

THE OPEN DOOR



*Penicuik North Kirk
Newsletter number 311
March 2009*

Dear Friends

You don't need me to tell you that the Scottish Government has designated 2009 a 'Year of Homecoming' – the year to bring back those Scots who no longer live here, to bring back to their roots those of Scottish descent who are scattered to the four corners of the earth, to bring back those who simply love Scotland to the land they love. Put another way, the 'Year of Homecoming' is a year to bring back those 'exiles' who, for whatever reason, left Scottish shores and are now settled in a' the airts and pairts of the world.

During Homecoming Scotland 2009 there will be a spectacular year-long programme of events to highlight and celebrate Scotland's great contributions to the world: Robert Burns (the 250th anniversary of his birth is in 2009 – we've just marked it), golf (the 2009 Open will be played at Turnberry, just down the road from Burn's birthplace), great minds and innovations, and Scotland's rich ancestry and culture – and of course, whisky. So, whether you're a Scot, of Scottish descent, or simply love Scotland we reach out to you and invite you to Homecoming Scotland 2009! And we'll be here with an open door, open hands and open hearts to welcome those exiles as if they were angels!

But in this 'Year of Homecoming' which is aimed at bringing back people who no longer live here, what must it be like to feel an exile in the place in which you live? What must it be like to feel exiled through mental illness, a degenerative disease, learning difficulties, social stigma, to name but a few? What can we, the church in our community, do to welcome home these 'exiles'? What a challenge!

It will mean coming alongside people no matter their circumstances, background or

status. It will mean coming alongside people in compassionate care, not judgment. It will mean standing in peoples' shoes, trying to see the world from their perspective and to speak a shared language. It will mean being ready with an open door, open hands and open hearts to welcome them 'home' as if they were angels.

So let's speak out for those who have no voices, let's cry out for those who live without love, let's lift up the weak in Jesus' name and bring these exiles home.

Your friend and minister

John Fraser



Dear All At Penicuik North Kirk,

Many many thanks for your continued love, prayer and interest in us and for the retiring offering of £150, a very kind and generous gift.

After the very hectic time in England and Ireland we had a good journey back to Swaziland. Having got to the airport on time, the flight went on time, the food was good and the seats comfy etc, but we still couldn't sleep! I managed to get a blow up neck pillow with a flat back which really helped. A friend met us at the airport but our luggage hadn't arrived but they were able to tell us that it was due in on the afternoon plane. We got home and all the children from the feeding centre mobbed us which was nice! We were so thankful that water, electric, phone, fridge internet etc were working and the car started. The floors were covered in dirt that had blown in and millions of dead bodies mainly flies and beetles and only 2 dead frogs. We managed to clear our way through them and go straight up the mountain to get money, cat food and pick up Thulie the cat who is very much needed to let us know if any snakes are about! She was ecstatic to be home and seemed in a purry daze for several days. She

is still very happy and purry and is now enjoying going outside exploring her territory. She is eating a lot to catch up with her time away. When I went to the airport later to collect the suitcases it was so nice to be back in Swaziland as it is a small airport and a very nice man helped me with the cases and took them to the car. I then went shopping to fill my cupboards with food. Friday we worked hard getting the house clean and doing washing of sheets etc left over from when we came home.

I took the car in for a service and we have been pottering getting the house and garden sorted out. It has been raining a lot and around our house is thick mud so we bought some paving slabs (known here as stepping stones) so that we could get out of the house and to the car without being ankle deep in mud! However Andrew has had to rearrange them as they were blocking the flood path and water was building up outside the back door.

Swaziland is so beautiful and green in our area although it has not been raining in the east of the country so people there are still really suffering. A new dam has been built near where we used to live in Big Bend and that is now half full so it will help local people with irrigating their land in growing crops.

Andrew had his first session with students training to be ordained on Saturday and I met my friend for coffee and a natter catching up with what has been happening in Swaziland whilst away. Andrew is back to full time work this week although he was studying and preparing last week.!

We are very happy to be back in Swaziland although having “two lives” is still a bit strange!

With much love

Rosemary and Andrew xxx

University OfThe Third Age – U3A

If you are retired but not retiring and would like to continue your learning in an informal and friendly atmosphere, then U3A is for you. Our aim is to help establish self-help learning groups in Penicuik. With our help the groups are created by you and like minded people joining together to decide what topics you want to study. Virtually anything goes – arts, crafts, architecture, literature, science, poetry, languages, current affairs, local history, music, art gallery visits, gardening.....No qualifications are required or asked for.

For further information contact.

Robina Hutton on 01721 722455

Sponsored by Penicuik and District Community Council

RUN

Did you know that our Church is part of RUN – Reaching the Unchurched Network. There is a monthly Bulletin called ‘On the RUN’. Here is the one for January 2009. It’s a personal reflection from RUN’s Director, Chris Stoddard.

‘Can you manage to walk or do you need a wheelchair?’ He opted for the chair while I dutifully followed as he was whisked away by the very helpful Special Assistance lady. In the course of my travels I spend quite a lot of time in and around airports but this was a new experience as we navigated all manner of short cuts and hidden passageways round Gatwick to reach the plane before anyone else – we even got seats at the front!

I was travelling up to a meeting in Inverness earlier this week with Trefor our communications officer who was on crutches following a Christmas skiing accident. He was my free ticket for the day to a whole range of new experiences including a hydraulic lift onto the plane in Scotland and a ride on one

of those electric buggies that beep all the time (did you know that the buggy drivers get points on their licence if they run into anything?). For me one of the interesting things about the journey was seeing the airport from a different perspective and getting a bit of an insider's view on how it all operates by chatting to the staff – all is not as it seems! Trefor is having surgery as I write this, so it looks as though we'll have to join the usual crowd next time.

Jesus talked to his disciples about changing their perspective in John 4.35 'Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.'

I guess many of us need to do just that, open our eyes, see things as Jesus does and take note of what he is doing around us. We were playing Dingbats round at a friend's house the other night where all you have to do is decipher the clue by saying what you see on the card, not as easy as it sounds. As we journey through this year may we see with fresh eyes – maybe vision and direction are not as complicated as we sometimes make them. May we also allow God to change our perspective so that what we tend to regard as problems now become opportunities in the future and may we all see a time of harvest as we continue to follow him in 2009.

Every blessing

Chris

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, figure marching, games, football and handicrafts.

The boys played very well in the Battalion Junior Section Indoor 5-a-Side Football Competition, reaching the quarter finals.

A total of 27 Junior and Company Section boys, accompanied by 4 Officers, recently enjoyed a very busy weekend camp at Scottish HQ. This was a joint camp with the 1st Dalgety Bay Company and new friendships were made and old ones renewed.

The boys are now practicing for the Battalion Junior Section Figure Marching Competition, which our Company will host in Penicuik North Kirk.

The Company Section (for boys in Primary 7 to S6) 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.

In December, we entered two teams of six boys for the Battalion Physical Training Competition. Our 'B' team beat 12 other teams to win the trophy for the 4th year running.

Also in December, our recruits won the Mid and East Group Compass Drill Competition and then went on to win the Battalion final in January. The boys are now practicing for other Drill and PT Competitions, in addition to working hard for their badges.

For information about any Section, please contact Alan Anderson on tel. (01875) 853281 or Email alanandcarola@aol.com .

PNK Ramblers – Programme For 2009

At our annual meeting held on Saturday, 22nd November, 2008, it was agreed that in 2009 we should have monthly walks on

the 2nd last Saturday of each month from February – November

N.B. All walks in 2009 are on a Saturday. The leaders and routes for some of the monthly walks have still to be agreed.

Saturday 21 March 2009

Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Pirn Law

The walk is about 6 miles on mostly good paths and tracks and follows the Tweed along the riverbank from Innerleithen to Walkerburn and then through fields and into the forest with a steady climb to Pirn Law. On the return via Pirn Craig there will be fine views of the Tweed Valley. The path down from Pirn Craig is well defined but very steep and quite rough in places I understand, but I plan to check this out and possibly find an alternative route down!

For more information, please contact
June Atack 01968 675127

Saturday 18th April 2009

East Linton to Traprain Law

The walk starts and finishes in East Linton. It is a mainly flat walk with some slight uphill sections and the option to climb Traprain Law. The first section of the walk is along the banks of the River Tyne to Hailes Castle and then on to Traprain Law. Those who wish to climb to the top of the Law (about 100 metres ascent) can do so but there is also the option to walk round the bottom of the Law. The view from the top of the Law is impressive and well worth the effort. We will then retrace our steps to Hailes Castle, cross the Tyne and return to East Linton via Pencraig Wood and Markle Fisheries.

The distance is approx 8 miles (without the ascent of Traprain Law). Those wishing to walk should meet at Penicuik North Kirk at 9:30 for a 9:45 start. This should allow us

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Sudoku No 20. Solution on page 7

to start walking around 10:45 and we should finish between 2pm and 3pm, in time for coffee in East Linton before returning to Penicuik.

For more information, please contact
David or Alice Symington (01968 674891).

For Information:

PNK Ramblers is NOT an organised club or group with experienced walker leaders and first aiders. PNK Ramblers is simply a group of friends who enjoy walking in the countryside and have decided to undertake various regular monthly walks and who also welcome others with similar interests.

The person organising the walk may or may not have already undertaken the walk – they are simply organising the distribution of the details of the walk ie start time and route and MAY NOT know the pitfalls or otherwise of the walk in advance and will most probably NOT be an experienced walker leader.

If you have a medical condition which requires you to take medication please ensure that you have that medication with you.

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS.

Also if you have any medical condition which may make you unfit to undertake certain walks please remember that the decision to do this walk is your own.

Good footwear, waterproofs and a packed lunch are essential. Please bring any other equipment eg sticks which you feel that you require.

Open Door Cafe

Is there anyone who would be prepared to make marmalade periodically to sell in the Open Door Cafe?

Unfortunately, Jean Thorburn, due to circumstances beyond her control, has had to give up doing this. Jean has made a great contribution to funds by making it over the years and we are grateful to her. Many thanks Jean. Please phone Alison Bell if you feel you could contribute in this way.

Thank you

Alison Bell 674921

Sunday Morning Minibus

Better late than never you may say! However, I'd like to express my thanks to our great team of minibus drivers and couriers. Thank you for your patience during the difficult times when we were unable to use the minibus for various reasons and your unfailing willingness, sometimes at short notice, to take your cars and pick up our senior members. I know, as I'm sure you do, that the members are very appreciative of this service that the church provides for them and really miss the camaraderie when the bus is not available.

It makes my job as co-ordinator so much easier when I know I can rely on you all to do your utmost in sometimes difficult circumstances.

Thanks again – keep up the good work!

Mary Lothian

The Lighter Side

Men in Heaven - Who is the Head of the Household?

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven, God appeared and said, "I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households.

The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives."

God continued, "I want all the women to report to St. Peter." The women left and the men formed two lines. The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending. The line of men who were the true head of their household had one man in it.

God said to the first line, "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. I appointed you to be the heads of your households and you were disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose. Of all of you, there is only one man who obeyed me. Learn from him."

Then God turned to the lone man and asked, "How did you come to be in this line?" The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

A Sure Cure

Three Pastors in the south were having lunch in a diner. One said "Yi 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 and in the narthex attic. 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!!!"

The Way to Heaven

The Reverend tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, the reverend thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling

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8	2	7	1	4	6	3	9	5
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Answer to Sudoku 20

everyone how to get to Heaven.” “I don’t think I’ll be there,” the boy said. “You don’t even know your way to the post office.”

Preacher And The Cowboy

One Sunday a cowboy went to church. When he entered, he saw that he and the preacher were the only ones present. The preacher asked the cowboy if he wanted him to go ahead and preach.

The cowboy said, “I’m not too smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I’d feed him.” So the minister began his sermon. One hour passed, then two hours, then two-and-a-half hours. The preacher finally finished and came down to ask the cowboy how he liked the sermon.

The cowboy answered slowly, “Well, I’m not very smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I sure wouldn’t feed him all the hay...”

The Broom

A little boy was afraid of dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy

turned to his mother and said, “Mama, I don’t want to go out there. It’s dark.”

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. You don’t have to be afraid of the dark,” she explained. “Jesus is out there. He’ll look after you and protect you.” The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, “Are you sure he’s out there?” “Yes, I’m sure . He is everywhere and he is always ready to help you when you need him,” she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, “Jesus? If you’re out there, would you please hand me the broom?”

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 normally 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

Looking ahead to Easter:

Holy Week Services

Sunday 5th April

11am Morning worship on Palm Sunday in North Kirk

7.30pm United Palm Sunday service in St Mungo’s

Monday 6th April

7.30pm United service in South Church

Tuesday 7th April

7.30pm United service in North Kirk
Wednesday 8th April
 7.30pm United service in Sacred Heart
Thursday 9th April
 8pm United Maundy Thursday Service
 and Celebration of Communion
Friday 10th April
 7.30pm All-age worship on Good
 Friday in North Kirk
Saturday 11 April
 8.30pm On Easter Saturday, vigil at St
 Mungo's
 11.30pm On Easter Saturday, vigil in North
 Kirk

Sunday 12th April
 5.30am Early Morning service in the Old
 Penicuik Cemetery (behind St
 Mungo's)
 6.15am on the top of the Broomhill,
 Easter sunrise service
 6.45am in St James, Easter breakfast
 9am Easter morning Celebration of
 Communion in North Kirk
 11am All-age Celebration of
 Communion on Easter Sunday
 7.30pm An Easter praise event

May 11th
 11am All-age worship at Pentecost

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 and Craft Fellowship** (Friday afternoons)

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

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 Christians in Corinth chapter 15, verses 54 and 57.

January 15th

Alex Hepplewhite, 90A John Street

February 3rd

Kelly Brown, 49 Carlops Avenue

Next Newsletter

Copy for next newsletter should be with the editors on or before 12th May for publication on 7th 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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Please visit us at our Church Web Site:

www.pnk.org.uk