

Email the new Editor, Sarah Randell, at newsletter@pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk

The deadline for items for the Harvest edition is **9:00am on Monday 20th August 2012** although early notification will be much appreciated.

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Book Review: Dead or Alive? The truth and relevance of Jesus' resurrection

Author: Daniel Clark
Published by
Inter-Varsity Press
ISBN: 978184474564
Available from Amazon
priced £6.29

Given that Easter is approaching, we've chosen a book that asks the question, "Is Jesus dead or alive?"

Christians claim that Jesus of Nazareth rose bodily from the grave, three days after being brutally executed. If that claim isn't true, Jesus was nothing more than a good man, and the whole of the Christian faith collapses in a pile of dust. But what if it is true?

"If Jesus did rise from the dead, he is precisely the person to whom we should turn for answers."

Daniel Clark shows how Jesus' resurrection is the key which unlocks answers to some of life's biggest questions: Is there anybody out there? Does life have meaning or purpose? What happens when we die?

Using real-life stories of those who have come to believe in Jesus' resurrection, he explores the evidence so that we can draw our own informed conclusion. If Jesus is alive rather than dead, then another altogether more startling question emerges...

"If Jesus rose from the dead, Christianity is shown to be something infinitely more important than a simple 'take it or leave it' lifestyle choice."

The book gives the honest searcher and indeed the cynical sceptic a great deal of compelling material to consider – but the author doesn't bash the reader over the head with it! Written in a lively, easy-to-digest style and illustrated with cartoon drawings, the book can be taken in bite-size chunks, allowing the reader to chew over the content at their own pace. It's a book that's relevant to everybody.

DEAD OR ALIVE?



Community footpath

While church restorations have been underway, work has also taken place to prepare the ground for a new footpath through the village. This would give safer access from Wester Pencaitland to the School and a safe route through the village.

Starting at the river bridge near the foot of the Manse drive, the off-road paved and lit pathway would go up and through the graveyard to the other side. Here it would fork — one route giving access to the Carriage House and the other to the School.

Both Carriage House and School car parks would be extended and use of the School car park permitted outside School hours to alleviate problems caused by parking on the main road outside the Church.

Details are currently available to view at Environment Reception, John Muir House, Haddington or through the Council's planning portal at www.eastlothian.gov.uk The Community Council has also published a short article on the plans, plus information on how to comment at <http://edubuzz.org/pccouncil/>

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**Annual litter pick-up—29th April 2pm**

This year's annual litter pick-up has been arranged for 29th April — a Sunday — to avoid clashing with family activities on Saturdays. It will start at 2pm (and finish at 4pm) and organisers are keen to welcome as many volunteers as possible.

This year the community council is working much more closely with the School's Eco Group and other community groups in the village.

Refreshments and litter-picking equipment will be available at the Trevelyan Hall and all volunteers will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a new digital camera.

Please come and help if you can. Thank you.

**Enjoy quilting and patchwork or want to learn?**

The quilting and patchwork group that meets in the Carriage House between 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays invites new members to join.

Please call
Susanne Lowe
01875 340816
if interested.

**Circulation of Pencaet Community News**

PCN is delivered to 900+ households and businesses within the parish boundaries of Pencaitland — an area of almost 8 square miles, extending to the neighbouring parishes of Gladsmuir, Ormiston, Saltoun and Tranent.

The newsletter is also available on the Community News page of the Church website at
www.pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk

**Broadband survey**

The Community Council wants to thank those who took part in its broadband survey and to encourage others to do so.

The objective is to find out whether there is sufficient demand locally for high speed wireless broadband (starting speed of 20Mbps) which would cover outlying rural areas and villages as well as Pencaitland.

To ensure a representative survey sample, please participate and encourage your neighbours to do so too. Thank you!

The survey can be found online at <http://bit.ly/BB-survey>

For interest, we've included a snapshot — from the responses received so far — of how local people use the internet:

- 100% Email
- 98.1% Web surfing
- 86% BBC iPlayer etc
- 58.5% Social networks
- 52.8% Skype
- 47.2% Uploading
- 43% Download movies
- 41.5% Other
- 28.3% Gaming

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'Pencaet News'



Minister, David's Easter Message



"Since [we] have flesh and blood, He too shared in [our] humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death"

Hebrews 2:14f

"The only two certainties in life are death and taxes". This phrase, although used by Mark Twain, has a prior origin in the mists of time. The first recorded version of it was by Daniel Defoe, in 1726, in his 'Political History of the Devil'.

Certainly, the end of the tax year comes with a fatalistic inevitability, producing its own anxiety and flurry of activity for many. There is also a certain gloomy wisdom in advising us to prepare for death and pay our taxes. But perhaps it comes as little consolation to recognise that Tax Inspectors are also subject to the inevitability of the grim reaper. Their time will come. And, although the demand for taxes will no doubt outlive each one of us, it is not immortal or of eternal significance.

It is that *other certainty* which is addressed at Easter. We maintain Jesus paid the price of sin; that, by sharing death with us, then rising from it, He has transformed its meaning and power – opening up eternal life for each of us.

We invite you to share the celebration of cross and resurrection this Easter – and to embrace 'the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus'. **II Timothy 1:1**

Jesus has not, of course, offered to pay our taxes.

Every blessing

David

Easter Services

** indicates Ormiston*

Good Friday 6th April

***7:30pm** Communion

Easter Sunday 8th April

8:00am Early morning service (followed by breakfast)

10:00am Communion

***6:30pm** Communion



In Brief — round-up of community events

Please send 'What's on?' information and news about community events for the next edition of PCN no later than 9:00am on Monday 20th August 2012 — although advance notification is much appreciated.

Pencaitland Community Council

'What's On?'

<http://edubuzz.org/pccouncil/whats-on/>

Minutes of Meetings

<http://edubuzz.org/pccouncil/meeting-minutes/>

Pencaitland Primary School Blog

School calendar, newsletter, current issues, Parent Council Action Plan and much more

are at <http://edubuzz.org/pencaitland/>

Carriage House Facilities

Numerous community groups (e.g. antenatal classes, keep fit, floral art, various dance groups and a quilting/patchwork group make regular use of the facilities.

Carriage House bookings are now managed by Rhona Bauld (Tel 01875 340402).

Rooms for hire at the carriage House



Trevelyan Hall

Regular events include:

- Mothers and Toddlers (drop-in from 10am-11:45am on Tuesdays)
- Youth Café (call Liz Wilcox on 614548)
- Day Centre for the elderly Wednesdays from 10am-2pm—travel, lunch and entertainment (call Ann McGowan on 824778)

Pencaitland and Winton Bowling Club and Sports Pavilion

Regular events include:

- Playgroup (in the sports pavilion) for children age 2+ on Mon-Thurs 9:15am-11:15am (call Tracey Evans on 341356)

Spotlight on Alison Ewan, Music Undergraduate



Local girl, Alison Ewan, gives an insight into her first year at University, so if you're at school and looking ahead to higher education, read on...

What are you studying and do you think that you made the right choice?

I am currently doing a music honours degree at Aberdeen, and I am loving every moment! I definitely think I made the right choice and I wouldn't want to be doing anything else.

The best advice that I was given when I went to university was "Get involved". What's the best advice that you've had and how has it shaped your experience at University so far?

I would say that that's also great advice that I was given. I think getting involved in as wide a range of activities both outwith and as part of your degree is a great way of making friends that are not just on your course, but also in many different areas and years of training.

How did you adapt to being away from home?

I actually found this quite easy. Beforehand I did get a bit worried and nervous, but I think that once you're there, it's not too bad and fairly easy to get used to, especially when you're surrounded by so many people in the same boat as you, so there's always people to talk to or hang out with.

What, in your experience, is the most striking difference between school and university? Do you have a top tip for this year's school leavers?

Complete independence. I know most teachers always say this, but there's definitely a huge leap between the amount of independence you get at school and at Uni. My advice would be to try to set yourself a routine in 1st year so you can get used to working harder before exams count for important things!



Need a lift?

If you need transport to get to Church we can arrange it for you. We have a team of volunteers who pick-up folk each week, so please just ask.

Telephone
Annie
Brown on
340052
(evenings).



20 million adults in the UK pray. 13 million pray at least once a month and 9 million every day. Why don't you try praying for 7 days and discover the adventure of a lifetime: getting to know God.

www.trypraying.org

Just because...

For no other reason than it's so delightful, we'd like to bring a short film clip to the attention of a wider audience. Type the link, below, into your internet search engine to watch the antics of the owl and the pussycat. And enjoy!

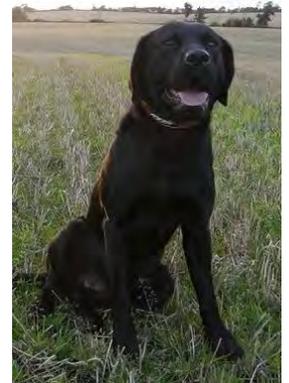
www.wimp.com/catowl



Fido, our news hound, reports...

My humans love me.

They show this in lots of ways; stroking my ears, giving me tripe sticks but most importantly they pick up after me when I go out for my morning and evening relaxations. This is the most important thing because of the risk of large predators picking up my scent and having me as a tasty, black, furry snack.



There are also all the human puppies in the village to think about, once a large predator starts coming round for tea they will find the human puppies tastier and easier to catch. I had thought my humans were being a little too cautious as I haven't actually seen a large predator in Pencaitland. But then when I was being driven through Edinburgh in my moving dog cage I definitely caught the scent of big cats. I am sure I detected lions, tigers and maybe a snow leopard, not to mention a large amount of penguins!

So I feel sorry for the dogs whose owners don't pick up after them, they clearly aren't as loved by their humans as I am by mine. But finding humans who love their dogs more than mine love me would be like finding penguins in Pencaitland.

Fido

Spring Has Sprung!

Since spring has sprung we thought you might like to know the seasonal opening dates and times of East Lothian's gardens. The gardens that open for Scotland's Garden Scheme are mostly privately owned and not usually open to the public at other times.

Bowerhouse Dunbar EH41 1RE

15 April – 30 September (by appointment)

Dirleton Village North Berwick EH39 5EH

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Gifford Village Gifford EH41 4QY

Sunday 17 June, 1:00pm-6:00pm

Greywalls Gullane EH31 2EG

Saturday 5 May, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Humbie Dean Humbie EH36 5PW

1 May – 30 July (by appointment)

Tel 07768 996382

Inveresk Village Musselburgh EH21

Sunday 3 June, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Inwood Carberry, Musselburgh EH21 8PZ

1 April – 30 September; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

2:00pm-4:00pm

Also Sunday 15 July, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Pilmour House Haddington EH41 4GHS

Sunday 22 July, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Shepherd House Inveresk, Musselburgh EH21 7TH

17 April – 5 July, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Also Sunday 29 April and Sunday 3 June, 2:00-5:00pm

Stenton Village East Lothian EH42

Sunday 27 May, 2:00pm-5:30pm

Stobshiel House Humbie EH36 5PD

Sunday 20 May, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Other appointments on request

Tel 01875 833646

Tynningame House Dunbar EH42 1XW

Sunday 13 May and Sunday 24 June, 1:00pm-5:00pm

Winton House Pencaitland EH34 5AT

Sunday 15 April; 12:00 noon-4:00pm



Greetings from Pencaitland

The village Post Office at The Cross, Pencaitland, is under new ownership, so we welcome Mrs Carol Cook. A long-term resident of the village, she has kept the opening hours the same — see below — and extended the range of greeting cards. Telephone 01875 340257.

Monday	9am-5:30pm
Tuesday	9am-5:30pm
Wednesday	9am-5:30pm
Thursday	9am-5:30pm
Friday	9am-5:30pm
Saturday	9am-12:30pm
Sunday	Closed



Winning Words

Here's a thing to think about if you like words and writing:

Do you know the correct use of a semi-colon, the rules about apostrophes and the correct spelling of troublesome words, like focused / focussed? But do you also happily start sentences with 'and' and 'but' despite what your English teacher taught you?



If so, welcome to Pencaet Community News! We'd love to have you on board writing stuff on an ad hoc or regular basis. Please get in touch now as it's our intention to plan some articles well in advance of publication. That way, there's no burden or pressure and writing is fun!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Email newsletter@pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk

Poet's Corner Without Easter

Without Easter there would be no hope of heaven. Without the hope of heaven, there would be no repentance, no personal transformation, no attempt to follow biblical principles.

Without Easter the world would be in chaos and darkness.

Jesus' death and resurrection means we can be reborn to live better, to do better, to shine light into the shadows.

Hallelujah!

Happy, Happy Easter.

Joanna Fuchs





NEWSLETTER@PENCAITLANDPARISHCHURCH.ORG.UK

New website reaches out to the community www.pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk

A new website has been set up by Pencaitland Parish Church as part of a commitment to engage with the wider community. You are encouraged to take a look. All feedback is welcome!

As well as community news and details of Alpha courses for those wishing to explore faith, the website includes details of issues currently affecting the Church – such as the controversial topic of same sex marriages.

You can listen to sermons online. There's also a 'What's On?' calendar, details about prayers for healing, Youth Alpha, Community News plus a page that explains what it means to be a Christian.

Visit the website (URL above) or scan the QR code (below) with your smart phone – if you have one.



Scan this with your smart phone for instant access.



Fancy a sponsored 26 mile night hike to Holy Island on 23rd/24th June to help Christian Aid fight poverty?

The group leaves Kirknewton at midnight and aims to arrive at Lindisfarne at 1pm on Sunday.

See www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/trekking/holy-island.aspx for details.



Fundraising Appeal exceeds target

A huge 'thank you' to all who contributed to the Church's recent fundraising appeal to make the building wind and watertight.

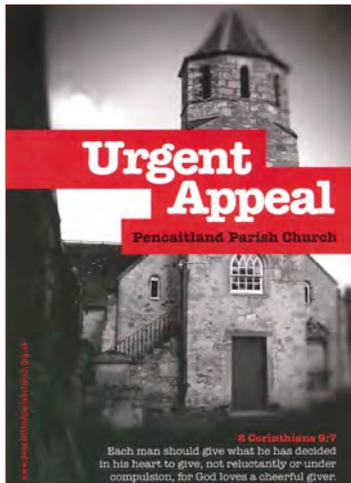
Thankfully, we reached and exceeded our £70,000 target within three months and raised a total of £75,557.

Thank you to all the generous individuals, local organisations and trusts who supported the appeal financially.

Thanks too to those who carried fundraising updates and news of events in print and online, including the Community Council and the Primary School's Parent Blog.

Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service will be held after Easter — please check the Church website if you'd like to attend as the date has not yet been set. A fundraising report will be circulated, giving details of how the money was raised. All are welcome to attend and to see the impact that the repairs have had.



Prayers for Healing

In Jesus' ministry, healing was a regular occurrence.

Today, by praying for healing the way the Bible teaches us, miracles can and do happen - by God's grace.

There are no conditions. You just need to come expectantly.

If you would like to receive prayers for healing, please get in touch with our Prayer Secretary (via the 'Contact Us' page of our website) or come along to one of our Sunday services at 10:45am, after which one of our experienced prayer team will pray for you.

2 Corinthians 9:7
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.