

scope

march 10



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www.penicuiksouthchurch.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Hello,
With a logo like this one it's fairly obvious where the general emphasis is going to be this month. But actually 'general' is the last thing this opening 'magazine piece' is seeking to be. This is really quite specific. Moreover, this is giving an opportunity to everyone to make a vital impact in the lives of folk in Penicuik in the name of Jesus.

The impact of the credit crunch, for some, can simply remain dire economic headlines and apologetic bankers. Yet for an increasing number of people in Penicuik the credit crunch is much more pressing. The number of school children in Penicuik who now get free school meals has increased in every school – almost tripling in some schools in slightly more than eighteen months. The unemployment rate is still rising. Worse still, whoever wins the election will make precious little difference to these issues. Whatever the may be government, budgets will remain very tight. Midlothian Council's budget appears to require 2-3% cuts year on year for the better part of a decade.

What is even more lamentable is that there are still voices in the financial world who want to 'get back to normal.' Some say "We need to



'spend our way' out of this recession". Let's get out of this problem by making credit easy to obtain once again. However, many now realise the ease of getting credit was the problem. Learning from the past two years is much more about realising what most people who managed their money through the fifties and sixties already know – you can't spend more than what you earn. We all need to organise our funds around what money you have coming in – not credit. Helping people to do this is addressing a major problem in this generation. There are many pressing issues in Penicuik; there are lots of ways that we could spend the bequest but these credit/finance issues appear to be the source of so many other problems. If people can never 'get out from under' nothing ever changes. It is increasingly seen by many as one of the most pressing needs in our town and society. How do we address this as a church?

(cont'd p4)
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Minister's Letter (cont'd)

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is an organisation that some will already know about. However, I want to spend some time on it here because the Kirk Session feels we should seriously consider committing money in sufficient sums to genuinely seek to make a difference regarding these problems in Penicuik. One of the preventive initiatives that CAP runs is CAP Money. It's a three-session money management course designed specifically for churches, enabling Christians to reach people with practical money management skills. The course has proved successful in equipping a wide range of people and being a great bridge-building exercise. For the first time CAP is holding a Scottish training day – Saturday 13 March in Edinburgh. You can go on the course for free – CAP wants us to send three volunteers to be trained at a cost of £150 - do you want to be one of them? (www.capmoney.org is the website to get more info.)

The other initiative isn't preventative – it's for folk who are in very serious debt indeed. A CAP Worker would be based in Penicuik. The CAP worker would help people whose finances are out of control. A CAP worker usually starts off two days a week – increasing as the opportunities grow. That's a part-time

post - for which the church would pay from the bequest. They are trained people and their appointment is in complete conjunction with CAP. So I'm not asking you to be a CAP Worker, but the part-timer worker needs people to befriend the folk who have debt problems; take them out for a coffee; take a young single mum to a Mother and Toddlers group; in short, befriend them. Financial problems can isolate people in a way that makes them never leave their home. Reconnecting them with people round about them is a big challenge. We need somebody to be the church rep for this initiative if we as a church decide to commit money to it in a significant way. That involves going down to Bradford for a Church Rep Conference – the next one is on Wednesday, 17th of March.

If we are going to commit money to this problem then clearly we need to be not just convinced that the problem is real – we need to be convinced that Christians Against Poverty can genuinely help us address it. While an overtly Christian charity Christians Against Poverty remains one of the countries top small companies. It won the top award in The Sunday Times 'Best Small Business To Work For' not once but twice, in 2008 and 2009! Simply put, this charity is not some well-

intentioned group of people trying to help. This organisation is internationally recognised as a leader in this area of work. That's primarily because of its founder and international director, John Kirby. He started CAP in 1996 in a bedroom with a £10 donation after overcoming his own debts. "I've tasted both worlds, I know what it is like to go without food, and I was the first CAP client," he told the Sunday Times. "I decided that I wanted to commit the rest of my life to helping people in the same situation." I've investigated this organisation – I trust it as a quality company who not only have their 'heart in the right place' but have a massive wealth of knowledge and experience to help us address the undoubted problems of debt in Penicuik – problems which give every appearance of only getting worse throughout the rest of this decade.

Scottish and national training dates all seem to be focusing on this month of March. I feel we need to decide now to go ahead and commit to this charity because it allows us to use to bequest in a fashion that will genuinely serve the kingdom in this town. So is this something to which you could give your time and your commitment for the cause of Christ. We need to have people who have a

heart for this kind of ministry. To be trained and then run a CAP Money course in a local school; to be a 'befriender' to help the folk that the CAP Centre worker will be helping. We need folk to go on the CAP Church Rep day so that they can be the champion for this charity in the church and in the town.

March appears to be the month when we need to move on this. There's the website at www.capuk.org if you want more information. On the 7th of March we're going to have a focus on CAP at the morning service. I know this has been a long time coming – too long - but it has come. It's here. Could this be the way that you make a difference in this town for Jesus sake?

Yours in Him

Ian Cathcart



News from Kirk Session

The following are the main points from the last meeting:

Session is planning a Day Conference at the end of March on House Groups which will be led by Keith Short.

Essential electrical work has been carried out in the Manse and some decorating is being undertaken by a member of Howgate Church.

The Session heard from Vicky Nicolson who reported on behalf of the Youth Leaders who had been to Eastbourne. The content of her report included the following suggestions:

Adults and Children covering the same themes on a Sunday; Children being more involved in the service; Prayer for children as they leave the Church; Creating a 'Child Centred Church Ownership in Kirk Session of Childrens' work, perhaps with a nominated elder; More communication to congregation that we are looking at the place of children in Church; Soaking Sessions for the children. Vicky had created a Creche vision – Know God's Love, Show God's Love, Grow God's Kingdom. Vicky's comments were – Music should initiate Spiritual Development. We also need to invest in Outreach. Session asked Vicky to provide a fuller report on the setting-up and development of a Tots Zone – a meeting of Under 5s -

one morning a week. Quote from the Conference - "Ministry to Children is the most single life changing situation you can be involved in". Vicky added comments from the Family Centred portion of the Conference – Parents Zone – support base for families bringing up children; More activities, events for the whole family; Community work with families and striving for a Church and family balance.

Roll – there are 164 members on the roll.

Admin – Mary Darling, Linda Dowling and Joyce MacLean are assisting Ian with elements of his admin.

Accounts – Session discussed the accounts in depth and they were approved for auditing. We are discussing the implementation of budgets and looking at spending on resources.

The Worship Group has established a small co-ordinating team of five people – Ian Stewart, Jackie Ringan, Caroline Macintosh, Caroline Thom and Alison Herd.

Session began a discussion on the responses received from the congregation about the Commitment Sheets but the time having reached 10.45 pm it was resolved to hold a separate meeting in order to discuss these fully.

In Christ
Joyce MacLean

Parish news

Valah Russell's husband Kenny died suddenly on 25th January. Ian took the service at Mortonhall. Our thoughts and prayers are with Valah and the girls at this sad time.

Nancy Wilson

The funeral of Mrs Nancy Wilson, a faithful member of South Church for many years, took place at Mortonhall on Thursday January 28th. Nancy died, aged 96, peacefully in her room at Aaron House, in the company of her loving nieces, and the staff members who had cared for her so faithfully. She will be remembered by folks in South Church as one who attended services unfailingly until the frailty of old age caught up with her, and whose presence at the Guild meetings, in which she had been involved since she was a very young woman, was much missed in those latter years. Her time in Aaron House was greatly enhanced by faithful visits from friends from the South Church, to whom her family would like to express their thanks. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time, in particular her nieces Marilyn and Irene, Carol, May and Maureen.

Joan Cape

Howgate Church

Howgate Church, apologies for having to cancel the Christmas Eve Service. This was due to the 18 inches of snow in the car park and surrounding roads. However, we are planning to hold an Easter Service open to everyone.

Carrie Owen

South Church Offering

We are very grateful for the large amount of money which is received in the Open Plate every week. We would encourage you, in order to reduce administration and to enable forward planning, to consider making payment directly into Penicuik South Church Bank Account via Internet Banking, Standing Order or Telephone Banking. If you are a Tax payer this would also enable us to claim back the tax in the form of Gift Aid. The following are details of our Bank Account:
Penicuik South Church
Account Number - 00755645
Sort Code - 80-09-39
Bank of Scotland Account

Thank you.
Maureen Hazel

pull it out! **What's On?** pin it up!

Sunday 7th March	Morning Service - Where the Kingdom Grows - A Service with Christians Against Poverty - Communion	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 7th March	Evening Service - 2 Peter 1;1-11	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 7th March	Steph MacLeod @ Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes	Holy Trinity	7.00pm
Thursday 11th March	Kirk Session	South Church	7.00pm
Thursday 11th March	Try Praying Event @ Morningside Baptist Church	Morningside	7.30pm
Sunday 14th March	Morning Service - Where the Kingdom Grows - A Service with New Wine Scotland - Rick Hayes preaching	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 14th March	Evening Service - Where the Kingdom Grows - In Individual Lives - Steph MacLeod Concert	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 17th March	Women's Group - Afternoon Tea	West St. Hall	2.30pm
Wednesday 17th March	Try Praying Event @ Liberton Kirk	Liberton Kirk	7.30pm
Sunday 21st March	Morning Service - Where the Kingdom Grows - A We Tried 'trypraying' Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 21st March	Evening Service - 2 Peter 1; 12-21	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 24th March	Try Praying Event @ Davidson Mains Parish Church, Quality St.	Davidson Mains	7.30pm
Thursday 25th March	Annual Business Meeting	West St. Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 28th March	Morning Service - Where the Kingdom Grows - Palm Sunday All Age Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 28th March	Evening Service	South Church	7.00pm
Monday 29th March	Holy Week Service	South Church	7.00pm
Tuesday 30th March	Holy Week Service	North Kirk	7.00pm
Wednesday 31st March	Holy Week Service	Sacred Heart	7.30pm
Thursday 1st April	Holy Week Service	St. James the Less	8.00pm
Friday 2nd April	Holy Week Service	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 4th April	Early morning Easter Service - Followed by Breakfast in the Hall	South Church	8.00am
Sunday 4th April	All Age Easter Sunday Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 4th April	Traditional Easter Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 4th April	Hope 4 Penicuik - Joint Praise Service	St. Mungo's Church	7.00pm

Lothian MiniCLAN

23rd & 24th April 2010
Friday night and all day Saturday
more info coming,
clear the diary and get ready!

Christians Against Poverty

Scottish CAP Money Training Day
Saturday 13 March Edinburgh
Could you serve the Kingdom in
this way?

Try Praying

We're doing a 'We Tried trypraying
Service' Do you have any
experiences of 'trypraying'
What happened when you gave
booklet?

What did folks say?

Let the minister know at
reviac@yahoo.co.uk
Sunday 21 March
Remember don't leave home
without it!

Compost Bins

God made Heaven and Earth then The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it :Genesis Ch2 V15.

Before the recent Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland decided that all Churches had to consider the reduction of their carbon footprint by 5%. These are positive steps towards the care of planet, but it is not down to a global or national decision but to personal thoughts on how we all care for God's great gift.

A growing problem for all of us is the amount of waste we produce, and the amount being sent to landfill. Organic waste rots down in landfills to form methane which is a powerful climate change gas, the effects of which are twenty three times more potent than carbon dioxide. Luckily you can play your part in reducing waste in your own back garden.

WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) Scotland and the Scottish Government are in partnership to provide a range of subsidised home compost bins to every household in Scotland. Composting at home diverts waste and produces a wonderful, healthy

and free material that you can use all round your garden. You can feed your bin uncooked vegetable and fruit scraps including potato, carrot and sprout peelings, orange peel, banana skins, tea bags and even the contents of your vacuum cleaner. Garden weeds, grass clippings and paper items such as egg boxes, toilet roll tubes and shredded letters go in too. This will soon turn into rich, healthy compost you can use all round your garden as a mulch and soil improver.

WRAP Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government offers compost bins for as little as £8, and this includes delivery, full instructions on how to compost and a free kitchen caddy. For more details, and to order your bin visit www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk or ring the order line on 0845 076 0223.

Miriam Adcock

Contributed by Ian Cathcart

Smiles of Joy in Belarus

"Five...four...three...two...one... OPEN!" Cries of excitement fill the room at the children's shelter in Mogilov, Belarus, as lids are torn off shoeboxes and little faces catch the first sight of their gifts. Hats and scarves are pulled on and big smiles fill faces as each new gift is shown off.

One little boy, Dima, unable to contain his excitement, pulls out a knitted hand puppet and shrieks, "Look at this, look at this! Thank you, thank you!" Suddenly a little boy, Anton, finds another in his shoebox and running over to Dima they begin to giggle with glee. The infectious giggle spreads and soon the little boys are dancing around, waving their hand puppets and shouting in delight.

Watching from the side of the room, tears fill the eyes of the children's shelter Director, Tanya. "We have so many beautiful, abandoned children here. Many are just not wanted by their parents and yet look at them, they're wonderful!"

Seeing the pure joy on the faces of Dima and Anton and watching their antics as they dance around the room, hand puppets waving above their heads, Tanya explains a little about the boys' background.

"Both boys are here because their parents are alcoholics and cannot afford to look after them," she explains. "This shelter is only a temporary place and it's a very difficult time for the children, many just do not understand why they have to be here."

And yet, for now, all worries and concerns have vanished, replaced by shoeboxes bursting with gifts, bringing colour and laughter into the lives of these little children.

As the party atmosphere draws to a close, children hurry off with their shoeboxes, storing the new gifts beside their beds. Putting on their coats to head out to the dining house for lunch, little Anton is still standing with his yellow and blue glove puppet firmly fixed on his hand. Carefully he pulls his coat over the glove, checks his puppet is still intact and with a huge smile lighting up his face heads out into the cold December air.

By Lucy Mizen
from 'Shoebox News'

Contributed by Bill Bruce

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – A WAY WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Ever wondered why we do Christian Aid Week?
Here are seven good reasons why we're involved...

- 1 We are joining with more than **20,000 churches** in an unparalleled act of Christian witness to our communities – showing them we care about justice and poor people.
- 2 Christian Aid has a vision – an **end to poverty**. By being part of this week we're not only funding life-changing projects, we're helping tackle the root causes of poverty – helping to change the world for good.
- 3 The church has an **amazing heritage** of working for justice. Christian Aid Week has run every year since soon after the Second World War – demonstrating the church's faithfulness to helping the poor.
- 4 In these **difficult financial times**, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever. Christian Aid Week helps us give people the opportunity to be generous.
- 5 Around **300,000 volunteers** give their time to deliver envelopes door to door and put on events. We are part of this movement for change.
- 6 We get **money for nothing!** Every taxpayer who signs a Gift Aid declaration on an envelope is giving Christian Aid 28 per cent extra – making even more development work possible in the world's poorest countries.
- 7 Christian Aid has successfully campaigned on 'dropping the debt', carbon-declaration reform and trade justice. Christian Aid Week helps world-wide **structural change** to take place.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9–15 May 2010

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that we can really do something about it.

To find out more about how you can get involved, just ask your Christian Aid Week representative or go to www.caweek.org

POVERTY – LET'S END IT

UK registered charity number 708851. Company number 1117528. Scotland charity number SC537750.
Northern Ireland charity number XR34032. Company number NI028154. Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998. Company number 428328.
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Christian Aid Week 9th -15th May 2010

If, like Christian Aid, you believe these are seven good reasons for getting involved and that poverty is a scandal, then you can do something about it!

We need volunteers and we are even more desperately short of them this year. Please consider giving just a little of your time this year to be a collector for Christian Aid – for you it is just a few hours out of one week but for those who live in the poorer communities of this world, your few hours could be life changing.

Please prayerfully consider getting involved and please just add your name to our list of collectors – contact: -

Ellen Walley – 01968 672014

Christian Aid Week keeps hope alive for many of the world's poorest communities. Thank you for being a part of it this May.

Coffee Morning Ministry

The monthly coffee mornings are held at either home of a team member (3 members so far). The meetings have been successful, 4 - 6 people attending from friends, associates and neighbours. We have had opportunities to share testimonies of what God has done in our lives. The meetings are informal and relaxed, God has really blessed this ministry.

If anyone would like to know more or volunteer please contact Valah Russell 672397 or Sarah Cowper 677325. Most of all please continue to pray for us that God would direct, empower and help us bring the gospel to our community and thus souls will be saved.

Thankyou

Valah Russell

**Deadline for articles
for next issue of Scope:
Monday 22nd March 2010**

Love Russia - Burns Supper

In aid of Love Russia, a Burns Supper celebration was held at the Navaar Hotel on Saturday 30th January. The hard work of organising the event was done by Andrew and Ann Dunsire and both Alex and Jackie Cooke who head up Love Russia were guests of honour.

The Navaar had room for seventy guests and was fully booked. The normal Burns Night format was followed, with lively speeches, poetry reading, a medley of Burns songs and of course some superb bagpipe playing. Also included in the programme was a short presentation of the Love Russia ministry.

It was heartening to see a mixture of friends from various local churches and did appear that everyone had a really good and enjoyable evening. Thanks to the very generous response of the people who supported this Love Russia even, a total of £1570 was raised and forwarded to Love Russia to help Alex and Jackie continue their Ministry in Russia.

PS. Love Russia is planning a Scottish Conference on 5th. June, at a venue in Perth. If you are interested please mark your diary – full details will be given later.

Helen & George Hogg

Keep Penicuik Tidy

As part of the Keep Scotland Tidy campaign www.keepsotlandtidy.org which will run throughout April, Penicuik & District Community Council have arranged 3 litter picks.

Penicuik residents are again asked to turn out in numbers. It is your opportunity to make Penicuik a nicer place to live. Safety gloves and litter pickers provided (and there may even be a wee refreshment).

The first litter pick will be held on Saturday 10th April (Cuiken Glen) at 9.30am. Meet in the car park at the YMCA Queensway.

The second at Lowrie's Den on Saturday 17th April 9.30am (new car park at Penicuik Estate) and the third on Saturday 24th April at 9.30am at Beeslack Woods (meet in Tesco car park 9.30am).

Penicuik & District Community Council have again asked if we would kindly help out with the Lowries Den litter pick on the 17th April. However if you are unable to help on that date then they would be grateful for help on any of the above dates.

Please do not feel under any pressure but everyone did a great job last year.

Thanks

Ross Hadwen 01968 672707

The Quilt Holes

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich colour and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise..

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly

fortunes. I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. ! ; My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes..

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ... Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

Contributed by Sandra Fraser

Seek justice for the oppressed
www.ijmuk.org

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church
Scottish Charity SCO11871