

Organ heads for new home *Report by Jim Paterson*

For many months we have had an electric church organ tucked away at the back of the stage. The original plan to wheel it out and use it when running services in the church hall was overtaken by events and the time had come to find a new home, where it could be used.

Though electric it had the full sound of a piped church organ, and so was quite large and heavy. A small team gathered with Neil and Joan Cape joining the organs owner, Graham McDonald, myself and my son Simon Paterson, over from Brisbane in Australia for a short visit. (**Ed** Bet he didn't count on this little exercise?)

Suitably disconnected, the first job was to lower it from the stage. Disaster loomed as a slip here and we would be looking at matchsticks all over the floor.



Snug fit in the van



Still works too

Messy Easter Church - 26 March

Messy Church will be on Sunday March 26th, looking ahead to Easter, with a focus on forgiveness.

A warm welcome awaits families with children, for an afternoon of fun, crafts, learning about Jesus, celebration of His life and time for reflection in the church. All followed by a family meal together, with time to talk with each other about our experiences. **Joan Cape 674276 for details**

Mungo's Diary

5 Mar, 5.15pm	Service at Cowan Court residential care home.
6 Mar, 7.30pm	Guild - Care for the Family with Kate Allan - church hall
7 Mar, 7.00pm	Kirk Session meeting - church hall
8 Mar 7.30pm	Wednesday Housegroup / Bible Study Lent special series
15 Mar, 7.30pm	This Lent series is not about giving things up. It's a lot more positive than that. It's about how we can pass on god's amazing love to people in practical ways. Isn't that worth finding out about? <b>All at 21 Mauricewood Bank</b>
22 Mar, 7.30pm	Bible Study Group. Studying book of Psalms. Church Hall
29 Mar, 7.30pm	Guild - Larch Housing Association with Lady Clerk. Church Hall
5 Apr, 7.30pm	Messy Church. Looking at Easter. Church Hall to 6.00pm
13 Mar, 7.30pm	Bible Study Group. Studying book of Psalms. Church Hall
20 Mar, 7.30pm	Guild - Larch Housing Association with Lady Clerk. Church Hall
26 Mar, 4.00pm	Messy Church. Looking at Easter. Church Hall to 6.00pm
27 Mar, 7.30pm	Bible Study Group. Studying book of Psalms. Church Hall
5 Apr, 10.45am	Friendship Circle. Venue TBC Call Margaret 672347 for details
8 Apr, 11.00am	<b>Celebration of Gifts Exhibition - Church Hall to 1.00pm</b>
9 Apr, 11.00am	Palm Sunday Praise Service - Easter Week commences
16 Apr, 11.00am	Easter Sunday

**Pastoral Care** - If you would like to help with visits, or request a visit, please contact Margaret 672347.

Lent 2017 - 1 March to 13 April

With so much darkness in our world, it's a good spiritual practice to take time out and count our blessings.

Why not join thousands of other Christian Aid supporters and use our Count your Blessings resource this season?

This Lent we're sharing the story of Michael, who had to flee his home when soldiers raided his village in South Sudan. Thanks to generous churches and people like you, we helped him get back on his feet and gave him hope for the future.

Please journey with your global neighbours like Michael this Lent by following our Count Your Blessings Lent calendar 2017.

Based on the beautiful hymn 'When I needed a neighbour, were you there?', our Lent calendar Count Your Blessings guides you through to Easter with daily ways to give thanks for life's blessings.

You'll find inspiring opportunities to give, act and pray for your global neighbours - people like Michael in South Sudan.

Speak to our Christian Aid coordinator Janis Hogg to secure your copy, or visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) to download a copy.

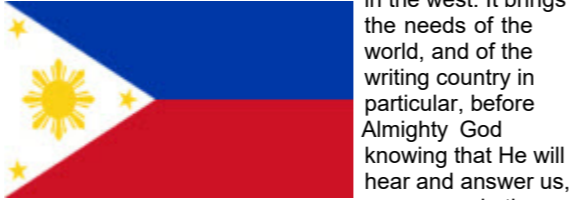
World Day of Prayer - 3 March



St James the Less church hosted this years World Day of Prayer as it arrived in Penicuik.

The theme for 2017 was 'Am I being unfair to you?' From the Philippines.

World Day of Prayer services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west. It brings the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular, before Almighty God knowing that He will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.



name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

God invites us to have a prayer relationship with Himself, but He also expects us to have concerned relationships with our neighbours, throughout the world. Prayer must be accompanied by action, as God moves our hearts and directs our thoughts.



# Mungo Messenger

monthly newsheet from St. Mungo's Church Penicuik

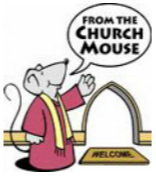
Penicuik: St. Mungo's Parish Church (Church of Scotland). Scottish Charity No SC005838

March 2017

You can sign up to the "e" version of this newssheet, 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



February was a busy month with the congregation experiencing a change in the Sunday services while Hugh spent some time preaching and helping out at St. Giles in Edinburgh. The variety of worship styles brought by the visiting ministers, coupled with the church elder led service made for an interesting time.

Two great Guild meeting presentations, one looking at keeping us fit, the other on the overseas fight against poverty. The Christian Aid Lent 'count your blessings' programme continues this theme.

Closer to home, the Food Facts Friends foodbank, supported by St. Mungo's, is fighting hunger and poverty right on our doorstep here in Penicuik.

Girl Guiding Thinking Day and World Day of Prayer events bring together people in all countries around the globe, to harness God's great work and give us time to rejoice together.

Look out for more news on our Celebration of Gifts event in April. Put the dates in your diary and come along to see what your church gets up to. Some memories of times past, but also looking to the future, and what you can do for your church. Everyone has a talent. What is yours?

I hope you enjoy this issue.

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

St. Mungo's will be launching the Celebration of Gifts event on Saturday 8th of April when the church will be open to display the range of activities your church is involved with.

Saturday 8th April

Please come along and bring your friends and family to our celebration of gifts event in the church hall from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m.

We will have an exhibition of the range of church activities and light refreshments will be served. We would love to see you there – all welcome.

Sunday 9th April

On Palm Sunday at 11 a.m. we will be having a special praise service in the church to continue the celebration of gifts

February Services at St. Mungo's

Whilst the Rev Hugh Davidson was preaching at St. Giles, the congregation at St. Mungo's enjoyed a selection of visiting ministers to lead our worship, with one presented by the elders of the Kirk.

The service on Sunday 5 February was led by Sandy Robertson and the Elders. The readings, poems, stories and sermon reflected the theme of Salt and Light, taken from Matthews gospel.



The Rev Ian Bird led our worship on Sunday 12 February and started his title theme 'Decisions Decisions - Moving forward', with the children's talk. Recounting a trip to Lightwater Theme Park in North Yorks with his children some years ago he was presented with a 'Dare' from his son to ride the 'Hells Slide'. This slide started higher then the gallery in the church in a near vertical fall to the bottom. Decisions Decisions. Keep going and challenge the dare, or turn back to where he came from.



This dichotomy was developed from the Joshua reading, where Joshua had to cross the River Jordan in spate, to reach the promised land. Easier

Celebration of Gifts

SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> April

in St. Mungo's Church Hall

EXHIBITION

11 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Teas, coffees and home baking  
Come along and see the range of activity under way and perhaps take the opportunity to become more involved.

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> April in

St. Mungo's Church

PRAISE SERVICE

11 a.m.

ALL WELCOME

to go back? Again in the Matthew reading where Jesus told the disciples to go everywhere and make men His disciples. Easier to go back?

On Sunday 19 February the Rev Elisabeth Spence preached taking the theme God's Love, and using the childrens talk, readings, and sermon, showed us how his love is unselfish, unending, and unconditional.

The Rev Andrew Don theme 'on Sunday 26th, 'If you love me, show me', took the first 10 chapters of Genesis to present every soap opera situation and story line, all the ills of the world, lies and deceit, murder etc. How you can find these chapters

echoed across families in Penicuik, broken homes and families, hunger and poverty. Yet at the end of those chapters there is hope, as the rainbow appears. From the childrens talk to the closing prayer, the theme haunts us with tales of those fighting personal demons and what we can do, by taking the word and love of God to those crying out for help.

You can revisit these services on our 'catchup' website feature where you can listen again to the sermon, readings and prayers of each of the above.

We welcome back the Rev Hugh Davidson in March, to once again lead our praise and worship. Join us.



**Food, Facts and Friends - foodbank** *Report by Jim Paterson*

The Food Facts Friends foodbank and drop in centre received a visit from Midlothian MP Owen Thompson, and Provost Joe Wallace to see how the operation was progressing, and what they could do to help. Both were very impressed with the level of activity, helping those in need in our community.

Owen and Joe told us of the changes taking place in Penicuik, the social work unit in the Town hall being relocated to Dalkeith, prior to the closure for refurbishment, and the soon to open Pentland house for homeless and refugees. They forecast that the number of people and families in need will rise significantly.

It takes some 7 weeks from registering with the Citizens Advice Bureau before a claimant receives any benefits payment. During this time they have to survive on their own reserves, which often means using what little they may have for rent and energy payments. Food tends to fall to the bottom of the list, when the cash reserves are exhausted. The impact this has on a persons dignity and well being is often profound, leading to depression and other anti-social habits. Many of the visitors to the Food Facts and Friends project in St. Mungo's are in this situation, crying out for someone to help them.

When the Food Facts Friends project commenced a year ago the weekly numbers were around 10 families a week. Today that number has more than trebled to around 37, and set to increase substantially as stated above.

The numbers are further exacerbated by those working in low paid or zero hours contracts, with no job security, where income is based on haphazard working hours that may change or cease at any point.



**Donations from Costco**  
the foodbank operation would soon run out of food.

The project is fortunate that the range of foods donated provide a nutritionally balanced diet for visitors. Only last week the stock of canned soups, beans, meat and fish and packet foods of pasta, rice, cold meats, bakery, fresh fruit and vegetables was completely exhausted, such were the numbers and demand from those in dire need. I counted 20

people, many with families, at the Monday 27th foodbank alone.

In total we estimated over £1500 of food was handed out the last two weeks, by the team of volunteers who make up the food

**Food Facts Friends granted charity status.**

At the end of February the project achieved registered charity status. This major step forward was granted in recognition of the good work being carried out by the team, helping those in need and distress in Penicuik and across the Midlothian council area.

Not a moment too soon, if the forecast increase in numbers becomes reality.

Working with vulnerable adults requires specialist training and we are fortunate to be supported by the Church of Scotland. All volunteers undertook the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) training, enabling them to identify and manage problematic situations that may arise with visitors. As the church Vulnerable Group Protection Coordinator for St. Mungo's I regularly speak with the Church of Scotland Safeguarding team for advice on specific incidents and situations. The procedures being followed by the project team are in line with the national guidelines, but we continue to be vigilant and work to improve the service we can provide for the poor and needy in our community.

The project team have also visited other churches, at Kings Hall in Edinburgh, running similar operations with the Edinburgh City Mission. We saw other interesting activities and methods being used to meet the same issues and demands that we do in Penicuik.

With St. Mungo's congregation and elders involvement and support, the project will be able to expand to meet this forecast rise in numbers. As a church it is our duty to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ to feed the hungry and shelter the poor. Andrew Don's sermon on Sunday 26th February focused on broken homes and families, hunger and poverty, haunting us with tales of those fighting personal demons and what we can do, by taking the word and love of God to those crying out for help. You can listen again to this sermon on the website 'catchup' feature. Food Facts Friends is 'walking the talk' every week.

Visit the church hall any Monday or Friday morning to speak to the team for more information, or to donate some food to meet the ever increasing demand. You will meet real people, just like you and me, but at a low point in their lives, looking for help. Can you provide that help? Will our church embrace the words Andrew Don preached?



**Guild February meetings - Living Well and VSO** *Report - Agnes Ovenstone*

**On Monday 6 February** we enjoyed an evening of Keep Fit with Vivian Wallace from Ageing Well.

The evening began with our speaker being held up in traffic so we did things in reverse by having our business first. As she still hadn't arrived two of our members, who go to keep fit classes, were encouraged to start us off.



After a couple of exercises, Vivian arrived full of apologies. She then organised us, with the help of music, to do some warm up exercises then we started off sitting down but the music was all sixties so we were soon all swinging along marching back and forth. We carried on for about 30 minutes and then ended with a couple of line dances. The evening was full of laughter and we all felt better at the end of it. (I think!) A great fun night.

**On Monday 20 February** our speaker was Joan Nadeau who is a volunteer with Voluntary Services Overseas. VSO volunteers work in up to 40 countries across the globe bringing people together to tackle poverty.



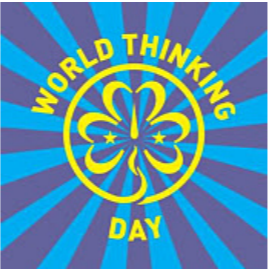
Wherever the volunteer's skills are needed they go out to make a lasting change to people's lives. Joan is a retired primary school teacher who went to Rwanda not to teach the children, although she sometimes did that, but to teach the teachers as many teachers died as a result of the genocide in 1994. They don't have any teaching aids so she helped them come up with ways to make their own as visual aids, in particular, make teaching so much easier.

It was quite difficult for her as the language in Rwanda is quite hard to grasp and most don't speak English. She was so impressed by the way the children are so keen to learn. Though her trip was supposed to be for or a short time only, she ended up staying for two years, as she loved the country and the people so

much. She brought some artefacts from Rwanda and we saw some amazing toys made by children as young as five or six. There was a picture of two very small boys who had made a car from wire and it even had working steering.

VSO works from donations but they don't give money to the countries they work in, instead the volunteers go out to train the people to help themselves. One of the things being done is helping mothers to access better healthcare and help children to get to school. It was a most interesting evening and certainly opened our eyes to the life changing work being done by VSO

**Girlguiding World Thinking Day - 22 February**



St. Mungo's played host to the girlguiding World Thinking Day celebration, greeting the girls from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to the church. The celebration, falls on 22 February each year by all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is a day when they think about their "sisters" in all the countries of the world, the meaning of Guiding, and its global impact.

The 22 February was chosen as it was the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and of Lady Olave Baden-Powell, his wife and World Chief Guide.

Kathryn Topham led the "Guide's Own" service, using readings and prayers from Guide Association resources and ideas from WAGGGS #LetsGrow.



Each of the groups, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides presented their 'colours' before taking their promises before the leaders. A series of well known hymns and songs such as 'Colours of Day', 'This Little Guiding Light of Mine', 'Make new friends/Circles Round', 'On my honour', 'Flags flying High', and 'Trees of the field', were led by David McGavin on the organ and piano.

Each group also created 'hands' and stuck them on to the tree of growth, symbolising hands across the world growing stronger in unity.

Many parents were on hand in the gallery, looking down on their daughters as they took part in the celebration. The service closed with the National Anthem.

**Messy Church - 29 January** *Story and pictures - Jim Paterson*

The theme for February was "Listening to God", based on the story of Samuel and Eli in the temple (1 Sam 3, 1-10). Many families joined the event for an afternoon of fun, crafts and the interactive story time in the church.



Sheila introduces Samuel, Hannah, and Eli in the church celebration time

We explored how does God speak to us? Can we still hear the audible voice of God today? When was the last time we took a risk in Messy Church? How can we teach ourselves and others in Messy Church to recognize the voice of God in their lives?

A wide range of crafts that took elements of the story helped the children to understand what it was all about. Some had the added advantage they could be eaten too.

**Samuel's bed** - Elaine Jacobs taught us how to make figures of Samuel from fondant icing of various colours which we then placed in a matchbox bed. We talked about times we have slept away from home, perhaps on our own. Did we sleep as well when not in our own bed, or did we miss some of the things we have at home? For those who have never slept away from home, what do we think it would be like? What does it feel like if you waken up in the night and don't really know why?



Craft time

David Hogg led the **Megaphone** activity. creating a cone and decorating it. We talked about what a megaphone is, and how it works to make people's voices easier to hear. Where might we see a megaphone? Have we ever seen one? What was it being used for? What could we do to make God's voice easier to hear? We were to remember to take our megaphone over to church for the celebration!

Life wasn't easy for Hannah, Samuel's mother. For a long time she could not have a baby, and then, when Samuel was still very young, she honoured her promise to God by leaving him in the temple with Eli. However, throughout this time she knew God was with her. We thought about things which remind us that God is with us, even when we feel sad.

In the dark was all about listening when unable to see. Sheila Anderson made our **tunnel of chairs** covered with blankets and sheets. The tunnel long and dark and we crawled through with someone at the other end calling our name to guide us through. We talked about how it felt to be unable to see very well with only a voice to guide us. Could we hear the voice clearly? Were other noises/voices getting in the way? What gets in the way of our hearing God?.

That old favourite game, **Jenga challenge**, saw Bill Webster help us see how many complete layers we could achieve and how fast. We talked about how we had to be persistent in playing Jenga, even when it got more difficult as the tower got higher. Samuel had to be persistent in working out God was speaking to him, even when it was a hard thing to do. What things do we need to persist with at present?

Soon it was time to walk over to the church for our celebration time. This month we heard the story of Samuel played out with actors from the audience. A young Samuel was joined by adults playing the parts of Hannah and Eli in the temple. With songs to sing, and a video to watch Sheila Anderson and Margaret Webster took us through this interactive version of the story.



meal time and swap stories

Returning to the hall we feasted on an all time favourite, pizza, followed by a choice of apple pie and cream, or ginger pudding and custard. Great to sit and chat to families about our experiences of the afternoon time at Messy Church.