

# KNEC NEWS



APRIL 2017



Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity No: SC006973



*This month includes:*

*Easter Services*

*EnerJ*

*Easter Play*

*Prayer Meeting*

*The Break*

*West Lothian Foodbank*

*Annual Report and Accounts*

*View from the Pew*

*Holiday Club*

*The Boys' Brigade*

*Singing Group*

*Spring Fayre*

*Kids' Korner*

## *Jesus and the thieves on the Cross*

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a

Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.



In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand his promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus?

'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

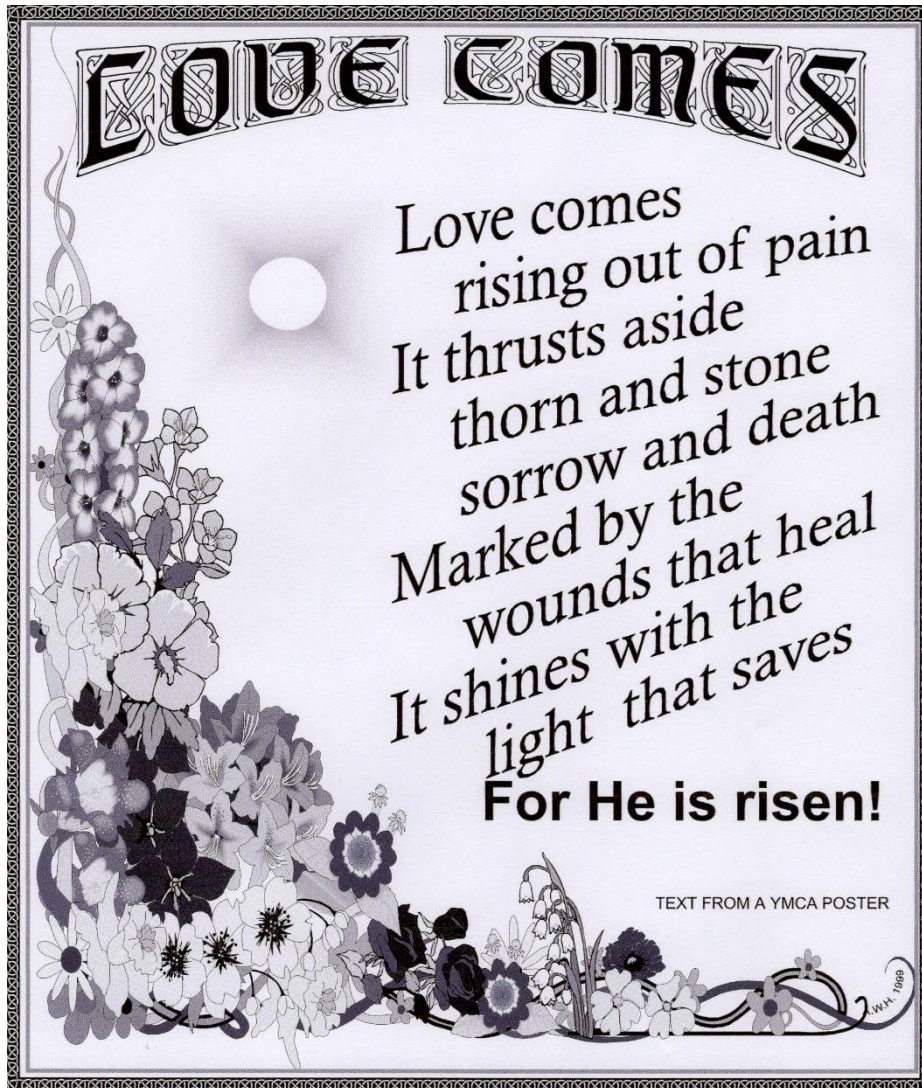
*Halleluja! what a Saviour!*

## Pastoral Visits

Please advise Brenda, Ken, the Session Clerk, or your Elder of anyone known to you who is ill, either at home or in hospital, and who would welcome a visit.

## Church Roll

If you are moving, or any change is necessary to the entry regarding you on the Church Roll, please give the relevant information to either your Elder or the Session Clerk.



## In Focus

All are welcome to come and share a time of worship, thanksgiving and fellowship each Sunday evening at 6.30pm in East Calder Church Hall.

**2 April:** Rev Ken Mackay will speak on the theme "God and me"

**9 April:** Easter Songs of Praise



## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**Palm Sunday** @ 11.15 East Calder Church.  
No service at Kirknewton Church.

**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> April**

@ 19.30 East Calder Church open for prayer.

**13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Maundy Thursday** Communion @ 19.30  
Kirknewton Church.

**14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Good Friday** @ 19.30 East Calder Church.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter Day** @ 9.45 Kirknewton Church.  
No service at East Calder Church.



# EnerJ

Although numbers at EnerJ remain fairly low, we have a group of children who attend regularly and it's great to see them getting to know each other and enjoying spending time together each Sunday morning.

We continue to use songs to teach the children about God's love, which has proved to be very effective and popular. Once a month we meet a new Superhero from the Bible.

**A date for your diary.** The Church family outing will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This will again be held at Scoughall Scripture Union Centre near North Berwick. Thanks to all the support we received for the Silent Auction we are able to provide a bus, free of charge, for all who wish to attend. This is something for all ages and there is accommodation if it is wet. Look out for a notice in the intimation sheet soon about how to book your seat.

*Let's make it a day to remember!*

## Prayer Meeting

*During the vacancy a monthly prayer meeting will be held on the last Sunday of each month in the prayer room at East Calder Church from 2.30pm - 3.30pm.*

*This will be an opportunity to pray and seek God's blessing upon us as we go through the process of waiting for a new minister to be called.*

The Edinburgh  
**Easter  
Play**  
2017



The Edinburgh Easter Play will take place on Easter Saturday, April 15th 2017, at 2pm, in Princes Street Gardens West in the centre of Edinburgh. The performance is free and open to all.

*“This year, for the first time since 2010, we will be staging a large-scale traditional Passion Play, but you can expect a few surprises - our take on the Easter story has a distinctly Scottish flavour.”*

The Edinburgh Easter Play is created by a team of community performers drawn from all walks of life, working with a professional director and stage manager, and lead by a professional actor, Duncan Rennie, playing Jesus.

## The Break

The Break, our midweek informal service of praise, worship and fellowship will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April in East Calder Church Prayer Room at 12.30pm (after the Lunch Club).

Dates till June are:

April 6<sup>th</sup>

May 4<sup>th</sup>

June 1<sup>st</sup>

Why not go to the Lunch Club and then come along and join in fellowship at the Break.

All welcome.



## Church Hall Bookings

Requests should come to the Hall Convenors by the end of the first week of each month and they will be referred to the Congregational Board.

## Magazine Articles

If you have an article for KNEC News please pass it preferably by email using the dedicated address:  
[kneccnews@btinternet.com](mailto:kneccnews@btinternet.com)  
The deadline for May's Magazine will be **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**.

## Church Website

The Church's website includes sermons. To access them all you have to do is to go to the home page  
<http://www.knec4jesus.org.uk>  
and click on '**Sermons**'.

The Parish Profile and copies of KNEC News are also on the website.

Have a look!

If you would like to receive KNEW News by email please send your email address to:  
[kneccnews@btinternet.com](mailto:kneccnews@btinternet.com)

## West Lothian Foodbank (Reg charity number SC008274

### Registered in Scotland)

Following intimation at the end of last year regarding food bank donations, I have been back in touch with the organisers who have informed me that they still have plenty of food on hand at this time.

They would, however, greatly appreciate donations of the undernoted items:-

- Washing up liquid
- Toilet Rolls
- Shaving foam
- Razors
- Shower Gel
- Deodorants
- Nappies

These items can be left at the front door of either Church on a Sunday morning and will be delivered on your behalf.

As the foodbank is very expensive to run, e.g. premises for storage, they have also requested that if anyone would like to make a donation of money it would be very gratefully received and can be done in several ways – see website

<https://westlothian.foodbank.org.uk/give-help>

or alternatively

you can pay directly into their bank account using a cheque or card in your bank branch. The details you will need are West Lothian Foodbank, Clydesdale Bank Sort Code 82/70/05 Account no 80575476. If you can add your name as the reference this will really help them.

Or you can send a cheque directly to them at:

West Lothian Foodbank  
33 Market Place  
Whitburn  
West Lothian  
EH47 0EU

# 2016 Annual Report & Accounts

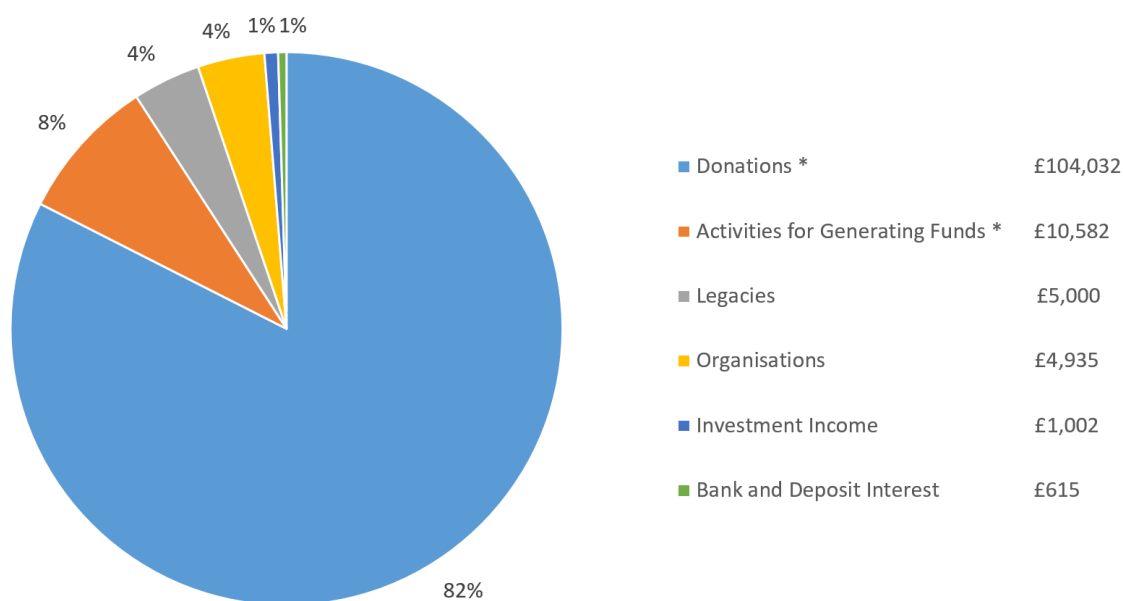
The 2016 Annual Report and Accounts were presented at the Annual Stated Meeting on 14th March. The full report and accounts are also now available on our website - <http://www.knec4jesus.org.uk/> If you require a paper copy, please contact the Treasurer or the Session Clerk.

The 2016 accounts sees us move from the fully accrued method of accounting to Receipts and Payments, as agreed by the Congregational Board and endorsed by Kirk Session in June 2016.

Total Receipts were **£126,166** and total Payments were **£116,222**, resulting in an overall surplus for the year of **£9,944**.

## Receipts

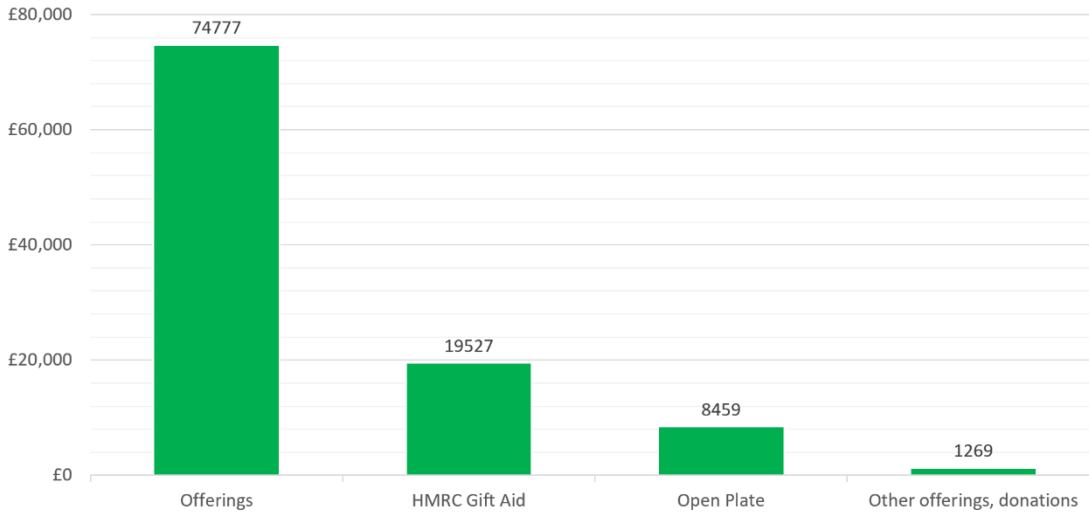
### Total Receipts in 2016 – summary overview



Total Receipts across key headings within the accounts are broadly similar to 2015, with the exception of a legacy of £5,000 and an increase on the tax recovered on Gift Aid donations of £1,115. Gift Aid is one of the simplest means whereby our Church can benefit financially, therefore, if you are a tax payer, either on your salary or pension, please consider signing a Gift Aid form.

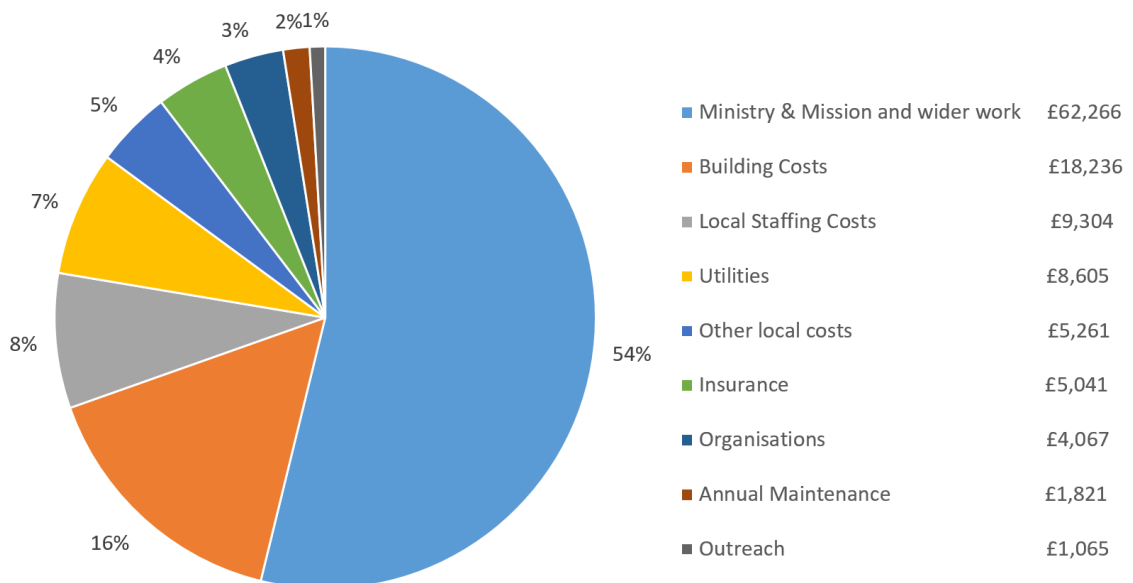
A further breakdown of Donations is provided below for information.

## Donations in 2016



## Payments

### Total Payments in 2016 – summary overview



The key differences in 2016 compared to 2015 in terms of Payments are the reduced Ministries and Mission allocation payment and Minister's expenses due to our vacancy. Furthermore, there were two items of significant expenditure during the year, namely investing in audio-visual equipment and painting Kirknewton Church Hall. The total cost of repairs and improvements to our Church buildings was £18,236. The congregations of Polbeth Harwood linked with West Kirk of Calder contributed £1,827 towards the shared costs for the Kirknewton and East Calder Church manse.

Our grateful thanks go to Alex Brown, Property Convenor, and his group of helpers who look after all our properties. Their ongoing work has successfully kept our property costs down this year.

It is worth noting that the budget for 2016 estimated income on the General Account, i.e. excluding organisations, to be £110,775 (actual £120,901) and forecast costs of £116,461 (£116,222).

In terms of our collections for third parties, £2,418 was raised for ten charities during 2016. Please give prayerful consideration to the finances of our church and thank you for your continued support. Finally, if you would like a Gift Aid form, a set of envelopes or a Standing Order form then please just ask me.

Treasurer



## view from the Pew

LENT: is it (just) about giving things up? Sermons, and even children's addresses, this past month have been more about doing things differently. Not necessarily *more* ('Thank goodness for that,' I hear you cry) but changing our motivation and our style.

Brenda encouraged us to give up, not chocolate or wine, but worrying and fearing. She compared truly trusting prayer to superspeed broadband. God is very near – only a prayer, only a thought, away. Contact with God brings us strength and reassurance.

We were invited to think of the famous painting by Jack Dawson, 'Peace in the Midst of the Storm'. If we look carefully, we see a small bird sheltering on a ledge, while Niagara-like waters thunder down. That can be us if we change our lifestyle and give up anxiety.



Ken preached about the significance of the word 'when', drawing our attention to how many hymns start with that word. It implies that something is coming; there is going to be change. When I survey the wondrous cross'; When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound; When I feel the touch'; When we walk with the Lord'; and lots more.

Jacob was changed from a sly, manipulative crook (Ken's words) into a repentant, conciliatory seeker of forgiveness; but not without a horrendous struggle with God, who resorted to taming Jacob by disabling him. A lesson not to take our own struggles with God too far!

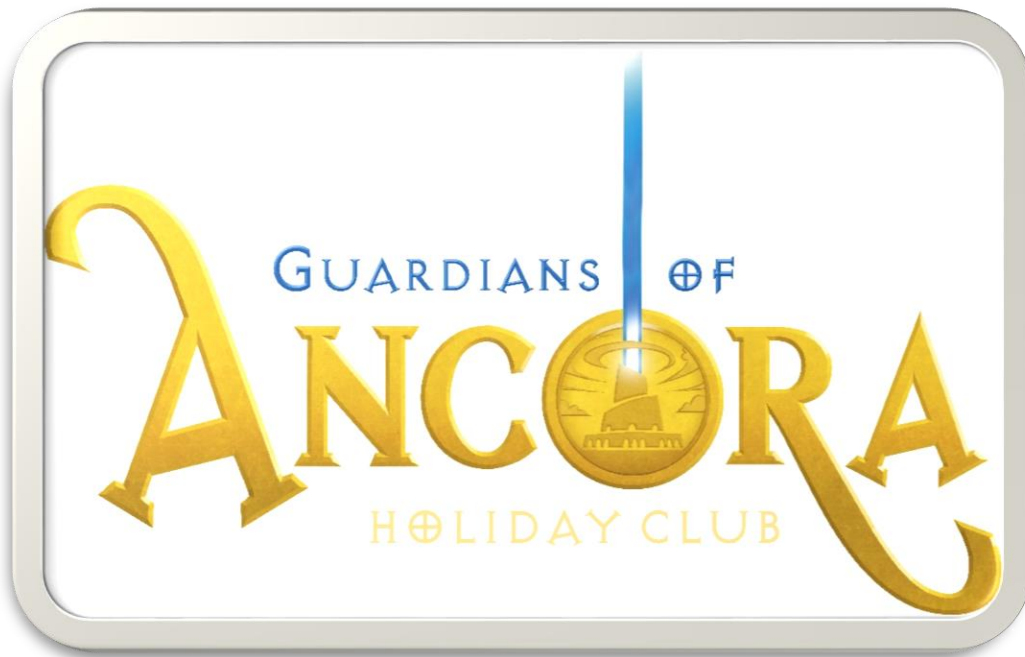
Zacchaeus was changed from a greedy, corrupt extortionist to the man who went 'fair daft' for repentance, offering to recompense his victims over and over for past exploitation of his position as tax-collector. Modern-day bankers, take note!

What drives the change - from fretting to trusting, from manipulating to respecting, from exploiting to recompensing – is the transforming love of Christ. Just as all those 'when' songs tell us.

*Laura Turner* became a Christian in her teens and was a pillar of the church and a servant of Christ from then until her death. Laura was ordained an elder in this congregation on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1991. In addition to being a district elder she served Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church in many roles including Sunday School teacher, Church Officer at Kirknewton and church cleaner at Kirknewton. During 2016, although steadily becoming more ill, Laura continued as a district elder, continued to organise the teas after church at Kirknewton, continued to serve as the Communion Elder at Kirknewton and, with the assistance of three grandchildren, organised the crafts at the Holiday Club. Gradually, Laura, as her illness progressed, handed over all of her duties to others in an orderly way. Organised as always and preparing to meet her Lord. Her last act was to arrange the January 2017 communion at Kirknewton.

We have lost a wonderful servant although our sadness is overcome with the joy of knowing that Laura is with her Lord.





We are now at the next stage of planning for this year's

## HOLIDAY CLUB

We would love to hear from anyone who would be able to help make scenery and props for the daily drama so if you can draw, paint, cut, sew or are willing to have a go please contact one of the organisers.





## Junior Section - Figure Marching

We entered the Battalion's Figure Marching competition this year and we were 5<sup>th</sup>. While we had a few mishaps during practices the Boys did us all proud on the night.

## Junior Section – Spiritual

As mentioned in the last issue of KNEC News, our entry for the Battalion's Spiritual Competition will be based on the parable of the Lost Sheep. The Battalion Chaplain is coming to see our Powerpoint Presentation on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March. Hopefully he's impressed.

## Anchor Boys

To celebrate the Battalion's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, all the Anchor Boys went to a morning at the Yo-Yo Softplay area in Bathgate. They had a great time and enjoyed the party food and cake.

## Church Spring Fayre

We raised £106 at the Church's Spring Fayre mainly by selling marshmallows and strawberries dipped in chocolate. The funds raised will be sent off for inclusion in the Boys' Brigade (Church of Scotland) World Mission Fund (Scottish Charity No. SC016662) to go towards the CCTV Project – Climate Conscious Total Village project in Bangladesh.

## Easter Break

We'll be off on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April, back a week then off to camp on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Only a few weeks after that it's our Display and Presentation of Awards and this year our Chief Guest will be Rev Ken Mackay.

## The Singing Group



## at “The Muckle Sing”

Seven members of the Singing Group attended a full day workshop run by the Traditional Music and Song Association (TMSA) for individual singers and community singing groups at Queen Margaret Hall in Linlithgow on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Although this was not a Church organised event the group felt that it would give them the opportunity to learn and practise musical techniques which would be useful for singing at Sunday worship. Everyone had a wonderful day full of singing laughter and companionship. We worked hard and had fun.

There was also an opportunity at the end of the event for groups to perform songs from their own repertoire for the entertainment of the other participants. Whilst very aware that some of the other groups volunteering were far more experienced than ourselves we sang “Be Bold Be Strong” and “Swing Low Sweet Chariot” as the KNEC Church Singing Group and were greatly supported by the other participants.

The Singing Group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7 45 pm in Kirknewton Church. In addition to leading the hymns at Kirknewton Church on Sunday we usually conclude the service with an exit hymn. The Group has also sung solo pieces at special times such as Easter, Christmas and Armistice. We would love to have some new members come and join us. Anyone is welcome who just wishes to sing even if unable to come to Sunday service in Kirknewton.

# Spring Fayre

The Social & Community Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to making our recent Spring Fayre such a success. The response to our request for mugs, facecloths and soap was amazing and I am sure anyone coming into the hall couldn't fail to be impressed by the display of Easter Eggs in mugs, crème eggs in bunny face cloths, etc. - the tables were groaning at the beginning and there was very little left at the end. The selection of home baking made a great display and was impossible to resist.

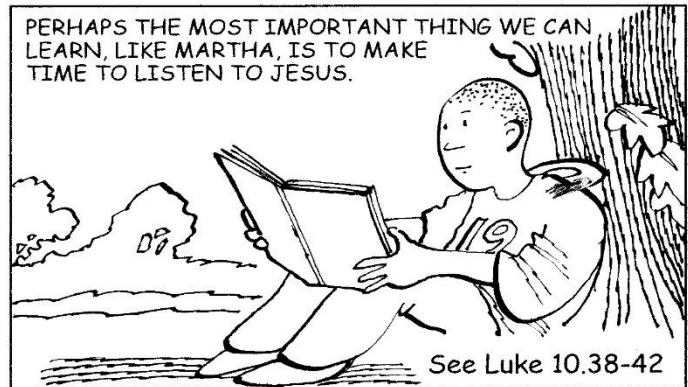
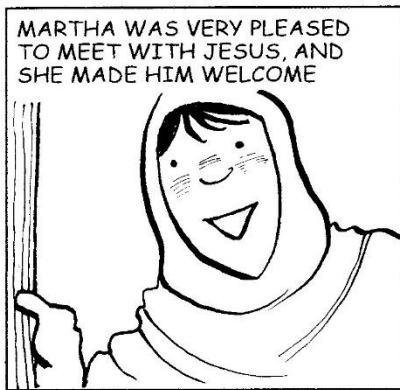
There was over £1,200 raised on the day, some of this being raised for Guild funds, some for Compassion, some by the BB on behalf of World Mission and the rest to Church funds. The goods which were unsold were taken to a charity shop and the chocolate goods which were left over were given to East Calder Playgroup to use at their Fayre on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

There was a good display of Easter Bonnets and Hats in the parade this year and we are very grateful to our judges whom I am sure had a very difficult job judging as they were all wonderful.

While as in previous years we were delighted by the money coming into the hall this was just the icing on the cake –the main delight was seeing many people from our villages who do not normally attend Church coming into the hall, mingling and chatting and really enjoying themselves. The hall was buzzing!!

A HUGE thank you again to all who helped!

## Words and Actions



# CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Organisation	Contact(s)	Email	Tel	Details
Prayer Group				Mondays: 7.30pm East Calder Church Prayer Room.
Youth Church				S1 to S4, Sundays: 11.15am East Calder Church
Kosy Kaff				Primary school age children Fridays during school term 4.00-5.00pm Kirknewton Village Hall
EnerJ				Ages 3 – 11. Sundays: 11.15am East Calder Church Hall
The Boys' Brigade				Anchor Boys: 5yrs/P3-6.30pm-7.30pm Junior Sect: P4/5/6-6.45pm-8.15pm Company Sect: P7-18ys 7.30pm-9.45pm Fridays: East Calder Church Hall
The Guild				1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month 7.30pm East Calder Church Hall
House Groups				Wednesdays 7.30pm
Singing Group				Tuesdays 7.30pm Kirknewton Church
Baby and Toddler Group				Thursdays: 9.30am-11.30am Kirknewton Church Hall
Lunch Club				1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 11.30am-12.30pm E/C Church Hall
The Break				1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month 12.30pm-12.50pm East Calder Church Prayer Room
Forget-me-not Café				Last Thursday of each month 10.00am-12noon East Calder Church Hall
Kirknewton Bible Study				Last Wednesday of each month 10.00am-11.00am Kirknewton Church Hall
Men's Fellowship				
Praise Band				Sundays: 11.00am East Calder Church and 6.00pm East Calder Church Hall

# CHURCH CALENDAR

(See Organisations' meeting times on page 21)

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	<b>Morning Worship Services</b> Kirknewton 9.45am    East Calder 11.15am  <b>In Focus:</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	<b>Prayer Group</b> East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>The Guild</b> <b>Guest Night - Entertainment by Tryst</b> East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm <b>Singing Group</b> Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Lunch Club</b> East Calder Church Hall 11.30am <b>The Break</b> East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Kosy Kaff</b> Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Joint Palm Sunday Service</b> East Calder 11.15am  <b>In Focus:</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>East Calder Church</b> open for prayer 7.30pm
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>East Calder Church</b> open for prayer 7.30pm <b>Singing Group</b> Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>East Calder Church</b> open for prayer 7.30pm
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Maunday Thursday</b> <b>Communion Service</b> Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Kosy Kaff</b> Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm <b>Good Friday Service</b> East Calder Church 7.30pm

# CHURCH

## CALENDAR cont'd

Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Joint Easter Day Service Service</b> Kirknewton 9.45am <b>In Focus:</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Prayer Group</b> East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>The Guild AGM</b> East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm <b>Singing Group</b> Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Lunch Club</b> East Calder Church Hall 11.30am
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	<b>Kosy Kaff</b> Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm <b>Boys' Brigade</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	<b>Morning Worship Services - Communion</b> Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am <b>In Focus:</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Prayer Group</b> East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Congregational Board</b> East Calder Church Hall 7.00pm <b>Kirk Session</b> East Calder Church Hall 8.00pm <b>Singing Group</b> Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Forget-me-not Café</b> East Calder Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Kosy Kaff</b> Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Morning Worship Services</b> Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am <b>Prayer Meeting</b> East Calder Church Prayer Room 2.30pm <b>In Focus:</b> East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm