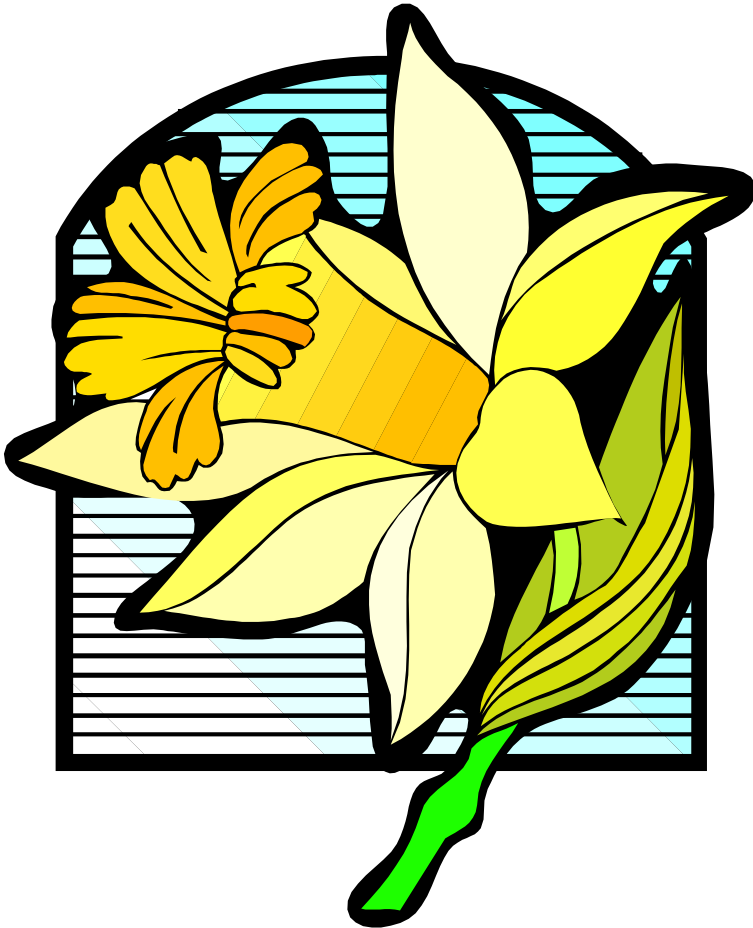


# THE OPEN DOOR



*Penicuik North Kirk  
Newsletter number 306  
April 2008*

## Dear Friends

The resurrection of Jesus was a huge disappointment for all the religious leaders and politicians. I mean, hadn't they just got rid of a guy who'd been a real headache? Hadn't they had him crucified, certified dead and sealed in a rock tomb? And now people who had seen Jesus buried were shouting from the roof-tops that they'd seen him alive again. So it's not surprising that, almost immediately, all the religious leaders and politicians had rumours spread to try and discredit the eyewitness accounts of those who had seen Jesus buried and those who'd seen him alive again.

The rumours were an attempt to suggest that the people who claimed that Jesus was alive were at best mistaken and at worst desperate frauds.

It was both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who'd watched Jesus placed into the tomb and the large rock rolled across the entrance. The same two women were the first to discover that the rock had been rolled away and the tomb empty. From all we know of them they don't come over as frauds.

Rumours that the tomb had been robbed of Jesus' body were put around despite the tomb being guarded by Roman soldiers. These servicemen knew they would suffer a severe punishment if they were to fall asleep or desert their duty. And would anyone have believed that these soldiers simply stood by while the disciples took the body of Jesus away?

Another rumour claimed Jesus had merely fainted and then recovered in the cold tomb. But this ignores two facts – one, that it would take an extremely strong person to roll the rock away from the tomb entrance; two, that Jesus had suffered a beating and whipping,

dragged a heavy section of wood around the streets, been nailed to a cross and then had his side punctured by a spear.

The one overriding fact remains that Jesus rose again exactly as he had said he would. Yet, despite the evidence, there have always been plenty of people around who have refused to believe that – and OK it is an absolutely weird thing to happen – Jesus did rise from the dead and appear to hundreds of people.

Although strange to believe, Jesus suffered, died and rose again to fulfil everything that God intended. The facts, hard to accept or appreciate at times, remain that God loves us and went to extreme lengths to make it possible for us to get personal with the Creator.

So how would you assess the evidence (read the Gospel written by Matthew chapter 28 and verses 1-10)? What questions would you have asked? What conclusion would you have come to?

*Keep thinking.*

*Your friend and minister*



## North Kirk Business

*The following are some of the points raised at the Session Meeting held on 22nd January 2008.*

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### • **Visitors and Tourism**

Feedback on proposals for local and national consideration to follow.

#### • **Food Train**

The service run by the Penicuik volunteers now to be known as Penicuik Churches Shopping Service.

- **Organist**

Lawrence Wareing has volunteered to help out at Sunday Services.

- **Church Without Walls**

To be held at Ingliston 3rd and 4th May

- **Re-Energise 3**

Sylvia Blenkinsop attended this weekend course at Aviemore and found the weekend to be a positive and enjoyable experience.

**REPORTS**

- **Child Protection Report**

Child Protection Co-ordinator, Sylvia Blenkinsop, asked Session to approve the appointment of Colin Thompson as an Officer in the Boys' Brigade.

- **Penicuik for Africa Report**

It is hoped that the Chitambo Ambulance will be presented in Zambia in August 2008.

- **Penicuik Churches Shopping Service update**

4 clients using this service but group confident that numbers will grow.

- **Report on visit to Flower Committee**

15-20 dedicated ladies involved in providing floral displays for PNK. Session expressed their thanks to the team.

**ADHERENTS**

People who worship regularly and actively support the North Kirk but are not members are to be asked if they would like to go on an Adherent list.

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Session were made aware that there were not enough helpers.

**Broomhill Day Centre. Help Needed! Can You Help?**

Broomhill Day Centre is open from Monday to Friday. Our members are collected from home by mini-bus and brought to the centre and returned home by mini-bus at the end of the day.

We are currently looking for volunteers to

befriend our members and to play cards, scrabble and dominoes. We welcome volunteers on any day but we are particularly short of volunteers on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

Can you spare an hour or two to assist as courier on our mini-bus? The morning run starts at 10.00am and finishes around 11.15am. The afternoon run starts at 2.30pm and finishes around 3.30pm

We organise a varied entertainments programme for our members. Can you help us by becoming a committee member? Our Activities Committee meets every 6 to 8 weeks to organise the programme. If you can help with any volunteer work, please contact us at the day centre

*Broomhill Day Centre*

*Bellman's Road*

*Penicuik*

*EH26 0AB*

*Telephone 01968 678109*

**Bethany Night Shelters**

By the time you read this, the Bethany Winter Night Shelters will be finished again for this winter. This provides a hot evening meal and a warm dry bed for the night, for the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh.

There were more service users this last winter than normal so the shelters are being well used. Everything seemed to go well again this year. The sale of the Caring Christmas Trees funded half the cost of the shelters for the winter just gone.

There are quite a number of people in the North Kirk who give up their time and money to be part of the catering team to provide a two course hot meal for the homeless in Edinburgh. We sometimes have to cater for

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

*Sudoku 15*

*Solution can be found on page 6*

*Andrew Knox*

*PNK /Bethany Representative.*

**The Leprosy Mission**

The Leprosy Mission’s annual Pancake Day will this year be on Saturday June 7th, in St Mungo’s Hall, there will be the usual stalls, for which donations are always welcome.

The North Kirk “contingent” of the committee will be providing the after-service tea and coffee in April; we look forward to seeing you all then

between twenty and forty people.

This would not happen unless the Churches in Edinburgh donate the use of their church halls, and for all of you who make up the catering teams.

I would like to thank all of you on behalf of Bethany and myself for being so willing to help, to be part of God’s work amongst the homeless. Also a thank you to those of you who have donated financially, and for your prayers through the shelter period.

Bethany Christian Trust are among those charities to be struck by the cuts in funding from local authorities from April this year.

They are asking us to pray for a solution because unless they can secure funding they will have to cut back on the services they provide and their staff.

Please pray for their current situation that God will take this forward.

Our chosen project this year is provision of physiotherapy equipment in Darfur.

*Roberta Mackenzie*

**Marie Curie Hospice**

Hello,

I work at the Marie Curie Hospice in Edinburgh, running the Volunteer Visitor Service. We are about to expand the Service into East Lothian and are looking for volunteers to join us.

Marie Curie’s Volunteer Visitor Service, set up to support carers of people in the last few months of life, is expanding into East Lothian and **extending its availability in Midlothian**. The Service is looking for volunteers living in East and Midlothian who can commit to visiting a patient in their home once a week. Volunteers will sit with patients while their carer takes a break. Initial training and ongoing support are provided. No personal or nursing care is involved. If you are interested in this rewarding role, please

contact Jessica Milburn by emailing [jessica.milburn@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:jessica.milburn@mariecurie.org.uk) or telephoning 0131 470 2254.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this

*Many thanks for your help,  
Jessica Milburn  
Project Co-ordinator  
Volunteer Visitor Service  
Marie Curie Hospice  
Frogston Road West  
Edinburgh  
EH10 7DR*

### **The Boys' Brigade**

**The Anchor Boys** (for boys in Primaries 2 & 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 & 6) meets in the North Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Activities include badge work, figure marching, games, football and handicrafts.

In January the boys took part in the Battalion Junior Section indoor football competition. Over 150 boys from 12 Companies took part and our teams reached the semi-finals in both age groups.

In March our boys beat four other Junior Sections to win the Battalion Figure Marching Competition. Congratulations to all boys who took part.

Officers and boys are looking forward to joining the 1st Dalgety Bay Company for an Easter weekend camp at Fordell Firs in Fife.

**The Company Section** (for boys in Primary

7 to Secondary 6) meets in the North Hall on Friday nights, from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Activities include Christian Faith, badge work, physical training, sports and games.

Our boys beat teams from four other Companies to win the 2008 East & Midlothian Group Physical Training Competition.

We took part in the 2008 Battalion Drill Competition. The boys were runners-up, being beaten by a half point by the 61st (Musselburgh) Company.

The younger boys are enjoying working through the Brigade's new 'Discovery' badge scheme, while most Seniors are working for Queen's Badge and Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

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).

### **Update from Heather Christie**

*Hello*

Happy Easter to you all. Just a quick update to life in Northern Ireland

I spent Good Friday up in Belfast as I was up there for the week on mid-term outreach. It went ok. Spent time in prayer and worship with the Belfast DTS, also did a bit of prayer walking in different parts of the city. We were living in flats between Shankill and Falls Road, so that was interesting. It is weird living next to a peace wall with the fear and hurt it represents.

I enjoyed being in the city for the week, but I am glad to get back to Cloiskelt. My American class-mates loved being near Starbucks and other coffee shops for the week so I am sure they will have cravings for it again soon.

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

*Solution to Sudoku 15 on page 4*

I am really enjoying the DTS. The lectures have been challenging, thought provoking and I am learning loads. The people here are lovely and so encouraging.

A few weekends ago I made a short trip to Edinburgh with 3 of my classmates. We had a lovely time and spent the day in Edinburgh and also had the chance to go to a Ceilidh in my home town. It was fun, but the main reason I went home was to get my Indian stuff. I mentioned in my last newsletter that since I arrived here I found out that an Indian outreach was an option, well I am going in May to early July. We will spend 1 week in Delhi, then get the train to Calcutta. Stay there for 3 weeks then head to Varanasi for 3 weeks, before returning to Delhi for a week prior to departure. So not only did I not know India was an outreach option, I am now going back to Varanasi, the city I desire to serve in. It's amazing how God weaves stuff together!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. It is greatly appreciated. Please can you continue to pray for the DTS and as we prepare to go on outreach. Half of

us are going to India, the rest will stay in Belfast. Pray for my nana. She fell and broke her hip last Sunday. She has had surgery so pray for her rehab and that she will get home soon.

*Love to all*

*Heather Christie*

**The burial**

Jesus is not buried by his enemies,  
but by his friends –

not by Caiaphas and Pilate,  
but by Joseph and Nicodemus;  
not by atheists and unbelievers,  
but by those who love him.

It is his followers who seek  
to lay him reverently to rest.

They bury him deep  
under mountains of tradition,  
safely entomb him  
in the narrow coffin of religion.  
They wrap him up tight  
in the protective shroud of dogma,  
preferring funereal ritual  
to resurrection joy,  
and a dim religious light  
to the eye-stinging brightness  
of God's good morning.

The tears are genuine,  
and the precious ointment of fine words,  
preserving the fragrant memory  
of a mummified saviour.  
But the heavy stone  
they roll across the tomb  
is the stone of fear –  
fear of the living God.  
God-in-a-box  
is not as disturbing  
as God in the world.

Yet they may as well try  
to bury the wind,  
for he is free and alive,

and his devoted guardians  
cannot hold him down,  
however grave their intentions.

*Peter Dainty*

### **Acknowledgements**

Thank you all for our cards and flowers and especially to our minister, John, for his support and help through our very difficult time recently.

*With grateful thanks*

*Adam and Jean Anderson and family*

Alison Bell and family would like to thank you all for your kind expressions of sympathy following the death of Alfred. Thanks to everyone who attended the Thanksgiving Service and Mortonhall Crematorium and to Rev J G Mathew for conducting the services, also to Rev J Fraser for his help. Special thanks to Rae Hunter and her helpers for providing teas after the service.

*God Bless You All*

*Alison Bell*

Thank you for all the loving prayers and get well messages you have sent me by phone and card. Many thanks too for all the visits and gifts. Your loving thoughtfulness has been a great source of strength and comfort to me since my surgery

*Cathie White*

### **The Lighter Side**

#### **Paediatric Nurse**

A nurse on the Paediatric ward, before listening to the little ones chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own heart beats. Their eyes would always light up with awe but she never got a response equal to that of four years old David.

Gently she tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disc over his heart. "Listen" she said "What do you suppose

that is?" He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled frown and looked up as if lost in the mystery of this strange tap tap tapping in his chest. Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin and he asked "Is that Jesus knocking?"

### **Sure Cure**

Three Pastors in the south of the USA were having lunch in a diner. One said "Ya know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything - noise, spray, cats - nothing seems to scare them away.

Another said "Yea, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away."

The third said, "I baptized all mine, and made them members of the church... Haven't seen one back since!!!"

### **Groups And Organisations At The North Kirk**

Creche facilities are available during the morning worship service.

Sunday Club for children and young people in S1 to S3 meets during the morning worship service.

In the North Hall next to the church, a group for young people in S4-S6 meets on Sundays at 7pm - except *Tribal Generation* nights.

During the week we also have:

**The North Kirk Music Group** for pre-school children (Monday and Wednesday mornings), **PinKies** for pre-school children (Friday mornings)

**Boys' Brigade** (Tuesday and Friday evenings), **The PNK art group** (Friday afternoons) and **Bible Study Groups** (Monday afternoons, Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings).

The Open Door Cafe is open from 10am to 12 noon and 2 to 4pm Monday to Friday throughout the year and offers real coffee, tea, home baking and friendship! The church is open at the same times.

## News Of The North Kirk Family And Parish

### **BAPTISMS**

*"Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord."* Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians chapter 6, verse 4

*February 24th*

Felix William Boyle, son of Aileen and Tom Boyle, 20 Monksrig Road

### **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 7th*

John Law, Archview Lodge Nursing Home, Dalkeith

*February 25th*

Bill Mitchell, 8 Heinsberg House

*February 26th*

Bernard (Ben) Smith, 3 Carnethy Court

### **NEW MEMBERS**

*By Profession of Faith*

Aileen Boyle, 20 Monksrig Road

Anna Wareing, 246 Rullion Road,

Colin Thomson, 9 Woodside Drive

*By Certificate of Transfer*

Jill Baldwin, 1 Heinsberg House

Colin and Pamela Dove, 12 Crockett Gardens

Duna Libberton, 11 Heinsberg House

Alison Macintosh, 73 Cuiken Avenue

Jane Millar, 20 Lawrie Drive

*By Special Decision of the Kirk Session*

Bill and Sally Ness, 57 Pentland Terrace

## Worship At The North Kirk

From September to June our morning worship services begin at 11am and in July and August at 10am.

Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday of every month.

Our evening worship services begin at 7pm except on the second Sunday of every month when, at 7.30pm, we host **Tribal Generation**, a youth-friendly worship event.

There is a short **"Start the Week"** service every Monday at 11.45am

May 4th

Take part in worship at the National Gathering at Ingliston

May 11th

11am All-age worship at Pentecost

## Next Newsletter

Copy for next newsletter should be with the editors on or before 11th May for publication on 1st 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

Editors

Jim Caird

Email: jim.caird@btopenworld.com

Phone: 678223

Robert Ramsay

Email: rbr44@tiscali.co.uk

Phone: 674448

Please visit us at our Church Web Site:

[www.pnk.org.uk](http://www.pnk.org.uk)

Penicuik: North Parish Church

(Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No: SC010902