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Church mouse

From the mouse of Editor's PC



Now that the familiar Scottish summer has returned we found the

planned outside activities having to make last minute changes to miss the rain by heading indoors.

Saturday 29 September



Christian Aid invite you to visit the breath-taking Kelpies and discover some of the hidden secrets of the Helix Park with a five kilometre walk or cycle with Christian Aid.

Don't forget you can stop for a well-deserved picnic on the Great Lawn when you have finished! Full Details

www.christianaid.org.uk/events/kelpies-canter



Open heart, open mind event in Dalkeith from 10am to 3.30pm – a training event to help understand child and adolescent behaviour from a mental health perspective. Tickets £5.00 from Eventbrite.

Moderator to visit Food Facts Friends at St. Mungo's

Rev Susan Brown will visit the foodbank on Friday 5 October to meet the team and clients.



Jim Paterson
Newsletter Editor
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Teambuilders Holiday Club Family Service - 26 August 2018

St. Mungo's welcomed families and friends from the North and South churches to a family service that celebrated the completion of another successful holiday club week. Visitors were welcomed to the church, where the team who led the holiday club, held in the North Church, gave an insight and flavour of the content and activities that took place with the children throughout the week.



Sandra leads team and congregation

The Rev John Urquhart, in his role as head tactician welcomed all the visitors and guests to the service, before handing over to 'the Gaffer' Jackie to open the service. 'Head coach' Rev Ian Cathcart described the various parts of the weeks activities and how we would be shown a few highlights during this Service.

Sandra then led the Teambuilders song, the theme for this year's Holiday Club. With children at the front helping Sandra.

Head coach Ian returned to talk about Joseph and Moses. Putting a new light on the bible reading, Ian told us how Joseph had 'gifts', but was not really a team player. Moses was also gifted, and a good leader but could not delegate jobs to others, and became 'grumpy'. The moral of the story is, if you're like Moses and gifted, do it for the team, give it back to God. If you need to ask other people to help you, because your getting grumpy, just ask.



John - head tactician

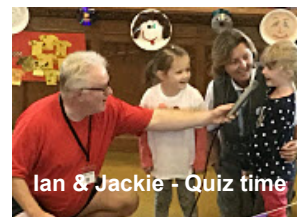
The lesson from Corinthians 12, was read by a team from all the churches, Margaret, Jackie, Marion, and David. We heard how the body has many parts and each part needs the others to work in harmony.

Time for another song, once again with actions to keep us active. Sandra returned with helpers to lead 'God's love is Big'.

Each day at holiday club had a time for jokes, and our coach Ian and gaffer Jackie chose a selection to share with us.

Jackie then talked about the story of Esther. This led into another song with of course actions.

A photo montage of the holiday club week at North Church was shown to entertain the congregation, offering an insight to the activities during the week.



Ian & Jackie - Quiz time

Time for a quiz. Ian and Jackie led the questions with some of the children coming up to the front to provide the answers. We were surprised that the children were able to recall some answers to quite tricky questions.

Our head technician Rev John continued with the theme from Corinthians that Love is what keeps all together, ending with a prayer.

The finale saw Sandra lead from the front with a host of helpers from the children of the holiday club. Coach Ian closed the Service, allowing us all to head for the

BBQ.

A great service showing all our parishioners how learning about God and Jesus can be real fun, if somewhat exhausting for the organisers.

Equal Futures needs your help to prevent social isolation in Midlothian

Equal Futures is working alongside people with disabilities to help them achieve their goals in their own community whilst making new friends and relationships on the way. This local charity was set up by a group of parents who worried that their growing children were finding themselves isolated from their communities once they left the education system.

hours a week to introduce them to new people and places. This new project pairs individuals with a volunteer who will work with them to increase their social circle and achieve goals such as transition, independent travel or even just to discovering a new interest.



If you can give a small amount of your time to help connect people into their community we would love to hear from you. www.equalfutures.org.uk

There are people in your area who are sat at home alone and just need someone who can spare a few

Messy Church Sports Day - 26 August

Inclement weather called for a change of plan for Messy Church on Sunday 26 August. Relocating to the church hall, the children enjoyed a range of 'sporting' activities, without getting wet. Sheila Anderson led the story time, which was followed by a BBQ

The afternoon was filled with fun, with a purpose which Sheila Anderson would explain further at Story Time.

The fun activities included Bean Bag in the bucket was another test of hand and eye coordination. This time trying to reach out to the farthest, and highest scoring bucket. Looked easier than it turned out to be.

Bean Can tumble, was a test of who could knock over as many cans in a set time. It seemed to take longer to set the cans up in a pyramid than it did to knock them all over!

Rocket to the moon let the imagination explore making a rocket from card tubes, straws and decorations, before launching it into the skies.

Sparkling biscuits was our activity to make something to eat. Lots of colourful and tasty flavours that made our biscuits even more enjoyable to eat.

Rock, Paper, Scissors is a great game and we split into two teams for this one. Each team stood at the end of a trail of hoola hoops. One member from each end jumped through the hoops on the way to the other end, at the same time. When they met the challenge was made. We all know the way it goes. Scissors cut Paper, Rock blunts Scissors, Paper wraps Rock. The loser retires, and the winner continued jumping until met by the next team member coming the other way. Reaching the other end of the trail was a winning point.



Beanbag flight



Scissors and Rock



Song time with signing actions

At Story Time Sheila Anderson produced a puppet donkey from her bag. We heard how the donkey appears quite a few times in the bible. The children scratched their heads, but soon identified Christmas, when Mary arrived at the stable on a donkey, and Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey. Do you know of other occasions in the bible where a donkey is part of the story?

Meantime the BBQ was being prepared and a table was filled with good things to eat, and drink. Sheila gathered us in a big circle after the meal to say grace, thanking God for all the good things he provides for us to eat.

Messy Church will be back again on Sunday 30 September

For information on Messy Church contact Joan Cape 674276

Mungo's Diary

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|--------------------------|--|
| 5 Sep, 10.45am | Friendship Circle - 15 Eskvale Drive; for help with transport phone Margaret 672347 |
| 8 Sep, 10.00am to 3.30pm | Kirk Session meeting to discuss the next stages of the Cairn process. Church Hall |
| 8 Sep, 10.00am to 3.30pm | 'Open heart, open mind' - training event to help understand child and adolescent behaviour from a mental health perspective. St. Johns and King's Park Church Dalkeith |
| 10&24 Sep, 7.30pm | Monday Bible Study Group. Church Hall |
| 12 & 26 Sep, 7.30pm | Wednesday Housegroup / Bible Study. 21 Mauricewood Bank. 'Fruitfulness on the Front Line' All welcome. |
| 16 Sep, 5.15pm | Service at Cowan Court. All welcome. |
| 27 Sep, 7.00pm | Alpha Taster Evening in St James Church Hall. Starts with a meal. |
| 30 Sep, 4.00pm | Messy Church to 6.00pm - Church Hall |
| 5 October | CofS Moderator Rev Susan Brown visits Food Facts Friends foodbank - Church Hall. |

Penicuik Alpha

Does God care about me? What kind of life does he want me to live? If I pray, is there anyone at the other end? Big questions that most of us probably ask at some time or another. If you are looking for answers to any of these questions, why not come along to the Penicuik Alpha which is starting early next month?



Alpha is an eight-week exploration of the Christian faith, and people from all sorts of backgrounds and age-groups come along. Some would say they were Christians already and others would say they weren't at all; and some would say they haven't really decided what they believe. It really is for everybody.

Each evening starts off with a light meal followed by a video talk (about 30 minutes) on a particular theme, e.g. Who is Jesus?, Why and how should I pray?, How does God guide us?, Does God heal today?. After that there's a chance to chat together in a relaxed atmosphere about anything arising from the talk. Everyone's views and questions are welcome, but nobody will ever be put on the spot.

Penicuik Alpha is being held in St James the Less church hall at the top of Broomhill Road. It will be on Thursday evenings (7.00pm) for eight weeks (with a break for school holidays), starting on 4 October and finishing on 29 November.

To help people decide whether they would like to come to Alpha, we are holding a taster evening the week before (27 September, also at 7pm in St James church hall). There you will be able to find out more and get a flavour of what Alpha is like. We would love to see you there.

If you'd like to come to the taster evening or to Alpha, or if you need more information, please contact Bill Webster (07955 234 849 or billandmags@talktalk.net) - or just turn up. You'll be very welcome. There's also some useful info on the Alpha UK web pages, particularly <https://alpha.org.uk/tryalpha>

From the Manse - Rev John Urquhart

Dear friends

Abraham's story (Genesis 12-25) is one of following God's call, trusting in God's promise. Yet he made a lot of missteps and mistakes along the way. At times, he clung to the old familiar securities, even being deceitful at times, because he hadn't fully learned to trust God.



Timothy Keller, a Presbyterian minister in New York, tells of four crises in Abraham's life, each one more intense than the last. First, he had to leave behind his home and culture in his initial journey. Later, he had to leave his family and trust in a future promise of land, when he didn't own any of it (except a burial cave, purchased late) and he lived in a nomadic tent all his days. Then, he was to leave his future economic security in God's hands and trust in God's promise of a son, even though he and his wife were well on in years. Finally, he was challenged to give up his son, the child who had been promised him, on the mountains of Moriah.

Each time, it was as if God was saying to him: 'This is not your foundation; this is not where you should find your security. Your security is in me.' Abraham changed, Abraham became different through this process, and we look at him now as the father of all who have faith, the one who trusted God's promise, the one who was 'waiting for the city which God has designed and built, the city with permanent foundations.' (Hebrews 11:10)

Where do we find our ultimate security, our foundations? Is it in God and God's unshakeable promises to us in Jesus, who gave up everything for us?

John

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