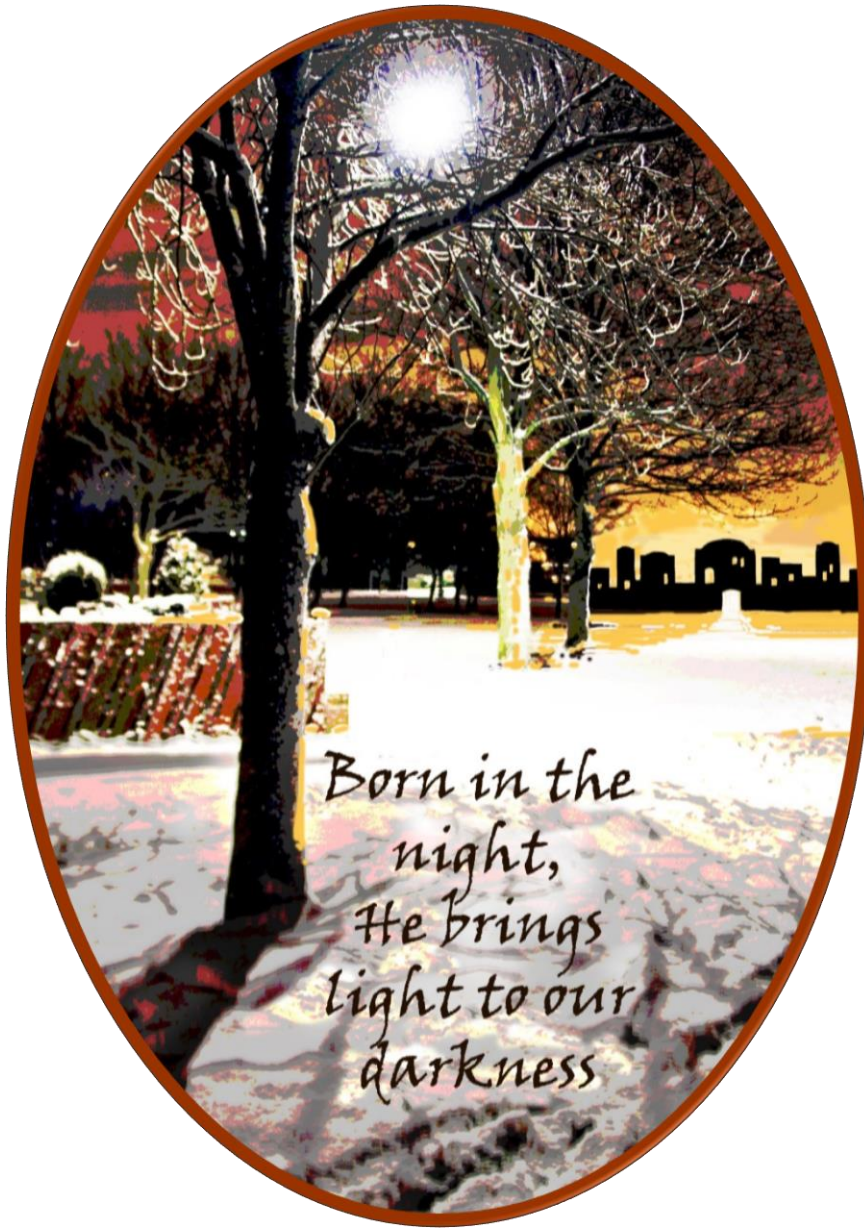


KNEC NEWS



December 2016



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





This month includes:

EnerJ News

Lunch Club

Christmas Post

Boys' Brigade

In Focus

View from the Pew

Torchlight Procession

A SEASON FOR JOYFUL SONG

Many people like to sing. No matter what we sound like, there can be a stirring within us on special occasions that prompts us to sing.

In the Christmas story, singing is featured on three occasions. When Mary visited her elderly relative, Elizabeth, she was so overwhelmed with happiness at the forthcoming miraculous birth of her Son, that she burst into a flow of praise.

Her words are known as The Magnificat, and they have been set to music by numerous composers down the years. Mary recalled God's promise that He would rescue His people and, through the Messiah, save the world. So Mary sang of God's mercy and benevolence on the helpless, the humble and the hungry.

The next 'song' came from the angels, on the night of Jesus' birth. They appeared to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, and were full of the glory of God. 'Peace on earth', 'goodwill toward man'.

The final 'song' in the Nativity story came from the shepherds, who hurried to see the new-born baby. They were so overwhelmed by the implications for Israel, that they sang praises to God as they returned to their sheep.

Mary, the angels and the shepherds could not help but sing for joy at the coming of the Messiah. They were the first, but not the last! Since the day of Pentecost, hundreds of millions of people have raised their voices in gratitude, thanks and wonder at God's love and mercy in sending Jesus. Down the centuries, countless poets and musicians have composed music to describe a wondrous moment in history. At Christmas, around the world, people come together to sing carols and other songs that express the wonder of God's Gift to us.

So as we sing carols this month, let's remember that they are well worth singing! Jesus has given us hope; forgiven our sin; and continues to impart faith and heal our spiritual wounds. Now isn't that something to sing about?



Pastoral Visits

Please advise Andrew Coutts, 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.

In cases of emergency and for funerals Rev Jaco Boonzaaier and, Rev Dr Brenda Robson will be available.

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.

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 submit it by email using the dedicated address: kneccnews@btinternet.com
The deadline for February's Magazine will be **Sunday 22nd January.**



EnerJ News

We have had a busy time at EnerJ with lots going on and many plans in progress.

By the time the magazine is in print, we will have had our Superhero Party. It is very evident that numbers are very poor at EnerJ this year and whilst it is not about how many children we have, having so few does pose challenges. The Superhero Party was advertised around the village and also letters sent to all EnerJ children along with invites for them to give to their friends. The hope is this will bring children in to see some of the fun we have. Look out for photos in the hall at East Calder from this event which at the moment the leaders as praying goes according to God's will.

Plans for Christmas are underway. Our party this year will be a bit different as we are going to East Calder Sports Centre and have the use of the large inflatable slide. This is on the 10th December from 12.30 – 2.00. Please note the different date and venue from previous years.

We are now making plans for the Nativity Service which is a Joint Family Service in East Calder on Sunday 18th December.

The other event we are keen to inform you of, is a silent auction and fun morning. This is to bring people from the church and community together for some fellowship and fun. The money raised at this event will go towards paying for a bus for the family outing in June. The event will be on Saturday 4th February from 10.00 – 12.00. Our thanks go to the social and fundraising committee who have kindly offered their help with this event. We will be looking for good quality “stuff” to auction so please set stuff aside that you would be willing to donate. Look out for further intimations and please put this date in your diary and support this event.

Lots going on so please do take note of all of this and support us by prayer and your presence at our events.

Many thanks.

The EnerJ team

*The Lunch Club
will be on holiday
over the festive
season and will
resume on
19th January.*

LUNCH CLUB





CHRISTMAS POST



*Once again The Boys' Brigade, assisted by The Youth Church, will be providing a Christmas card delivery service to homes in **Kirknewton and East Calder** at a cost of 25p per card. The proceeds will go towards The Boys' Brigade Camp*

Post boxes will be in both Churches on the 11th and 18th December for the cards and donations.

Cards will be delivered by Monday 19th December.

Did you know?

Postmen in Victorian England were popularly called 'Robins'. This was because their uniforms were red, and so Victorian Christmas cards often showed robins delivering the Christmas post.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Building Your Skills Course

Three of our Boys, will be attending a Building Your Skills course in Leith on Sunday, 4th December. Completion of the course is essential for the Boys to obtain their President's Badges and this is the first major step towards their Queen's Badges.

Delivery of Christmas Cards in Kirknewton and East Calder

Once again there will be a Christmas card delivery service and cards will be delivered to homes in Kirknewton and East Calder. See page 8 for further details.

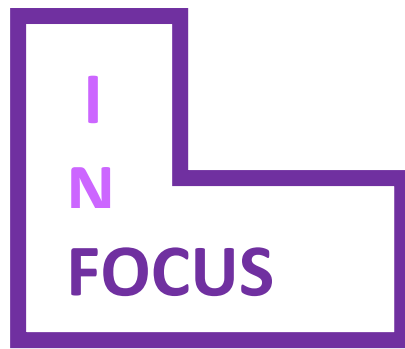
Burns Supper and Quiz

Friday, 27th January is a date for your diaries. Our Annual Burns Supper and Quiz will start at 7.15pm. Hopefully many of you will be able to come along and have an enjoyable evening. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January.

Christmas Holidays

We'll be off for two weeks on 23rd & 30th of December and resume on 6th January at the usual times.

The Boys and Leaders hope that you all have a happy Christmas and send their best wishes to you for 2017.



In Focus is a time for informal worship, praise and fellowship on a Sunday evening. Following the Christmas break, IN FOCUS will resume on 8 January 2017. This gives an opportunity for people to meet in fellowship. In accordance with the Bible, every believer shares the privilege and responsibility of witnessing. The straightforward telling of a personal encounter with Christ is the most powerful witness testimony, for which we give thanks for God's love towards us and others. There is also time for sharing and caring over a cup of tea or coffee - the value of which should never be underestimated.

Everyone is welcome. Sunday evenings 6:30pm in East Calder Church Hall.

Programme January – April 2017

Date	Category	Theme
Jan 08	Café	Favourite Hymn(s) from childhood
Jan 15	Reflection	In Christ Alone Verse 2: lines 5-8
Jan 22	Guest Speaker: Social Responsibilities	Teen Challenge West Lothian
Jan 29	Experiential	Experiencing God in real life situations
Feb 05	Café	Favourite Hymn(s) from childhood
Feb 12	Reflection	In Christ Alone Verse 3: lines 1-4
Feb 19	Music Night	
Feb 26	Experiential	Experiencing God in real life situations
Mar 05	Café	Favourite Hymn(s) from childhood
Mar 12	Reflection	In Christ Alone Verse 3: lines 5-8
Mar 19	Guest Speakers: Social Responsibilities	BB Projects (Past and Present)
Mar 26	Experiential	Experiencing God in real life situations
Apr 02	Café	Favourite Hymn(s) from childhood
Apr 09	Easter Songs of Praise	

innermost

*remember first love?
remembering to breathe
forgetting to hide
aching void that filled up with a rush
and emptied back fast into pain
counting the moments till the next rush
not wanting to tell of it
not able to stop with it
carrying a fire so deep that it charred
our innermost innermost*

*how did it happen?
how did it become normal,
blunted into routine?
wonder turned into duty and work
toil verging on tedium
watching the clock and waiting escape
nothing needs talked about
nothing newsworthy to share
dousing the smouldering ashes
in our innermost innermost*

*can we find it again
that breathless first love,
recapture the first careless rapture?
He has no need of our love
why would God almighty need us?
but He wants it, He yearns for it
offers new kindling for the ashes
pure gold for base metal
red-hot love for cold duty
in our innermost innermost*

*Why not take it? Why not?
What is it we are we afraid of
in our innermost innermost?*

Fran Brady

If you would like to receive KNEC News by email
please send your email address to:
kneccnews@btinternet.com



View from the Pew

The last few weeks have seen us being served by several different preachers, as we embark upon our time of vacancy, and it is surprising how on-song they are with each other. Is God trying to tell us something?

In September, Brenda reminded us of two parables: the one lost sheep out of a hundred that the shepherd searched for; and the one coin out of a purseful that the woman hunted for. Brenda quoted Ezekiel: Woe to you who only take care of yourselves and do not reach out to the lost (*loose translation*).

In October, our Interim Moderator, Dr Jaco Boonzaaier, threw out the challenging question: during this time of vacancy, how are we going to fill the gap *for the community*? And here we were thinking we had enough to do keeping ourselves going without a minister! But he's right, of course: the parish/community have lost their minister too. He urged us to portray three things to our community: joy, solidarity and prayerfulness. If Paul in prison, facing execution, could say 'Rejoice in the Lord always', then we too can show a positive face to the world during our vacancy; if the disciples could argue and fall out regularly but still pull together in love when it mattered, then we can set aside our differences and grievances and pull together during our vacancy. And, above all, we can pray together and show the world, especially the world in Kirknewton and East Calder, that we are one in faith, prayer and purpose.

In November, our old friend, David Black, reminded us of our duty to set an example of Christian character. We were given the old picture of Mr. Facing-Both-Ways in The Pilgrim's Progress, who can only go round in futile circles, and of Oor Wullie on his bucket swithering between the good angel on one shoulder and the bad angel on the other. Single-minded devotion to Christ should be our image. He reinforced this message on a subsequent Sunday, when he drew our attention to an article by the TV historian, Neil Oliver, who asks why, among all the world religions and in these days of political correctness and tolerance, only Christianity can be – and often is – openly mocked and ridiculed with impunity. Oliver is not a professed Christian: he is writing simply from the standpoint of fairness and equality. Our faith is under attack, declared David. We should be stepping up to the plate and showing a world of lost souls what it means to us, and what it can mean to them too.

'The only thing vacant is the manse.' Our fellowship is still here - and can be strengthened if we pull together in love, as Jaco said; our purpose is still here - and can be fulfilled if we keep seeking the lost, as Brenda said; and our faith is still here – and can be defended, as David said, if we 'Stand up, stand up, for Jesus!'

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'

KNEC News is now available on the website.

Kirknewton and East Calder Church Kirknewton and East Calder Church



Our Annual Torchlight Procession with Carol Singing, prior to the Watchnight Service in Kirknewton Church, leaves from Meadowbank Road at 10.00pm on Saturday 24th December. Torches will be provided and hot drinks and mince pies will be available prior to the Service which begins at 11.30pm

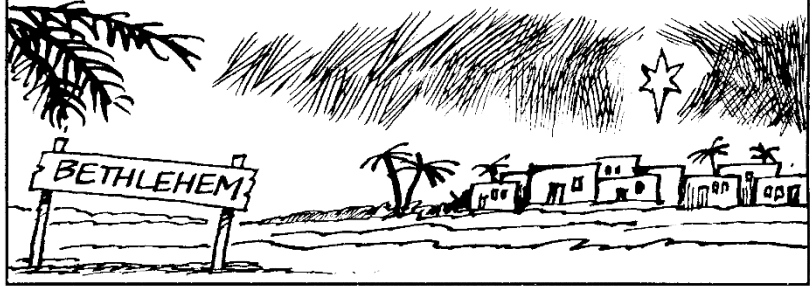
Please wrap up well and join us.





A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



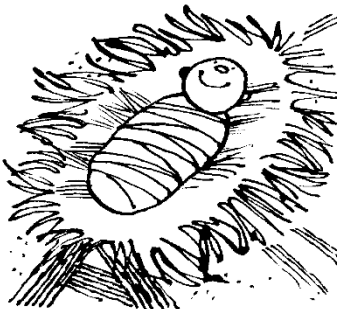
MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL...



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY.



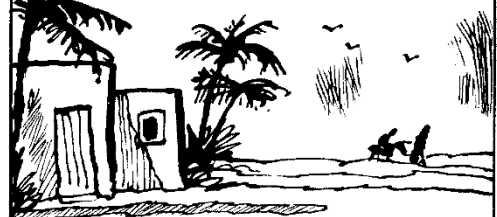
AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

Alpha Course

During vacancy, Session believes that it is important to offer the opportunity to look at our faith, in fellowship with others in our congregation. So, an Alpha Course aimed at members of our congregation will run every Wednesday from 18 January 2017 to 29 March 2017 inclusive, in East Calder Church Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The Rev Jaco Boonzaaier of Broxburn Parish Church will lead the Alpha Course. Session is hoping and praying for a good response to this opportunity being offered. Do please note that, whilst it is desirable that folk attend all 11 evenings of the course, missing one or two evenings does not preclude anybody from attending the course. Please give your name to the Session Clerk if you would like to attend.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday	1 st Dec	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	2 nd Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	4 th Dec	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Bereavement Service East Calder 3.00pm In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	5 th Dec	Scout and Guide Service East Calder Church 7.00pm Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	6 th Dec	The Guild - Christmas Evening of Carols and Readings East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	7 th Dec	House Groups 7.30pm
Friday	9 th Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	11 th Dec	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	12 th Dec	Kirknewton Primary School Evening Service Kirknewton Church 7.00pm Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	13 th Dec	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Wednesday	14 th Dec	House Groups 7.30pm
Friday	16 th Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	18 th Dec	Joint Christmas Family Service East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	19 th Dec	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	20 th Dec	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	21 st Dec	Kirknewton Primary School End of Term Service Kirknewton Church 11.00am House Groups 7.30pm
Thursday	22 nd Dec	Forget-me-not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon
Friday	23 rd Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm
Saturday	24 th Dec	Joint Christmas Family Service East Calder 7.00pm Torchlight Procession 10.00pm from Meadowbank Road, Kirknewton Joint Christmas Eve Service Kirknewton 11.30pm
Sunday	25 th Dec	Joint Christmas Service East Calder 11.15am
Sunday	1 st Jan	Joint Service Kirknewton 9.45am