his sheep. He told us of a visit by angels telling the shepherds of the arrival of the new born king in Bethlehem. They were to follow the bright star to where the new Messiah would be born. Our activity was to make a sheep, just like the shepherds, with Margaret Webster from St. Mungo's, and Gillian Little for St. James showing us how it was done.



As we travelled on we reached Bethlehem to be met by the innkeeper, played by Andy Longmore from St James. He explained that due to the census their were no rooms free at the inn. Seeing Mary about to give birth he offered the stable as a place to rest. Joseph made a bed from a manger, filled with hay. Our activity was to make a lantern, so we could see where we were going to next on our journey, helped by Chris Black and Sandra Knox from North Kirk, and Rae Hunter of Loanhead church.

A star lit our way, leading us to a wise man wearing a crown and dressed in fine clothes, played by David Hogg, assisted by Janis hogg, both of St. Mungo's, with of course the camel. He told us that he too had seen the bright star and with his two fellow wise men were taking gifts of gold as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of a divine person, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death. We as travellers were able to make our own gifts, decorating small boxes with colours and jewels.

Our final stop on the Christmas Journey was the stable where we met Mary, played by Tricia Tucker from St. James, tending baby Jesus in the manger. The occasional sheep also looked over the manger at Jesus, aware of his importance to mankind. With the help of Helen McColl St Mungo's, Fiona Oyler St James, and Sandra Fraser North Kirk, we decorated small cup cakes with icing sugar, and a jelly baby covered in a blanket of icing, representing Jesus sleeping in the manger.

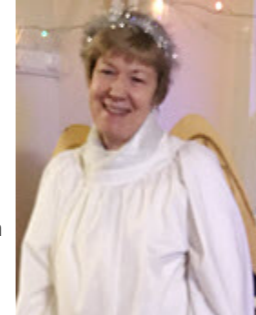
With our passport fully stamped at each scene, and our bag full of reminders of our journey we were treated to refreshments provided by Sheena Allan, South Church, Susan Wong, St Mungo's, and Shannon from St James.

A wonderful and practical way to hear, see, and 'live' the Christmas Journey to the birth of Jesus.

God's people from all walks of Christian faith bringing His word to life.

St. Mungo's hosted the Christmas Journey, from Joseph and Mary travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to the birth of baby Jesus in a series of scenes with activities around the sanctuary in the church.

Families with young children visited the journey as part of their trip to see the Penicuik Christmas lights switch on.



Marion plays Angel Gabriel



Joseph with Shepherd



Mary with Jesus

## Christmas Eve Services at St. Mungo's

### All-Age Christmas Eve - 4.00pm

Christmas Eve at St. Mungo's started at 4pm with a family service led by Joan Cape. The service opened with that all time favourite Christmas carol 'Hark the herald angels sing', led by Eileen Marchant on the church organ.



Emily lights candle

The lighting of the fourth advent candle by Emily Bunyan, which was followed by an opening prayer, highlighting that for some Christmas is a difficult and troubled time, and asked for God to be with us and help us at this time.

Joan took the theme 'What are we looking for?' and 'why are we here?' Answers such as peace and hope were heard. Emily who lit the advent candle said 'joy'. Joan introduced Andrew Dunsire and Phoebe Middleton to lead us singing 'Holly and the Ivy', with an Irish, Celtic theme, played on guitar.

Using three envelopes Joan told us the nativity story, with readings read by Rae Hunter. Phoebe led the singing of

'Away in a manger' and 'Silent night', with Andrew accompanying on guitar. Joan told us the story of 'why a guitar?' Silent night was first played in 1818 at the church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg when the church organ was not working. Since then it has become a favourite world wide.

We watched a video version of the story of Christmas, where the shepherds were told of the new King by the angels, followed by 'A band of angels' which we could all follow the actions.

Andrew and Phoebe then sang 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. Joan introduced a new song from Andrew and Phoebe, one that Andrew composed, 'Sing for the baby at Bethlehem. They all found the baby Jesus, Mary, shepherds and wisemen. Joan continued that it was not all down to us, searching for a baby.

As we approached the end of our service Joan led us in prayer and closed with singing 'O little town of Bethlehem' and the blessing.

### Watchnight Service - 11.30pm

The temperature outside tumbled to -3 degrees but the congregation, drawn from all the Penicuik churches and beyond, soon warmed in St. Mungo's as we gathered to celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. Hot drinks and traditional mince pies were on hand before the service started, while a series of short videos carrying the Christmas message were shown.



Rev John Urquhart welcomed all the visitors especially those from afar and other churches. As the lights in the church were dimmed, we started the watchnight service with the choir singing an introit 'See in yonder manger low'. John read from 'Isaiah' to introduce our first praise hymn 318 'Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour'.

The 'reading from Luke' by Agnes Ovenstone set the scene describing Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem for the census and the birth in the manger, no room at the inn. John opened his talk on three kings with the first Caesar Augustus.

This led us into hymn 301 'Hark! The herald angels sing' followed by a reading from Matthew read by Neil Cape which follows the three wisemen to Jerusalem where they meet king Herod. John told us of the second of the three kings, Herod. We sang hymn 309 'Still the night' and our final reading from Philipians, read by Joan Cape where Jesus, though in the form of God, took on the role of a humble servant.

John completed his talk of three kings with Jesus the real king. We then watched and listened to 'what kind of throne' This took us into Christmas Day and John lit the fifth, or Christ candle in the centre of our advent wreath, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. We wished our fellow worshippers a happy and peaceful Christmas before our closing song, the favourite Christmas carol hymn 306 'O come, all ye faithful',

The blessing closed our service which included a closing collection for Bethany Trust Shelter, looking after and offering food and shelter to those homeless at Christmas and throughout the year.

You can listen to both these services, and all the Christmas services again at [www.stmungos.freeuk.com](http://www.stmungos.freeuk.com).