

Pencaet Community News

Welcome to the Harvest 2012 edition of Pencaet Community News — the outreach newsletter of Pencaitland Parish Church for the wider community.

Items for the Christmas edition should be received no later than 9:00am on Monday 5 November 2012 although early notification is much appreciated.

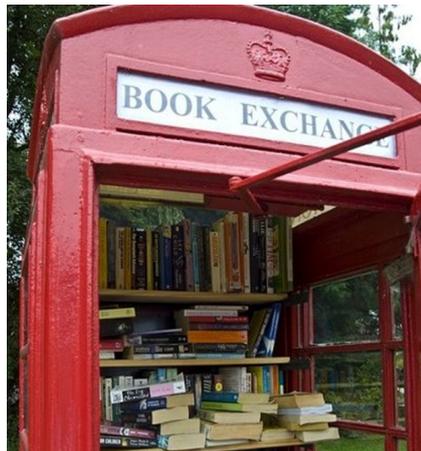
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Lots of villages in the UK have turned red telephone boxes into mini libraries. The idea is that you take a book and leave one behind.

The Community Council like the idea of having one in our village and, it seems, Winton House has offered to provide the shelves and to liaise with the Council. What a great idea!



Safe footpath through the village— Event planned to celebrate its opening

It is hoped to have an event marking the opening of the new footpath through the village and details of the event, when finalised, will be promoted on the Church and the Community Council websites.

Current thinking is that the event is likely to take the form of a family day for the wider community. Watch out for further information.

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



Used postage stamps needed

Please let us have your used postage stamps.

The Church of Scotland can use them to generate funds for its work overseas to help people in poverty.

Stamps can be dropped in the red post box at Church on Sundays. Alternatively, please call Annie Brown on 340052. Thank you.

Action Against Poverty

Let's face facts—in the current economic climate, even in our seemingly affluent community, some people will be struggling with debt that has got out-of-control. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a national debt counselling charity that offers hope and practical solutions to anyone in debt through its unique, in-depth service.

If you're in debt and need help, we strongly urge you to visit www.capuk.org

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T: 07799 067867 W: andrew-warren.co.uk



Book Review:

**Red Moon Rising—the adventure of faith...the power of prayer
THE STORY OF 24-7 PRAYER**

**Author: Pete Greig
Publisher: A Survivor book from
David C Cook
ISBN: 978-1-84291-095-5
Available from Amazon £6.48**

A new generation is learning to pray like never before. From Communist China to Washington DC, and from the ranks of the Salvation Army to anarchic German punks, the 24-7 Prayer movement has been interceding continually, night and day, since 1999 in more than fifty countries.

This is a remarkable story—an honest account of pain and perseverance alongside pioneering mission and many miraculous answers to prayer.

The book demonstrates that anything is possible when ordinary people say "yes" to the whispers of an Almighty God.

"...provocative, prophetic and powerful—proof, if you need it, that God is on the move in our time."

Mike Bickle, author, *Passion for Jesus*

This is the most inspirational, hopeful book I've read in a long time. I was hugely encouraged by Pete Greig and his chums – ordinary, unpretentious young folk who, through God, have created an international network of prayer rooms where people pray, in shifts, around the clock – 24/7.

What a joy to be reminded of the sheer power of prayer!

Countless young people around the world who couldn't see the relevance of Church, have taken their first step of faith in a prayer room and discovered that prayer is the "engine room" of personal relationship with God.

From the opening pages, it's obvious that God is on the move and meeting young non-believers wherever they are – in nightclubs and on the streets as well as in Churches.

Red Moon Rising comes as a wake-up call to everyone yet to be convinced, and to those who need to be reminded, of the power of prayer.

We'd like to hear reactions to the book, and, with permission, might publish some responses, so please email newsletter@pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk



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The Open Door

Over the years, a number of Home groups have met weekly in Ormiston and Pencaitland—some in the day and some in the evening—to give folk an opportunity to explore and discuss different aspects of Christian faith, to pray, and to enjoy fellowship with others.

A group that currently meets on a Thursday evening—called **The Open Door**—has recently set-out its weekly programme for the autumn months, so if you're interested in coming along, please phone Gill Hamilton on 01875 340803 for more information.

The group meets at **7:30pm until 9pm on Thursdays** throughout term-time and the venues rotate around four homes in Pencaitland and one in Ormiston.

We look forward to welcoming newcomers.



Minister, David's, Message

Invitation

Questions are good. And it's not always that we get a chance to explore them – especially faith questions. But it's part of how we grow. So, with a certain amount of trepidation, we would like to extend an invitation for people to send in faith questions, which we'll see if we can respond to in future editions. We don't claim infallibility and we make no promises. But we'll do what we can.

*Please send them
c/o The Editor,
Pencaet Community News,
Pencaitland Parish Church,
Pencaitland EH34 5DL
or email newsletter@
pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk*

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free... If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:32, 36

It was for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Galatians 5:1



The Flight of the Bumblebee

Probably most of us are acquainted with the urban myth that bumblebees shouldn't be able to fly. The so-called impossibility of their flight is evidently based on something to do with the lift to weight ratio. Their wing span is too small to generate enough 'lift', given their size and weight.

Yet, wonder of wonders and, as a miracle of nature, they very obviously can.

The difficulty, however, is not that bumblebees are somehow able to defy aerodynamic wisdom. Rather, the problem is a faulty analogy between bees and conventional fixed-wing aircraft. Bee wings are relatively small compared to their bodies. If an aircraft was built in the same way it would never get off the ground. But bees aren't like aircraft; they're more like helicopters. Their wings work on the same principle as helicopter blades... or, to be precise, 'reverse-pitch semi rotary helicopter blades'. A moving airfoil, whether it's a helicopter blade or a bee wing, generates a lot more 'lift' than a stationary one.

The real challenge with bees isn't aerodynamics but mechanics. i.e. how they manage to move their wings so fast – up to 200x per second!! The answer seems to be that their muscles don't expand and contract like other vertebrates. Instead, they vibrate like a rubber band. A nerve impulse 'twangs' the muscle, much as you might pluck a guitar string, causing it to move up and down until another

impulse comes along.

The achievement is impressive and the bumblebee is still a wonder of creation... but on different grounds from the urban myth that bumblebees somehow defy nature. The problem with the myth is that it's based on the misapplication of an idea to reality. And that raises a question about how many other mistaken ideas we might apply to life – especially our own lives.

Bumblebees never have to bother about opinions, so are never 'grounded' by notions which suggest they aren't supposed to fly. But people are different. Beliefs have a powerful effect on how we live. And these can be either liberating or disabling. This is especially true of matters of faith. It's interesting to note therefore that Jesus said to those who came to Him, **"You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free"**.

It's a profound claim – and one I've found increasingly true in my own experience.

*Every blessing
David*



Giving thanks and praise for our restored Church

A Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 26 August—a year after the fundraising appeal began—to give thanks and praise to God for the restoration of His church.

Those in attendance commented that the service was wonderfully uplifting and faith-affirming with contributions by a number of our church family, including our young people. It was wonderful to see faces from the wider community too.

Minister, David, explained the significance of various parts of the building—the bell, of course, has served as a call to worship for centuries while the weather cock at the top of the tower, pointing north, south, east and west spells "News", indicating the good news of the Gospel.

Over the years, the building has been adapted to meet the needs of its congregation, but—significantly—it has always had several doors and remains open to all who seek the Lord.

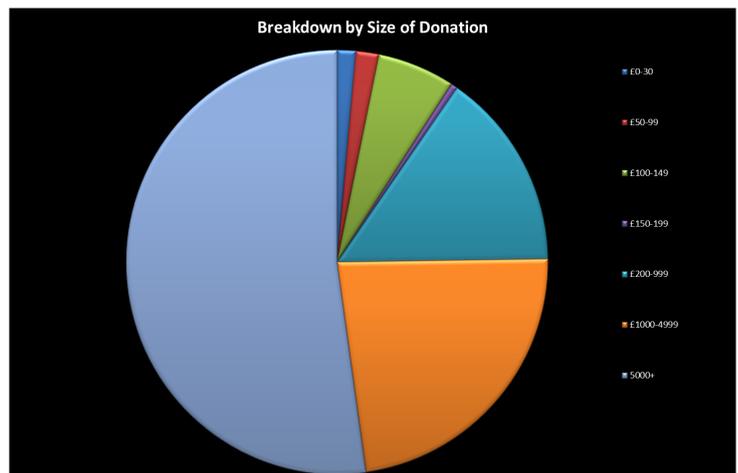
Since before the Reformation, when Christian faith saw a revival

in Scotland, the building has provided a place for people to meet with God. The walls have seen countless baptisms, marriages and funerals and they've witnessed many people grow deeper in their faith.

Renewed thanks to all who supported the appeal financially and to those who gave their time and skills.

Most gifts donated came from individuals and they ranged widely in value.

Please see the pie chart, on the right.



Congratulations, Alison



Alison Mellis lives in Vinefields with husband, Stephen, and their family. They came to the village 10 years ago with four children, to enjoy the peace and freedom of rural living and because they were attracted to the church and community and the support it offered. Since coming to Pencaitland, Alison and Stephen have added to their family and have found the support they have needed from friends and neighbours.

Alison is dyslexic and struggled at school to get qualifications, but this has not interfered with her dream of extending her knowledge and building her career. She decided to press into tertiary education but had several hurdles to cross. She has worked in retail and in children's nurseries and, because she enjoyed working with children so much, she decided to pursue this avenue and gained an HNC in Child Care at Esk Valley College.

This was not enough though, and Alison decided to embark on a PDA course level 9 (Professional Development Award) in Childcare and Education.

By this time Alison was working part time within a local authority nursery and was supported by her department to continue her studies.

Alison's dyslexia was always the main difficulty she had to overcome, and she was given the help that she needed to complete the course. She owes so much to her husband and family as well as many friends for their help, support and advice—particularly practical help with their children who, in a range of ages, still needed to be cared for day-to-day.

Sheer determination and a will to succeed further took Alison to Edinburgh University (Moray House) to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Humanities and Social Science in Childhood Practice. This was a huge undertaking with the challenges she had and she found it very difficult to get the understanding and help needed. Eventually, Alison undertook private tuition and had the huge help of her friend, Stella, to whom she owes much.

Alison overcame all these difficulties with a grim determination not to be defeated by a somewhat dismissive system and she graduated this summer after 4 years' study.

Alison is now relaxing away from the world of studying but still has dreams to find a suitable part-time job commensurate with her new qualifications.

Alison also dreams of finding more time for fun such as gardening, sewing, pottery, bread making (she would love to go to River Cottage cookery school to learn). She also wants to learn how to lay garden paths!

It is clear that this special person will achieve anything she wishes and she is likely to remain a 'mature student', always keen to learn something new and to be an inspiration to others in her circle to do the same. But Alison emphasises that her relationships with her family and friends are the most important thing.

Gill Hamilton

For transport to church please call Annie Brown on 340052.



Fido, our news hound, reports...



Speaking as a dog (which I am, see picture), I just hate being left on my own all day. Luckily for me my humans know this, so if they are going somewhere and can't take me along they will take me to a member of my extended family.

My humans talk about me as if I'm not there sometimes, understanding every word they say, like "it just wouldn't be fair to leave him more than a couple of hours", which is usually the sign that I will be going to my human granny or aunty for a while.

On my perambulations around the village I have noticed that some of the humans are on their own in the house all day. I don't expect that they enjoy it any more than I do, perhaps they don't have family nearby to take them for nice walks and stick chasing. Wouldn't it be nice if someone took them for a walk to the shops (not leaving them tied up outside of course) or, my favourite, gave them a lovely scratch under the chin.

Fido (Woof!)

Road rage, African style

Why are we always in such a hurry? Perhaps we should slow down and take time to appreciate the wonder all around us. The photos, below, are from an African game reserve where the man in the VW was trying to get past the elephant.

Announcements that appeared in church bulletins — not ours!

- Due to the Rector's illness, the Wednesday healing service will be cancelled until further notice.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Eight new choir robes are needed due to the addition of new members and to the deterioration of older ones.
- The Rev. Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the congregation.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands.

A stitch in time

At the end of last term, Pencaitland Primary School completed a quilt, with each class sewing a panel. When all the panels were stitched together, the quilt was sent to the school's twin school in Zimbabwe. A work of art, the quilt is a credit to all the children who participated. Well done to all involved! *[Hope to have a pic for next issue—Ed.]*



Poet's Corner

God's Wild Dreamer

I walked today where wild dreams grow, and thought of you
I watched their shimmering colours glow, and thought of you
God's wild dreamer, God's wild dream

A Kingdom, you said,
where armies give up and go home, prisons stand abandoned and forlorn
where children play with wolves, lions play with lambs
black folk, yellow folk, red folk and white
cross at last the great divide
into liberty, equality, fraternity
where love, at last, bursts her restraining banks
and sweeps away hatred, lust, grief and death
where gentle people live gentle lives upon a gentle earth
where green grows the sand
where in the cool of the evening, once again
God walks and talks with Adam

I walked today where wild dreams grow, and thought of you
I watched their shimmering colours glow, and thought of you
God's wild dreamer, God's wild dream

You walked that day where wild death grows, and thought of me
You watched its menacing shadow grow, and died for me
God's wild dreamer, God's wild dream

Bob Yule





NEWSLETTER@PENCAITLANDPARISHCHURCH.ORG.UK

Church Contact Details

Minister:

David Torrance can be contacted on 01875 340963 or by email at minister@pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk

Other Individuals:

The Session Clerk, Clerk to the Board, Treasurer, and Website Administrator can all be contacted via the 'Contact Us' page at www.pencaitlandparishchurch.org.uk



Scan the QR code, below, with your smart phone for instant access to the Church website.



Forthcoming Events

Parenting course each Wednesday from September

Starting in September, a six-week parenting course for parents of children up to age 12 will run in the **Carriage House each Wednesday from 1:15pm—3pm**. The aim is to support and encourage each other as well as to navigate our way through the sometimes difficult waters of parenthood. Come if you are an expert and come if you are not! **Call Ann Torrance on 340963 for more details.**

Public debate about same sex marriage—Monday 17 September

On **Monday 17 September at 7:30pm** Patrick Harvey MSP and Willie Rennie MSP will debate with David Robertson (Solas Centre for Public Christianity) and Peter D Williams (Catholic Writer). **The venue is Charlotte Chapel, 204 Rose Street, Edinburgh, and admission is free.**

Sara Groves in concert in Edinburgh—Saturday 22 September



Sara Groves will be performing a concert at **Carrubbers Christian Centre, Edinburgh, on Saturday 22 September at 7pm** (until 10pm). Tickets, priced £10, are available at <http://www.refinetickets.com/>

"The music of Sara Groves is good for the soul. I am so glad she's making it to the UK for some tour dates. Her mix of melody and message is unique - be there, and be inspired!"
Matt Redman

Harvest Thanksgiving—Sunday 7 October

All are welcome at our 10:45am service in Pencaitland. And also for refreshments afterwards in the Carriage House.



Ormiston hosts bluegrass band—Sunday 7 October at 6:30pm

Ormiston Church will host The Ballinger Family – a bluegrass band on tour in Scotland this autumn – at a special Praise evening. Bluegrass (also known as 'hillbilly music') is a form of American roots music and was inspired by the rhythms of Appalachia. It has mixed roots in Spanish, British and Irish traditions and was later influenced by Spanish-American music, through the incorporation of jazz elements. All are welcome.

Christmas Fair, Carriage House— Saturday 8 December

All are welcome from 11am-2pm for festive family fun. Please put the date in your diary.

