

KNEC NEWS



December 2020

Digital



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



A Christmas Like No Other



Well, what a year 2020 has been. One like no other. Who would have thought one year ago that we would have become so familiar with words such as Zoom, face covering, social distancing, hand sanitiser and lockdown, let alone names such as coronavirus or Covid-19? Brexit seems tame compared to this.

Twenty years into this new millennium and we have seen tremendous change and face huge challenges not least the rapidly changing climate and an uncertain economic future.

In first century Palestine, God appeared to a lowly servant girl called Mary who was promised in marriage to Joseph, a descendent of King David. Living under Roman occupation was harsh and faith in God was severely suppressed. Faith was tested to the limit and I'm sure many gave up on God, thinking God had given up on them.

Which is why Mary's song of praise shines like a beacon of light in a dark time. In the face of oppression and uncertainty about the future, Mary is able to see beyond her current circumstances ("how can I have a baby?") to say clearly to the angel, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true" (Luke 1:38).

Later on she sings of "the Mighty One" with the words, "His mighty arm does tremendous things!" (Luke 1:51).

This Christmas will likely be one like we've not known before. Will it be a virtual one or a real one? How many people will be allowed to gather together? Will we be able to afford what we've afforded in the past?

Amid all the questions we have, God slips quietly into our midst, like the baby entering our world two millennia ago. "The Word became human and lived on earth among us" (John 1:14). Here, in that quiet action, is where the good news lies. Here is our hope. Here is where we can set our gaze and place our heart.

God is with us; the Mighty One who does tremendous things. And so, as we all face up to everything that has the ability to cause us to fear or to question, may the love, joy and peace of Christ find a place to stay and be born in everyone at this Christmas like no other.

Grace and peace everyone,

Alistair



1st East Calder Boys' Brigade

This session so far has been one like no other!

Like most youth organisations and activities, we have been meeting virtually via zoom. We are running the Anchors and Juniors in the same session 6.30-7.30pm and Company Section 8-9pm both on Fridays. We are delighted to say that the attendances for all sections have been fantastic and exceeded our expectations. Many children don't like meeting virtually, so it has been extremely encouraging for the leaders to have 20 Boys almost every week.

We have tried to keep the content and activities of our zoom sessions as close to how we normally run when meeting face to face but have not quite worked out how to play dodgeball virtually yet! Activities have included chocolate bingo, marvel quiz, scavenger hunts, healthy living, scratch art and guess who plus many more. We have also been delighted to be joined by Alistair Cowper, Gordon Pennykid, and David Gilchrist to provide the Boys with bible lessons.

Most of you will have watched our virtual enrolment service on the 27th September, we would like to thank everyone for their kind words and messages of support for us. Most of all we would like to thank the Boys again for their efforts in making this unusual enrolment service happen and also for returning every week at this strange time in the life of the BB.

As we now move into the festive season, we have a few exciting things planned (watch out for further details). We hope that in the new year with a vaccine on the horizon that we can get back to a more normal BB evening.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and the happiest possible New Year.

1st East Calder Boys' Brigade team



Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the beautiful flowers, cards, gifts and prayers on my recent 100th birthday. They were all very much appreciated and helped to make a special day even more memorable.

May God bless you all

Ella



With Thanks

Margaret and I would like to thank everyone for their support following my recent fall at home and subsequent hospital treatment.

Robert and Margaret

Extract from on-line Zoom Session Meetings of 29th September and 27th October.

Reopening Our Buildings.

We will not be opening our buildings before January 2021. The churches will open first followed by church organisations (eg BB) using the halls. Thereafter we will carefully open to external organisations using the halls.

It was noted that we may require to pay a janitor in the future to look after aspects of our buildings and perhaps also we need to pay for cleaning. This needs to be further discussed.

It was also noted that the current online services would continue even after we opened for public worship.

Letting of Halls.

In future we will enter into formal letting agreements with our hall users. Once we decide a date to open the halls, somebody will have to manage the hall lets. The current timetable of hall users may have to be adjusted to take account of the new cleaning regime required for Covid.

Mission and Outreach.

A group will get together to chat about the possibilities. Ideas at present are something over Advent and an Alpha course starting in January.

The Guild.

██████████ who wishes to stand down as President, reported that there was one reply to her letter to all the members seeking volunteers to form a leadership team. In the meantime, the Guild is suspended until the church is able to reopen under normal conditions, at which time an attempt will be made again to form a small leadership team.

EnerJ.

EnerJ has met twice on Zoom from 9.30 to 10.00 and attracted 6 children.

Minister's Report.

There have been 3 funerals in our parish and 2 for Whitburn South.

Meet your minister - only 1 response so far.

Listening Project. Walk and talk - 2 responses. 7 people signed up for online training. Coordinator role ready to be advertised.

Thursday cafe online and coffee after worship online continuing although not with a large number.

Online services. 20 DVD's being distributed. Averaging 115 views in the last 8 weeks

Praying the Psalms videos average 20 views each.

KNEC Bairns Rock average 65 views in last 12 weeks.

School chaplaincy videos being worked on using Bibleworld materials.

News from Presbytery.

Re-opening of Church Buildings. Applications granted from 13 Kirk Session for the reopening of 16 church buildings.

Presbytery Reform. Discussions ongoing regarding the amalgamation of the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian.

Nominations. The Rev Derek R Henderson was nominated to serve as Moderator of Presbytery from October.

David Gilchrist and Ian Musgrave were appointed as Convener and Vice-Convener respectively of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Safeguarding.

The local record of volunteers who currently undertake regulated work with either children or vulnerable adults within the church is currently being reviewed and updated where necessary. It was noted that it is the responsibility of those no longer volunteering to notify Disclosure Scotland that they are no longer undertaking regulated work.

GDPR Annual Report.

David Gilchrist presented the GDPR report and asked Trustees to review the various policies and documents included in the report and to let him know prior to the November meeting if any changes were required.

He also highlighted the GDPR principles and asked those holding personal data on behalf of the Church to review the principles to ensure continued compliance with them.

Torchlight Procession at Kirknewton will not take place this year.

Men's Fellowship.

The group has started to meet again from 17th October. There is a full programme up until the end of the year.

Andrew Coutts

Session Clerk

Funerals

Mr William Frizzell on 1st September at Almondell Cemetery

Mrs Margaret Bryceland on 1st October at West Lothian Crematorium

Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Lambie on 9th October at West Lothian Crematorium



Christmas Wishes



Emmanuel God with us!
Have a blessed Christmas
from
Dora and Bill Bennett

Pray for Israel, and Peace in Jerusalem
It's where Christ promised HIS 2nd Advent
Have Blessed Christmas celebrations of
His 1st Advent, and wishing all a Healthy 2021
Martin



Praying for God's blessing & safekeeping
for all this Christmas.
Looking forward to a time when we can
all meet together again.

With love & best wishes from
Andy & Ann xx



To all on Board and Session.
Thank you for looking after
the running of our church.
Wishing you all a blessed
Christmas and every
blessing
for 2021.



Merry Christmas and a Good New Year
Looking forward to getting back
to normal and meeting everyone again.
Blessings to all.
Janette



Wishing everyone at
Kirknewton and East Calder Church
a very Happy Christmas
and all good wishes for
the New Year.

With love to all
from Penny xxxx



Christmas Blessings
And
Best wishes for 2021
To all at
Kirknewton & East Calder
From
Jennifer Sutherland





REINDEER REPORT
Driver: Mr F Christmas

Chimneys: colder
Flight paths: busier
Children: more than ever
Bedtimes: much later
Presents: heavier
Pay: frozen
Mission: accomplished (in spite of all that)!
Merry Christmas, everyone.

Blessings, John and Fran

Happy Christmas
and
Best wishes for 2021
from
Marion,
Miss you all.
Hope you have a
very special
Christmas.
God bless you x



Happy Christmas
and
Best Wishes for 2021

David & Jean



Daily Reading Notes: 2021



Bible Reading Notes routinely help us understand and apply God's word to the ups and downs of everyday living, especially when our 'everyday normal' has crumbled away, due to Covid forces outside our control.

For example, the following Booklets encourage us to read our Bibles: -
Every Day with Jesus **or** Life Every Day (costs £3.25 for two months).
Daily Bread **or** Encounter with God (costs £4.99 for three months).
Should you wish to order a booklet for reflections during 2021, please contact knec-mail@knec4jesus.org.uk and your request will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Advent: Sunday Evening Services

As you will have seen advertised on our Sunday morning services, we will have evening online services covering the four Sundays of advent (starting on 29th November). The service will be shown in the same way as the morning service (and will be available at 6:30pm). The theme of these services will be "Journey to the Manger", with the topics being:



29/11/20	The Journey Begins
06/12/20	The Shepherd's Journey
13/12/20	The Wise Men's Journey
20/12/20	The Arrival

Hope you are able to join in these worship services.



As part of a Scottish wide initiative, KNEC plan to run an online Alpha course on Thursday evenings, starting 21st January 2021. Promotion materials will be available soon. Please note, invitation is open to all (church connected or not). If you are interested, please pass your name to Alistair or Robert. However, there is nothing better than a personal invite, so if you know anyone who might be interested in attending a course – please invite them (or ask Alistair or Robert to invite them).

If you have any questions about this Alpha course, please contact Alistair or Robert.

Although we are unable to meet together at this time there are many ways for us to keep in touch. Some of the following may be of interest to you.



Prayer Meeting every Monday on Zoom.

Men's Group Meeting on Zoom every second Saturday.



House Group Meetings via email every Wednesday.



Boys' Brigade meets on Zoom on Friday evenings.



KNEC Bairns' Rock

For pre-school kids and carers as well as grown-ups who loved to be kids. Weekly on Wednesdays at 10am live on the Facebook Page called 'KNECB'.

Online cafe continues every Thursday from 10.30am Zoom, details from Alistair.



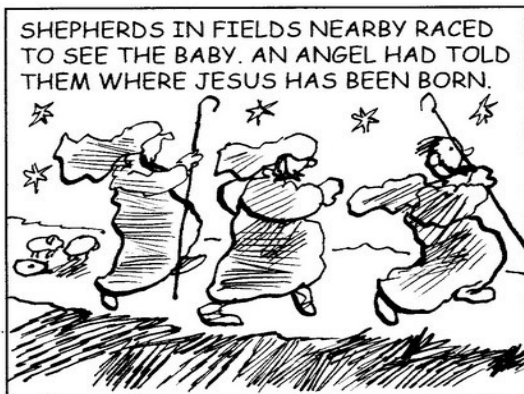
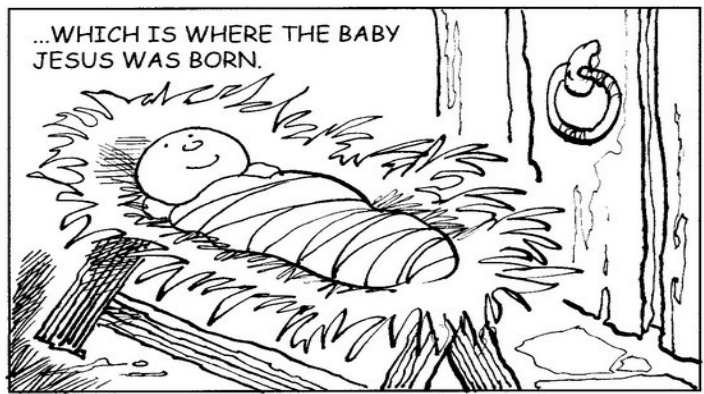
on

'Church Chat' on What's App
'KNEC Messaging' on Messenger

Website: www.knec4jesus.org.uk to access online services.



The
First
Christmas



CONTACT DETAILS

Kirknewton & East Calder Parish Church
c/o 8 Manse Court
East Calder
EH53 0HF
Email: knec-mail@knec4jesus.org.uk

