

THE NEW WELLWYNDER

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2025

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

Message from the Vestry:

Dear Friends.

I'd like to begin with a big thank you for the warm and gracious welcome I have received as your Locum Minister. This is my first ministerial post since retiring as the parish minister of Uddingston Burnhead, where I served for thirteen and a half years. I look forward to getting to know all of you and to journeying in faith with you.

As I write this article my wife Carol and I have just returned from 15 days of blue skies as we circumnavigated the North Coast 500. We were blessed with visions of Scotland at its best, and with no midges to spoil the view. What a boost to our tourist economy it would be if we could guarantee those conditions for all people, all off the time.

As I considered how fortunate we had been, it made me pause and think that our journey of faith and the road of life we all must take in this world, is not always sunshine and holidays. More often than we would desire, our pathways are often overshadowed by the storms of life: worries about money and debt, relationship challenges, health issues, loneliness etc.

Whenever depression and despair may affect your life, be it now or in the future, I'd like to share with you the inspirational story of William Cowper

William Cowper was an English poet and scholar who lived from 1731 to 1800. He died at the age of 69, considerably older than he once expected.

You see William Cowper used to suffer from occasional bouts of deep depression and doubt. This had such an adverse effect upon his life until one particular night, when he was in the darkest mood and deepest despair, he decided to leave his home, determined to end his life by jumping into the River Thames.

That night the city of London was covered with an unusually heavy fog and Mr. Cowper, who was searching to find the river, lost his way and wandered aimlessly.

After a long while, he saw a distant light and proceeded towards it. He was surprised to reach the doorstep of a house.

The light was burning brightly within the house and the front door was open as if to welcome any wandering soul.

When he entered, William soon realized that it was his own home that he had found, and that God had mercifully brought him back to safety.

In appreciation of the Lord's guidance, he wrote a beautiful poem, the words of which speak to all who question their individual faith SatNav and to all who at this time question the direction the Church of Scotland is going in. I hope these words will help to remind you that God has a plan for us.



God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants his footsteps in the sea, And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines, Of never failing skill; He treasures up his bright designs, And works his sovereign will.





Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, The clouds ye so much dread; Are big with mercy, and shall break, In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace; Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.



His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

God, our loving Heavenly Father is ready to rescue us during times of despair and depression. He protects us in the shelter of His infinite love and leads us to the place of safety, security and serenity.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Les Brunger Locum Minister

Moderator's Challenge Brings Light and Hope to Malawi

In just five months, the Moderator's Challenge has raised an incredible £34,130 for the Lighting up Learning initiative, a project aimed at transforming educational opportunities in Malawi.



Launched in November 2024 by Rt. Rev Dr Shaw Paterson following his visit to Malawi, the initiative addresses the lack of electricity in schools and homes that severely limits students' ability to study after dark. Through local fundraising efforts, the Church is supporting two key projects: Let Your Little Light Shine, which provides solar-powered 'light libraries' in primary schools for pupils to borrow lights for home use, and the installation of a state-of-the-art solar energy system at Zomba Theological University's new PhD Centre.

Dr Paterson expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming generosity, calling the support "a powerful expression of love, solidarity, and faith in action." The Moderator praised the Church community for shining a light both literally and spiritually.

As you know, here at The New Wellwynd we also participated in the Moderator's Challenge and when The Moderator visited New Wellwynd on Sunday, 16th March 2025, we were able to give him the total to date. However, you will be pleased to learn that the congregation raised a total of £4525.00 toward the project. This was raised through our Smartie tube appeal, the sale of tablet and from the proceeds of our Tea Fellowship each Sunday. Our Uniformed Youth Organisations also participated in the challenge – The Anchor Boys, Junior and Company Sections of the Boys' Brigade, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts – a big thank you, to you all.

Our total is broken down as follows:

Sunday Tea Fellowship	£592.87
Tablet Sales	£335.30
Smartie Tube and Donations	£2555.26
Youth Organisations	£1041.57
Grand Total	£4525.00

The following response was received from the Moderator's PA:

"Many thanks for the £4,525 donation to the Moderator's Challenge from The New Wellwynd Church in Airdrie. The Moderator was delighted to hear this news and very much appreciates the generosity of the congregation and the uniformed organisations. He is aware that the contribution will make a significant impact in Malawi. Thank you once again to all those involved for their thoughtfulness."

David Walker

The Boys' Brigade

The 2nd Airdrie Boys' Brigade held their annual Parent's Night and Presentation of Awards on the evening of Monday, 12th May in the Church Hall.



A fun night was had by all with the boys receiving the badges that they had earned over the course of the session. Four Anchor Boys were promoted to Junior Section and three Junior Section boys were promoted to Company Section.

We also had three young men Andrew Bear, Ben Pardoe and Cole Porter gaining the highest award in the Boys' Brigade, the King's Badge. A very proud moment for each one and the Company. Many congratulations gentlemen.

The evening concluded with a cup of tea and some fellowship. We look forward to seeing everyone again after the summer break.

Jean Kinniburgh

Guides

The 4th Airdrie Guides have had a highly successful year. We started back in August 2024 with 14 Guides but now have 19 Guides attending each week which is brilliant.



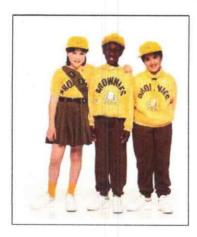
The Guides have all worked hard and achieved lots of badges and awards which have been presented throughout the year. Leaders have also been working hard; Emily has achieved her silver DofE award and Emma has completed her Leadership Qualification. As well as badge work, we have visited the Glasgow Science Centre for International Woman's Day, Summerlee Heritage Park to celebrate Thinking Day and had lots of fun crafting, team building and fundraising. We finish the year with our summer camp to PGL Dalguise in June. The Guides and Leaders are excited to get away and make memories while having great adventures.

We have lots planned for next year and would welcome any girl aged 10-15 or anybody who would like to volunteer to get in touch.

Karen Millar

Brownies

3rd Airdrie Brownies have had a great year since returning in August 2024. A full unit with 24 girls, we have spent the 24/25 session earning badges, doing arts and crafts and have had some great trips out.



The girls work very hard every week working on our programme of activities to earn their badges. Alongside our programme and badge work we have also enjoyed a successful Halloween party and a trip to Cumbernauld Theatre in December to see Pinocchio. In February, we enjoyed a trip with the full Airdrie Division to Summerlee Museum to celebrate World Thinking Day, where over 100 girls attended. In March, we took part in the Moderators Challenge raising over £140 in the unit. We are ending our summer term with a beach party and looking forward to returning in August with lots more fun and adventure planned for the 25/26 session.

If you wish to volunteer or would like any more information about membership please visit girlguiding.org.uk.

Lorna Kinniburgh

CAMEO

On the 26th April, CAMEO once again hosted the Seniors Outing. Two coaches with sixty one passengers set off from the Church and travelled to Broughty Ferry. After a pleasant afternoon exploring, we then made our way to the Royal George Hotel in Perth for a High Tea, which was enjoyed by everyone, especially the meringues! The weather was kind and it stayed dry. This was our last event of the session and we look forward to the new session sometime in September.

Jean Kinniburgh

"In Stitches"

Our last craft class before the summer break was Tuesday, 20th May. It has been a very busy few months knitting and crocheting for our friends in the Mission Group in Ebenezer Evangelical Church for which they are extremely grateful. Thanks very much ladies for all the lovely work you have produced. I'm quite sure you will have seen the Pocket Prayer Squares located in the Crush Hall which our class produce for all members of the congregation and friends. They have proved to be very popular, so much so, that to date we have given out 590! I hope everyone has a good summer and we look forward to **Tuesday**, 9th September when our new session begins. If you are interested, please come along as you will be made most welcome.

Helen Fettus

Senior Circle

Our second last meeting of the session was a very informative and interesting talk from Colin and Lesley McPherson about their preparation and participation on a trek for St Andrews Hospice along with some beautiful pictures. At our last meeting, we were entertained by Alister Weighton and 3 talented members of his congregation. They sang, played keyboard, accordion and bagpipes.

During the summer months, we are having 4 informal gatherings so that our members and anyone else can come along for a chat and some refreshments. The first one on the 6th May was really well attended and by the sound of the chatter, everyone enjoyed meeting up. The remaining dates are the 3rd June, 8th July and the 6th August.

A big thank you to CAMEO for organising the trip to Broughty Ferry and Perth. It was much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Our new session will begin on Tuesday, 9th September 2025.

Anne Learmonth

Interim Moderator Change

The Rev. Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Clerk of Forth Valley and Clydesdale has advised us that Murdo has been re-assigned to another congregation within the Presbytery as Interim Moderator with immediate effect. The Clerk advised that this is normal practice within vacancy situations. As a result of this change, our new Interim Moderator going forwards is the Rev Anne Paton who has previously been in place here in The New Wellwynd. We take this opportunity to wish Murdo well in his new role and look forward to welcoming Anne back to New Wellwynd in due course.

David Walker

General Assembly Week - Challenging and Inspiring!

As this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland drew to a close, the Moderator, the Rt. Rev Rosie Frew, urged the Church to 'remember that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine'.



In her closing address, Mrs Frew told the Assembly that the past week had been challenging, but also inspiring. She said: "All of us - whatever the age and stage - have a shared vocation... And sometimes it can feel really hard. For most of us in this room, our whole Christian life has been lived out against the backdrop of decline. That line on the graph that's due to hit zero all too soon. It can feel so dispiriting. And we see the reality of it as we look around our congregations and we're still one of the young ones..."

But she said there had been encouragement:

"The involvement of youth delegates. Young adults involved and invested and excited."

"The singing, the sharing of bread and wine, the conversations enjoyed, the friendships made."

"The contributions of so many people – honest, raw, questioning, encouraging."

"And the good news stories. And there are so many of them. So often people have said to me they've left this Assembly knowing so much more being so encouraged by what they've heard and seen." She also said "God's love surpassed knowledge and is wide and long, high and deep" and urged everyone to go out into the world and make disciples.

Intrepid Reporter

Growing up in the Parish

The summertime with its long endless days was a great time to be growing up in the Parish. Playing outdoors here, there and everywhere, from early in the morning to last thing at night, only returning tae yer hoos when you got hungry and needed something to eat — usually a piece n' jam and on the odd occasion a piece n' broon sauce, a Whinha' delicacy! Doon the glen, doon the moss, oot tae hammies, a visit up tae Central Park or doon tae Centenary Park, you name it we explored it! No fancy colour tellies, no computers, no phones not even a landline in the hoos! Our phones were two tin cans connected by a long piece of string! You created your own entertainment and the more imaginative you were, the better and if you wanted to speak to someone you did that in person face to face. Whether you were playing fitba, building dens or oot exploring there was never a dull moment, even the rain widnae keep you in! The only hassle you got was when the ba' would get kicked into Bella Sharp's or wee Maggie Devlin's washing! Jessie McNab was never too happy either.

Then there were the wee day trips to the seaside – Ayr, Girvan and Troon doon the Clyde coast, Burntisland, Kinghorn and Leven in Fife and my own personal favourite, the place with the fancy exotic name that sounds Italian – Portobello! There were also the famous cruises 'Doon the Watter' on the old paddle steamers, the Waverly and the Maid of Skelmorlie to Dunoon, Rothesay and of course Millport! With the 'blue train' both Helensburgh and Balloch were readily accessible with the latter providing a gateway for a sail up Loch Lomond on the Maid of the Loch. If you were lucky you might even get a holiday somewhere especially during the Glasgow Fair Fortnight. I can recall many happy memories of caravan holidays at the Shepherds Knowe Caravan Park in Leven, a family favourite.

Today, you can drive there in about 70 minutes, back in the day it was the steam choo choo train from Buchanan Street Train Station in Glasgow via the Forth Bridge. I can remember the first time I crossed the bridge, I was terrified, thinking that the train went up and down the cantilevers a bit like a roller coaster! Silly me.

The caravan park was sandwiched between the sea and the golf course on the edge of the town and provided another great adventure playground with a fantastic beach and golf course to play on (much to the annoyance of many golfers!)



The caravans were not like the big residential caravans of today, they were mainly small four berth caravans, with the beds converted from the seating areas. There were no separate rooms it was all just the one area where you sat, cooked, ate and slept. There was no toilet or shower you had to go to the toilet block for those! However, you did have a chamber pot or bucket for night time emergencies. Only problem was, everybody heard the tinkle!

Electricity? What was that? It was calor gas for cooking and lighting! There was no plumbed in water either you had to go and collect that in a big container from a tap situated nearby. You did a lot of walking! Along the promenade from the caravan park you had the playpark and paddling pool, the theatre, putting greens, trampolines, Johnny's amusement arcade and the shows (the fair) along at the end, not forgetting the Shell House. It had everything. You also had Letham Glen which is now a country park where there was regular outdoor entertainment throughout the summer months. If you fancied a walk along the beach you could walk along the sand to Lower Largo grab a black, white or red pudding supper and walk back. Yes those were the days! However, there was one year we did something completely different – we went to Butlin's at the Heads of Ayr.



Welcomed by a team of Redcoats we were in Burns House. Modern chalet accommodation with proper bedrooms and toilets! Luxury!

I remember the early morning wake up calls over the tannoy, the massive dining hall serving up three meals a day with military precision and the loud cheers that went up when a waiter or waitress dropped a plate! There was the indoor swimming pool complete with underwater viewing windows and an outdoor pool with its traditional fountains at either end.

You also had the boating lake, miniature train, roller skating rink, tennis courts, sports field and fairground. Plenty to keep you occupied. A particular favourite was the chairlift that took you soaring above and across the park. There was the Stuart Ballroom where many of the family competitions were held like the knobbly knees, glamorous granny and the holiday princess. Downstairs you had the Beachcomber Bar with its nightly music and hourly tropical thunderstorm and volcanic eruption! It was certainly different from a week in the caravan. Whether it was Leven or Butlin's everyone was very grateful for their holiday. Whatever you do this summer, wherever you may go, whether near or far – enjoy it!

Missionary Partner Gary Brough in Malawi

Dear friends, we've just returned from travelling in Zambia for a combination of work and family holiday. After a few days wondering at God's creation in a national park - leopard, zebra, giraffe, elephant, and more - we drove to the capital city, Lusaka. We enjoyed the comforts of a big town and worshipped with a local church community.



During our travels, I read a post by Ray Ortlund, contrasting the garden and the city in scripture that struck a chord not just because of the change in scenery but also the outlook for the work we're involved in: "God will not merely re-create the Garden of Eden for us. He promises a whole new world, combining both the Garden (His creation, Genesis 2:8) and the city (our invention, Genesis 4:17), His creation perfected, our invention redeemed — a sparkling new garden/city world, filled with resurrected followers of Jesus!"

We celebrate a resurrected Jesus, victorious over sin and death. No work of our hands can ever compare to His. Yet He invites us to co-labour, and sometimes we see a shadow of His creation and redemption patterns in the work He puts our hands and minds to. What a privilege. What a hope.

As always, thank you for walking with us in prayer, encouragement and support. These past weeks have reminded us afresh of the beauty and brokenness of this world—and the hope we carry in Christ. Whether in the rhythms of leadership training, the joy of travel, or the quiet work of planting trees and preparing school projects, we are grateful to be part of something far greater than ourselves. May we all continue to catch glimpses of the garden-city to come, even as we labour faithfully in the here and now!

With love and gratitude, Gary, Jacqueline, Eilidh, Morven and Caitlin The full newsletter can be viewed on the noticeboard in the Large Hall.

World Environment Day - Beat Plastic Pollution!

For decades, plastic pollution has seeped into every corner of the world, leaching into the water we drink, into the food we eat, and our bodies. While plastic pollution is a major concern, it is also one of the most fixable of today's environmental challenges, with some obvious solutions at hand and this is providing a focus for this year's **United Nations World Environmental Day on the 5th June.** It will spotlight the growing scientific evidence on the impacts of plastic pollution and drive momentum to refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink plastics use. It will also reinforce the global commitment made in 2022 to end plastic pollution through a global plastic pollution treaty.



Plastic pollution exacerbates the deadly impacts of the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature, land and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste. Globally, an estimated 11 million tonnes of plastic waste leak into aquatic ecosystems each year, while micro-plastics accumulate in the soil from sewage and landfills, due to the use of plastics in agricultural products.

The annual social and environmental cost of plastic pollution ranges between US\$300 billion and US\$600 billion. That amount of money could build and equip over 10,000 hospitals in many of the poorest countries of the world like Malawi. It makes you think, where many people's priorities lie both individually and commercially when it comes to plastic use?

Eco Warrior

Thank You

Isobel Craig and Family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers, cards and flowers following the passing of Edwin. All were a great comfort and support to the family at this sad time.

Isobel Irvine would like to thank the congregation for the phone calls, flowers, cards and words of comfort on the passing of her son-in-law. All were very much appreciated.

Ian Blair, Emma and Family would like to send a huge thank you to all for their loving words, thoughts, prayers, beautiful cards and flowers on the sad passing of Sandra. You have been a great comfort to all of us, at this sad time.

Margaret and Tom Kane would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers received from the Church following Tom's recent stay in hospital. They were much appreciated.

Margo Elliot would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers received following her recent stay in hospital. Thanks also for the cards, visits and all the lovely get well wishes. Everything was very much appreciated.

Margaret and Billy Reid would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. They were much appreciated.

Elsie McCallum and Marilyn Russell would like to thank the congregation for the lovely they both received.

Isobel Munro would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. They were very much appreciated.

Margaret Wallace would like to thank all her friends of New Wellwynd for the beautiful flowers she received on the occasion of her recent birthday. Advancing years were lightened by the kind thought.

Mrs Margaret Gill would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers received on the occasion of her 94th birthday.

A collective thank you to Jean and all the ladies of Cameo for a successful season with some great speakers and entertainment. Likewise, everyone enjoyed the outing to Broughty Ferry and Perth, a lot of work getting us organised but a great day was had by all. Thank you.

Eleanor's Ordination Service



On Thursday, 3rd April a large gathering of family and friends had the pleasure of joining Eleanor, for her Service of Ordination to the Office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale, in a packed Cairnlea Church here in Airdrie. A lovely service that was enjoyed by all in attendance. A great evening of fellowship followed in the Church Hall. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Christian Aid - Hunger Lunch

Picture the scene - Saturday morning, 10th May, New Wellwynd Church Hall, people setting out tables and chairs (have we put out enough or too many? How many guests will come tomorrow?), others pinning up posters and bunting, blowing up balloons, setting the tables with paper plates, cups, napkins etc., not forgetting **Christian Aid Week Envelopes, - and oh! - A fun quiz,** then decorating with balloons. Everything in red and white, the colours of Christian Aid. Some bunting and posters in Crush Hall. Items left in kitchen for preparation tomorrow. Lots of butter, cheese and milk in fridge. The rolls have arrived. Hurrah! And so we leave, checking on way out that the hall is colourful and welcoming for tomorrow.

Early Sunday morning the sound of laughter as we find a production line of roll slicers, batterers', cheese adders, plate loaders, milk jug fillers etc., preparing the basic, but tasty lunch. (Was that a roll fell on the floor? Never!) What's that saying "If we build it, they will come" and on Sunday, 11th after worship you did, filling the tables, some to overflowing! The buzz of conversation and laughter was great to hear. The helpers went round several times with tea and coffee and the quiz gave us all brain ache, but the answers were revealed before everyone left.

And the result? An amazing total of £775 for the Work of Christian Aid. Work that seems more challenging every year but, the work goes on for - "the power of hope is unstoppable"

Many thanks to all who attended the lunch. It was indeed a great turnout. Thanks also for all the donations of money, cheese and butter etc. A big thank you to all the helpers on both mornings, it couldn't have happened without you!

Roll Updates - Your help required please

As we enter the next phase of the Vacancy process, it is important that our Congregational Roll records are kept as up to date and accurate as possible. We all understand that moving house, downsizing etc., can be a very stressful experience and the last thing on your mind is to remember to advise the Roll Keeper or the Church that you have moved. Sometimes the only time we learn that someone has moved, is when the Elder or Visitor going around their district with the Communion invitations finds either an empty house or the folks who answer the door are new. So if you are about to move, or know of someone who has recently moved – remember to tell us so that your church connection is not lost.

Your help and support with this request would be greatly appreciated.

David Walker/Moira Gartshore

Nearly New Appeal

The Nearly New Team are once again looking to replenish their stock especially bric-a-brac and kitchen items. Please bring along to the Church on a Friday morning if possible. Thank you.

Liz Hannah

Coffee Morning

Saturday, 7th June 2025 will be the last Coffee Morning of this session. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers and everyone who came along and supported us each month. If anyone is interested in helping in the future please do not hesitate to contact either Irene Yates or Mairi Mitchell. The first Coffee Morning of the new session after the summer break will be on **Saturday**, 6th **September 2025.** Hope to see you all then. Wishing everyone a great summer.

Irene and Mairi

Holiday Club

Following on from the success of past Holiday Clubs we are delighted to present another one, "Galilean Holiday" The Club will run from Monday, 30th June to Friday, 4th July 2025 starting at 9.30 a.m. and running to 12 noon. All children of Primary School age are invited to attend. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Church website.

Joint Summer Bible Study

A short summer Bible Study is being arranged with our friends at St Columba's for Wednesday, 4th, 11th, and 18th June in St Columba's at 7.30pm each evening. All will be made welcome.

Church Notices

Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 1st June Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship. Pentecost sing-a-long – Thursday, 5th June at 1.30pm in St Columba's (Tea/coffee and home baking to follow)



Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the summer months. Sacrament of Holy Communion – Wednesday, 4th June. The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Useful Contacts

Locum Minister: Les Brunger 07427881877

Session Clerk: David Walker 01236 747075 Treasurer: David Watt 01698 853921

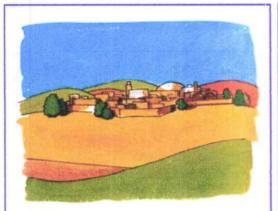
Roll Keeper: Moira Gartshore 01236 761001 Organist: John Urquhart 07725832088

Hall Convener: John Clydesdale 07512912016 Gift Aid: David Walker 01236 747075

Magazine Editor: George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

Kids' Corner

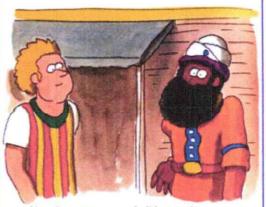
Wind and Tongues of Fire



Wind and Fire

Before Jesus went home to be with God, he told his friends to stay in Jerusalem. He said they would get a gift there. So they waited in Jerusalem.

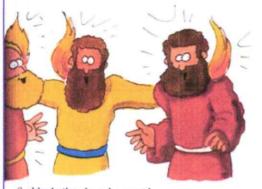
Pentecost, Acts 2



Now there was a great holiday coming called Pentecost.

Many people came to Jerusalem from far and near to celebrate that day. The friends of Jesus celebrated, too.

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Suddenly they heard a sound like a strong wind blowing. And they saw something that looked like little flames of fire resting on them. Then God's Holy Spirit filled them. This was the gift Jesus had told them to wait for!



they did not know.

The people who were there from other countries heard Jesus' friends speaking. And they could understand them.

The languages Jesus' friends were speaking were the same languages they spoke.

The people were amazed!

504



"That is what God promised us," Peter said.
Then he told them about Jesus.

