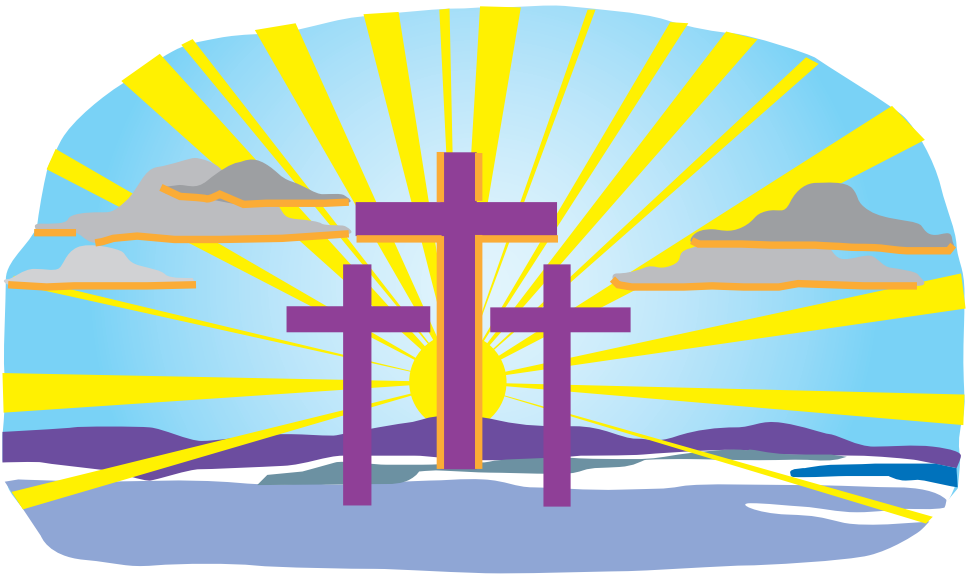


# THE OPEN DOOR



*Penicuik North Kirk  
Newsletter number 300  
April, 2007*

## Dear Friends

We recently began our service with the popular short worship-song: *'This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.'* These words remind us of the need to let go of the past and embrace the present moment, recognising each day as a new beginning. The theory is excellent, the practice harder. For as the years pass, so our ability to bounce back from life's disappointments and look forward with undiminished enthusiasm becomes ever more challenging. Yet if it seems hard sometimes for us, how much harder must it have seemed for the disciples of Jesus in the days following his death. How could they recover from that? How could life ever hold any meaning again? Their joy had turned to tears, their courage to fear, their faith to failure, their hope to despair. Life must have seemed bleak beyond redemption. Until suddenly it all changed! Hope reborn, joy returning as Christ was there once more, risen and victorious. And in that moment they knew it was true; life was beginning again, not just for Jesus but for them all; a fresh start, a new chapter in a story which would have no end. So it is for us – each day, each moment offering a clean break, the past forgotten, the future there for the taking. *'This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.'*

Another expression that is used so often that it has become a cliché goes: *'Today is the first day of the rest of your life'* But for us as Christians it is a statement that sums up the truth of Easter day – a truth the Apostles discovered as, huddled behind locked doors, Jesus appeared among them; a truth broken-hearted women discovered as they found the tomb empty and the stone rolled away; a truth countless generations have discovered since as the risen Christ has transformed their lives. For each one suddenly life began again – a clean sheet, a fresh page, a new chapter. Let's listen to their stories, let's reflect on their experience and let's rejoice in the new life God offers to us too.



## North Kirk Business

*The following are some of the points raised at the Kirk Session meeting held on 23rd January, 2007*

### Previous Minutes

Approved

### Information Points

The Moderator drew Session's attention to the date of the next Prayer Breakfast – Saturday 27th January 2007 and Board Meeting to be held on 27th February 2007 re amalgamation of Events and Facilities Management Teams

## **Session Clerk**

Irene Burnett was approved by Session as Session Clerk

## **Matters Arising**

- Update re Neil Anderson's Insurance for his trip to Prithipura
- Sunday/Monday or Alpha Groups.
- Cost of Hire for Minibus for Sunday Morning
- New Members
- Lectern Bibles

## **Goals For 2007-family And Local Mission**

At the last conference one of the action points under the topic "Family and Local Mission" was that contact should be promoted and maintained with young people who have moved away from Penicuik. It was suggested that all elders should enquire during their Easter visits if there were any young people who would like information about the North Kirk.

## **Reports**

- Way Ahead Team Report
- Presbytery Report
- Reports on visits to Organisations

## **Update Re Child Protection**

Sylvia Blenkinsop reported that the Disclosure procedure has now been completed for the Sunday School Superintendent and the Youth Fellowship Leader. Recruitment for leaders for the crèche was underway

## **Leading Worship Course**

David Tulloch and Fiona Charleson have expressed a wish to attend this course.

## **Tear Fund**

Session agreed that it would be beneficial to invite a member of Tearfund to come and give a talk on how churches can relate more closely with their communities.

## **Vacancies**

- Youth Fellowship Leader
- Treasurer: this post would become vacant after the summer and does not necessarily need to be filled from the Congregational Board or Session.

## **AOB**

An elder is required to take on the duties of Communion Elder. Volunteers to Session Clerk.

## **Correspondence**

*Letters received from John McCulloch, Presbytery Clerk.*

Letter 1 requests the Kirk Session to commission an elder to serve as a member of Presbytery for the year commencing 1st July 2007. Anne Pearson is willing to represent the North Kirk for a further year. This letter also gave details of the National Youth Assembly and Caroline Tulloch will ask the Youth Fellowship if anyone would like to attend the Youth Assembly this year and if anyone would like to be put forward as representative at the 2007 General Assembly

Letter 2 is an extract from the minutes of the Presbytery visit - Presbytery notes

1. That this congregation is enthusiastic, forward-looking and cheerful, commends the minister for his relaxed happy leadership, and notes that his

widespread effective ministry is backed by continual study of traditional and up-to-date methods of worship, both spiritual and practical.

2. Commends the office-bearers for their diligence and “*church without walls outlook*” and for their effective management and leadership, both spiritual and practical.
3. Recognises the value of interactive, inclusive, informal all-age style of worship in this congregation and, in particular, notes the innovative use of pastoral care team, prayer drops and younger age activities.
4. Notes for future deliberation the probable need to review manse provision.

*Letter received from Andrew Don*

Andrew expressed his thanks for the Book tokens and for the loving affirmation of all in the Kirk Session and congregation.

*Letter from Church of North India*

This letter was from Rev Naresh Samuel Ambala and Dr Miku Foning requesting a twinning relationship to be set up with one of their Pastorates. Session agreed that before replying to this request it would be helpful if Mr Hugh Trevor was invited to speak at a morning service to give an indication of what our commitment would be if we were to twin.

*Letter from Alan Anderson BB Officer*

Alan expressed his thanks for the payment of the BB Officers Capitation Fees and for the support of the Church in their work with the boys.

*Letter from Church Without Walls*

This letter was a reminder about the Re-Energise Conference to be held in Aviemore from 4th-7th March, 2007

**For your prayer please**

*Dear friends*

Fear and despair are gripping the people of Swaziland as we face the worst drought known in the country's history.

On Sunday I visited Big Bend to say a formal farewell to the people and following the service went to see the Great Usuthu River which at this time of the year should be flowing with thick red water. The Usuthu, the widest river in Swaziland used to be the home of crocodiles and hippopotamuses but now the famous river is a stream slowly meandering through the wide river bed.

The following day I was in Lomahasha, and knowing of the fears of the people, visited the areas that usually provide the staple, maize, for the people of the area. The fields are black with dried and withered stems bearing no corn. Asking how the people felt, they spoke of fear and of the problems of having no water in their homes. One person made the comment, God made us, he has provided for us, we are in his hands.

The whole of the lowveld lies wasted. But the problems are greater than previous years because the middleveld lost its early crops through the lashing of the heavy hail storm at the beginning of the year. Subsequent crops have received no rain and have been lost.

This year has been the hottest remembered summer, and even in the middle of March there is no change in the heat. We watch clouds gathering and see lightning but there is no rain. The poor who have to survive on the simplest of diets, millet, are the first to be crushed as we watch the price of maize products rocketing.

At a meeting with the Bishop yesterday, we agreed that we should seek all means to reach out to people in trouble and therefore need your prayers.

Pray for rain, even though the season has passed. We need food to help the poor and we need God's grace on our lives as the church seeks to minister to those suffering.

*Hope you are well*

*Best wishes*

Andrew J Symonds

### **Penicuik North Kirk Registers As Eco Congregation**

Penicuik North Kirk recently registered as an eco congregation, the churches' environmental programme. The programme's aim is to encourage churches to 'green' their life and mission i.e. congregations make a commitment that environmental issues and caring for God's creation form part of their church life. As part of this process the North Kirk is undertaking a number of actions including looking at its energy usage, encouraging recycling within the Kirk's premises and looking at caring for God's creation in their worship

### **Saturday Prayer Breakfast**

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held on 21st April in the Welcome Area - enter through front of church.

*9.00-9.30am:* croissants and tea/coffee

*9.30-10.15am:* a time of prayer, Bible reading and reflection

### **Prayer Request**

You can leave prayer requests on one of the cards to be found in the seats during the service, or in the Prayer Request book to be found in the Welcome Area, or by email to [prayers@pnk.org.uk](mailto:prayers@pnk.org.uk) or by visiting the website [www.pnk.org.uk](http://www.pnk.org.uk) and clicking on Prayernet

### **The Boys' Brigade**

The **Anchor Boys** (for boys in Primaries 2 and 3) meet in the Back Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Activities include games, handicrafts, stories and singing.

The **Junior Section** (for boys in Primaries 4, 5 and 6) meets in the North Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Activities include badge work, bugling, figure marching, games, football and handicrafts.

Fiona Charleson and Tom Easton recently completed their Youth Leader Training and will soon be upgraded from helpers to Lieutenants.

Tom Easton, who was a bugler in the Royal Navy, is giving bugle instruction to any interested Junior Section and Company Section members in the North Hall on Friday evenings from 6.50pm.



*PNK Ramblers on the Pentlands*

The **Company Section** (for boys in Primary 7 to 18 years of age) meets in the North Hall on Friday nights, from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Activities include Christian Faith, badge work, physical training, bugling, pipe band, sports and games.

Four Companies took part in the Battalion Target Drill competition for 1st year boys. The competition consists of three sections – uniform inspection, drill and Brigade knowledge. Despite an excellent performance, our recruits were narrowly beaten into second place by the 61st (Musselburgh) Company.

A total of eight NCOs, from three Companies, competed in the Battalion NCOs' Drill Competition. In this competition, each NCO drills a squad of boys and is judged on his turnout, bearing, clarity of commands, correctness of commands and control of the squad. Our three competitors took the top places i.e. winner Cpl. Michael Thomson

with 90 points and joint runners up Sgt. Geoff King and Sgt. Colin Thomson with 89 points each.

We are recruiting for all Sections at present. New members will be made very welcome. *For further information about any Section, please contact Alan Anderson on tel. (01875) 853281 or Email [alanandcarola@aol.com](mailto:alanandcarola@aol.com).*

### **Bethany Night Shelters**

By the time you read this article the Bethany night shelters for this winter will have finished, the last one being on Sunday 1st April. It seems no time at all since the first one way back at the beginning of November 2006.

Unfortunately they have no more hot meals and warm beds provided again until the beginning of November this year, when it will all happen again. However without the church premises in Edinburgh, the

Bethany teams, and of course us, the catering teams, it would not happen.

When I made my appeal to the congregation in October last year I was overwhelmed by the response for catering volunteers, so much so that I went back to Bethany for an additional date, otherwise I would have had to turn some of you away, this was something I did not want to do.

I would at this time like to thank you all very much for your time, your ability in the kitchen and your donations to the cost of the food provided for all four shelters we catered for over the winter. One or two of us were able to have a chat with some of the people who came in for a meal; a lot of

them do actually appreciate a chat with a different face and listening ear.

I would also like to thank those who have prayed for the night shelters and particularly for the PNK teams when they were on duty. Bethany have said everything has gone very well again this winter, we must give God the glory in this work, that through us he is able to show his love to those on the streets of Edinburgh.

*Andrew Knox*

### **The Leprosy Mission**

The Leprosy Mission's annual Pancake Day will be held in St Mungo's hall on Saturday, 2nd June. There will be the usual stalls. Any donations for the stalls will be gratefully received by any member of the committee. We are especially in need of a "new" electric frying pan to help cut down the waiting time on Pancake Day for a freshly made pancake. If anyone has such a pan languishing in a cupboard and would be willing to lend it, please speak to any committee member.

We will be "doing" the after-service tea/ coffee in April and, as always, are grateful for the opportunity and for the continuing support of the North Kirk family. Hope to see as many of you as possible.

*Roberta Mackenzie*

### **To Russia with Love - Ann and Andrew Dunsire (South Church)**

Love Russia is a Christian Charity that has supported disadvantaged children in Russia since 1992. Their aim is to show Christ's love in a practical way by refurbishing buildings,



*Irene Young demonstrating at Back to Basics*

funding educational needs, supplying food and clothing, and running camps. Over the last four years they have run summer camps in orphanages in the Ryazan Oblast area – south east of Moscow and will also be doing so this year. The children attending the camp range from 3 – 16 year old and most are ‘social’ orphans, having been given up by their parents. Many have had horrific experiences in their lives. The teams will live at the orphanage premises for the week where the conditions are basic but improving all the time.

The summer camps involve a range of activities with the children, including craft work, games, stories, singing, dancing, and much more. Many of the stories and related activities are based on Bible stories. There are interpreters on each camp and the leaders are backed up by a support team to

help with any problems. People of all ages, from teenagers to pensioners help at the camps. Some people have had particular skills to offer while others felt they had little other than a willingness to help.

This summer (21-28 July) we are hoping to go to one of the camps (Kostino Orphanage), having been accepted just before Christmas. We’ve felt for some time that it’s something we should become involved in, even although it’s a scary prospect and is taking us way out of our comfort zone. God has been amazing and has opened up the doors in so many ways, a variety of obstacles having been overcome and God clearly guiding us every step of the way so far.

A training weekend is to be held from 13-15 April at Irthingborough, Northants which

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8	6			3			9	2
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4								6
			2		5			
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6	7			2			5	1
9								4

*Sudoku No 9  
(solution on page 10)*

we will be going to and where we will find out much more information about what to expect. The great thing about this is that we have teamed up with a family from West Linton who have asked us to travel with them to the training weekend. We'll also be travelling to Russia with them, even though they're going to one of the other camps. This happened quite 'by accident' as I was on the Love Russia website one day and came across someone I used to work beside at West Linton, who went out last year to a Love Russia summer camp. This year she is taking her mum and two sisters with her.

What we know about the Kostino camp so far, is that there will be 117 children aged between 6-16, some with mild to moderate learning difficulties.

Once we've been to the weekend, we'll hopefully have an opportunity to share a bit more about what we'll be doing. The one thing we do know is that we'll need prayer, and lots of it! Andrew says considering he's hardly travelled the length of himself, a trip to Russia is a daunting prospect!

### **The PNK Friendship Group**

Meets in the Back Hall at 1.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting being on 10th April.  
*Details from Molly Kerr, 673126*

### **'Open Door' Coffee Mornings**

Normally in the Back Hall on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon, price £1. The next two are on 7th April and 5th May. Home baking and books etc. are usually available

### **The Traidcraft Stall**

Normally open on the first Sunday of every month. For details and orders, *contact Anne Thomson, 678114*

### **The 'Extend' Exercise Class**

Meets on Thursdays from 10.15am to 11.15am. Donation of £2 to Open Door project. *More information from Marjorie Bissett, 673393*

### **PiNKies**

For parents/carers and children 0-5 years. Meets on Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30am in the Back Hall. For the children there is a story and music time, crafts, snack, play, friends. For adults there is friendship, coffee/tea, somewhere to take the kids.  
*Enquiries to Fiona Charleson, 672754*

### **Back To Basics**

Been given a bunch of flowers and want to know what to do with them, come along to our meetings to be held on the 12th and 26th April. After the break for summer, we commence again on 27th September. We meet in the Back Hall at 7.30pm.  
*Enquiries to Irene Young, 674064*

### **Helping Disabled Orphaned Children**

In 2007, the Church of Scotland World Mission Council will be collecting stamps for Amity Foundation Projects which support disabled orphaned children so this year the stamps we collect and send to the World Mission Council will support these projects..  
*Enquiries to Jim Cowper, 673538*

## The Lighter Side

*Sunday School teacher:* Philip, who was the first woman?

*Philip:* I don't know

*Sunday School teacher:* I'll give you a hint. It had something to do with an apple.

*Philip:* Oh, I know. Granny Smith!

A Sunday School teacher asked her little students as they were on their way to the church service, "Why should we be quiet in church?" A little girl replied, "because people are sleeping"

## The Mummy Test

I was out walking with my 4 year old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that. "Why?" my daughter asked. "Because it's been on the ground, you don't know where it's been, it's dirty and probably has germs" I replied. At this point, my daughter looked at me with total

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7	3	8	4	6	9	5	1	2
9	7	1	5	4	2	6	8	3
6	8	3	9	1	7	2	5	4
5	4	2	3	8	6	7	9	1
3	1	4	6	5	8	9	2	7
2	9	5	7	3	4	1	6	8
8	6	7	2	9	1	3	4	5

*Answer to Sudoku 9*

admiration and asked, "Mummy, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart." I was thinking quickly. "All mums know this stuff. It's on the Mummy Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mummy." We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

"OH...I get it!" she beamed, "So if you don't pass the test you have to be the daddy." "Exactly" I replied back with a big smile on my face.

## What are Seniors Worth?

Did you know that old folk are worth a fortune? Silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last. A few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl. I am seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I visit John. Next it is time for Mr Kellogg, followed by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley, or my other friend I just call by his initials, P. G.

Then comes someone I do not like, Arthur Ritis. He knows he is not welcome but he insists, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. He does not like to stay in one place at a time, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I am really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! Oh yes, I am flirting with Al Zeimer.

The Minister called the other day and

said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him “Oh I do, all the time. No matter where I am, in the bedroom, kitchen, sitting room or even. in the garden, I stop and ask myself ..... now what am I here after?”

## News OfThe North Kirk Family

### NEW MEMBERS

*By certificate of transfer:*

Mrs Duna Libberton,11 Heinsberg House, joins us from St Mungo’s Church (District: 9 – Elder: Alison Bagan)

### FUNERALS

*“Death is destroyed! Victory is complete! Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”* Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian Christians chapter 15, verses 54 and 57.

*February 13th*

Arthur Poskitt, 9 Dykes Road

*February 15th*

John Hall, Aaron Nursing Home

### INTERMENT OF ASHES

*April 11th*

Elizabeth Christie, late of 75 John Street

## Dates For Your Diary

**From 1 to 15 April, a series on “Great love, great rescue”**

*Palm Sunday April 1st*

11am Morning worship service, the theme: “*Turning the tables*” and Celebration of Baptism

7pm Evening worship service

*Monday April 2nd*

11.45am ‘*Start The Week*’, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer

## April 2nd to April 6th - Holy Week

### Services at 7pm

*Monday April 2nd* St Mungo’s

*Tuesday April 3rd* South Church

*Wednesday April 4th* North Kirk

*Thursday April 5th* St James

*Friday April 6th* North Kirk

*Easter Sunday April 8th*

6.30am Dawn service at the top of the Broom Hill (*Meet in Old Penicuik Cemetery at 6am*)

9am Easter morning Celebration of Communion

11am All-age worship on Easter Sunday, the theme: **“Risen Saviour”** with all-age Celebration of Communion

7.30pm ‘*Resurrection*’ – Easter Praise Evening in Highland Hall, Ingliston. (*tickets from Shiela Bennett or Caroline Tulloch*)

*Monday April 9th*

11.45am ‘*Start The Week*’, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer

*Sunday April 15th*

11am Morning worship service, the theme: “*Spread the word*”

7pm Evening worship service

*Monday April 16th*

11.45am ‘*Start The Week*’, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer

*Saturday 21st*

9 to 10.15am Prayer breakfast

**22April to 13 May, A series on “Elisha the prophet”**

*Sunday April 22nd*

11am Morning worship service, the theme: “*Powerful provider*”

7pm Evening worship service

*Monday April 23rd*

11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer  
*Saturday April 28th*  
 Special Congregational Conference looking at the Open Door Project beyond the loan repayment  
*Sunday April 29th*  
 11am Morning worship service, the theme: *"Powerful life-giver"*  
 7pm Evening worship service  
*Monday April 30th*  
 11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer  
*Sunday May 6th*  
 11am Morning worship service, the theme: *"Powerful healer"*  
 7pm Evening worship service  
*Monday May 7th*  
 11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer  
*Sunday May 13th*  
 11am Morning worship service, the theme: *"Powerful healer"*  
 7.30pm Tribal Generation, a youth-friendly worship event  
*Monday May 14th*  
 11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer  
*Wednesday May 17th*  
 7.45pm Kirk Session with special guest, David Liddle, of TearFund  
**20 to 27 May, A series on *"The gift of God's Spirit"***  
*Sunday May 20th*  
 11am Morning worship service, the theme: *"Promise made"*  
 7pm Evening worship service  
*Monday May 21st*  
 11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer

*Pentecost Sunday May 27th*  
 11am Morning worship service, the theme: *"Promise fulfilled"*  
 7pm Evening worship service  
*Monday May 28th*  
 11.45am *'Start The Week'*, a short time of Bible reading, reflection and prayer  
**3 to 24 June, A series on *"Illustrated letters"***  
*Sunday June 3rd*  
 11am *"The Power of love"*  
*Sunday June 10th*  
 11am *"No place like home"*  
 Sunday June 17th  
 11am *"Ready for anything"*  
*Sunday June 24th*  
 11am Service to celebrate the 2006-2007 session of Sparklers, All Stars, Trailblazers and Laser Group

### **Next Newsletter**

Copy for next newsletter should be with the editors on or before 13th May for publication on 3rd June. Copy can be sent as a Microsoft Word attachment to either email address or hard copy (preferably typescript) can be handed to either editor

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