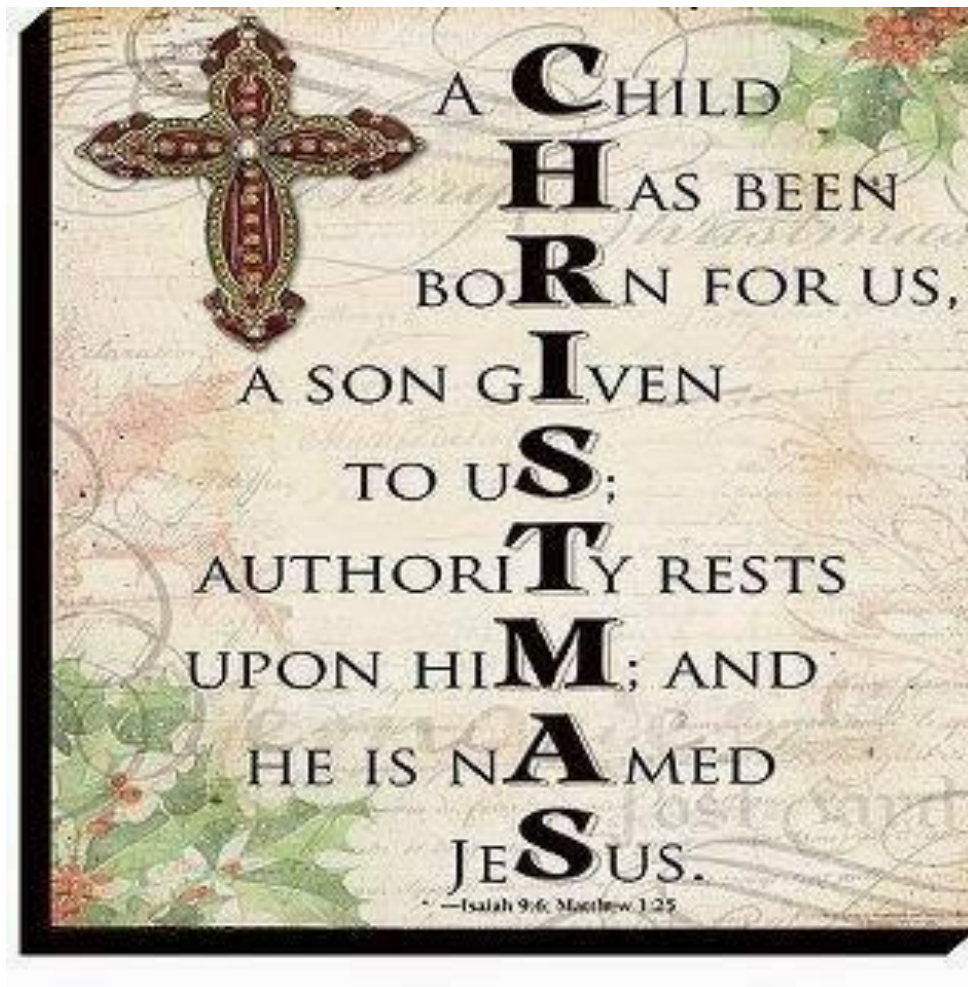


KNEC NEWS



December 2017



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



This month includes:

Bereavement Service

Singing Group

Forget-Me-Not Café

House Groups

EnerJ

Social & Community Committee

Boys' Brigade

In Focus

Christmas Services

The Break

Kids' Korner

Let Jesus show!

The nativity scene with all its characters was in place, as the children (representing angels), gathered around the manger. They sang: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men'. Suddenly a small girl on the edge of the crowd, who couldn't see what was going on, shouted out, 'Let Jesus show!'

At Christmas time, we want to let Jesus show, in our churches, communities and lives. We have an amazing message to share: 'in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10). It was to the shepherds, apart from his parents, that Jesus was first showed.

The filthy, hardworking shepherds, living in the fields with their flock of dirty animals, were unlikely candidates for this honour. By the nature of their work, they had the status of migrant workers. Yet this underlines for us that the good news of Christmas is for everyone, irrespective of social standing, background, race or gender.

No doubt these simple shepherds would have had no idea of what the names given to Jesus fully meant (ie Saviour, Messiah and Lord). All they needed to know, and all we need to know, is that God has done something unique in coming to earth as a human being. This is good news of great joy for everybody!



After worshipping the child, the shepherds returned to their normal routine. However, they would never be the same again! Even though their work and social standing were unchanged, they had a message to share and let Jesus show. Although we don't normally see angels, we have the same good news to share! When Christmas is over and we're back to our normal routines, how will we let Jesus show in our lives?

Pastoral Visits

Please advise 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.

Annual Bereavement Service

Our annual Bereavement Service takes place in East Calder Church on Sunday 3rd December at 3.00pm.

This Service is for anyone who has been bereaved, either this year, or in any previous year and it gives families and friends an opportunity to come together and remember any loved ones who have passed away.

Following the Service, tea/coffee and home baking will be available in the Church Hall.

Everyone welcome.



THE SINGING GROUP

It is now three years since the Singing Group was formed and we held our third Annual Dinner to celebrate the event at the home of Andrew and Heather Coutts on Friday 20th October.

This was a truly memorable occasion attended by all current and affiliated members. The food was wonderful (with everyone bringing a contribution) and the venue was beautiful. The fun and laughter we shared that evening was really special and we all went home encouraged and strengthened.

At the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12th November the group sang a song entitled "Where the Blood Red Poppies Grow" which is an original piece by Tam Knox a Scottish folk singer and song writer. The words and the sentiments poignantly emphasise the bravery of those who died.

We are now preparing for Christmas and the Watchnight Service and we would love to welcome new members to sing either on a permanent basis or even just over this festive season.



Shoe Boxes

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this very worthwhile appeal. 19 boxes were filled to the brim with gifts which will bring delight and Christmas cheer to the recipients.

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ

The Café meets on the last Thursday of each month between 10.00am and 12 noon in East Calder Church Hall and caters for people with dementia and their carers. It is run under the auspices of the Livingston branch of Alzheimer Scotland (Registered Charity no. SC022315) with the help of several volunteers from within the congregation. There are also some volunteers from outwith the congregation.

Those who come along enjoy playing board games, taking part in quizzes (which help as memory joggers), singalongs, or just chatting with each other and enjoying a cup of tea. They also meet representatives of the local Alzheimer Society, who will answer any questions that they or their carers may have. Everyone is free to come and go, as they please, just like any other café.



The Café mornings are open to everyone, so why not pop in for a cup of tea and, perhaps, some home baking! You will be made very welcome!

House Groups

The last House Group meeting for 2017 will be on Wednesday 13th December.

The groups will restart after the Christmas break on Wednesday 10th January 2018 and will continue the study of the gospel of John.

All welcome.

EnerJ

What a great time we had at our teddy party. There was a real buzz in the hall. 20 children and their teddies attended and we had banana man visit to play some games and learn about what we do at EnerJ. Please pray that all the children there will remember EnerJ and have a real desire to come back and learn more of Jesus' love.

We now look forward to Christmas plans!! Our party this year is on Saturday 16th December in the sports centre from 12.30pm -2.00pm. Hopefully we will get a special visit from Santa, some party food and time on the inflatable slide for the children to enjoy.

The family nativity service is currently being planned and is on Sunday 17th. We hope as many people as possible will be there to support the children. The children will be leading this service and as always the nativity part will be included which is very special so you are all invited/encouraged to come and see for yourself what happened in that lowly stable all those years ago.



Thank you for your continued support of the EnerJ children and leaders and may we take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very blessed Christmas.

With our prayers and love.

The EnerJ team

Social & Community Committee

The committee have a meeting at the beginning of December when we will be making plans for our annual Spring Fayre.

We are also hoping to hold a Games night or similar around February to try to attract families from our villages to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

A few dates for your diary

Carols and Mince Pies - On 15th December at 7.00pm, our last night of 2017, we will be having an open evening with Carols and Christmas Readings followed by tea/coffee and mince pies.

Please come along and see the Boys, meet the families and have a great start to Christmas.



Christmas Post - Once again we will be organising a Christmas Card postal service in the villages of Kirknewton and East Calder. The cost will be 25p per card. Post boxes will be in both Churches on 10th December and in East Calder at the joint service on the 17th. The cards will be delivered asap on and after the 17th. In previous years we've had a few envelopes with incomplete or no addresses and it would be appreciated if full addresses are given.

Burns Supper - Planning has started for our next Burns Supper and Quiz on 26th January. The support we usually receive for this is great so hopefully many of you will manage along. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January.



The profit from our fund raising activities goes towards the Company's camp and this helps to keep the costs reasonable thereby enabling all our Boys to have the opportunity to take part.

As mentioned above, our last meeting night this year is on the 15th and we return as usual on Friday 12th January.

On behalf of the Boys and Leaders I wish you a Merry Christmas and very best wishes for 2018.

IN FOCUS

If you are free on a Sunday evening at 6.30pm, please consider coming along to share a time of worship, when you will hear witness testimonies, reflections and share a time of fellowship, whilst giving thanks for God's love and goodness towards us.

The programme for December 17 / January 18 is as follows:

5 December 2017 (Café night)

One of our members will speak about 5 of her favourite hymns and why they are important to her;

10 December 2017

One of our members will share his experience of an aspect of God's character, namely God our strength;

17 December 2017

Christmas Songs of Praise when we are reminded of the first Christmas and the real reason we celebrate Christmas. A time to remember all that God has done for us so that we can continue to be faithful to Him in the future.

This evening will conclude In Focus for 2017.

Term 2 resumes 7 January 2018

7 January 2018 (Café night)

This type of evening is when someone will share their favourite 5 hymns and explain why they are important to them;

14 January 2018

One of our members will share her experience of 'God, our provider';

21 January 2018

A local minister will discuss 'Big Issues' that affect lives; and

28 January 2018

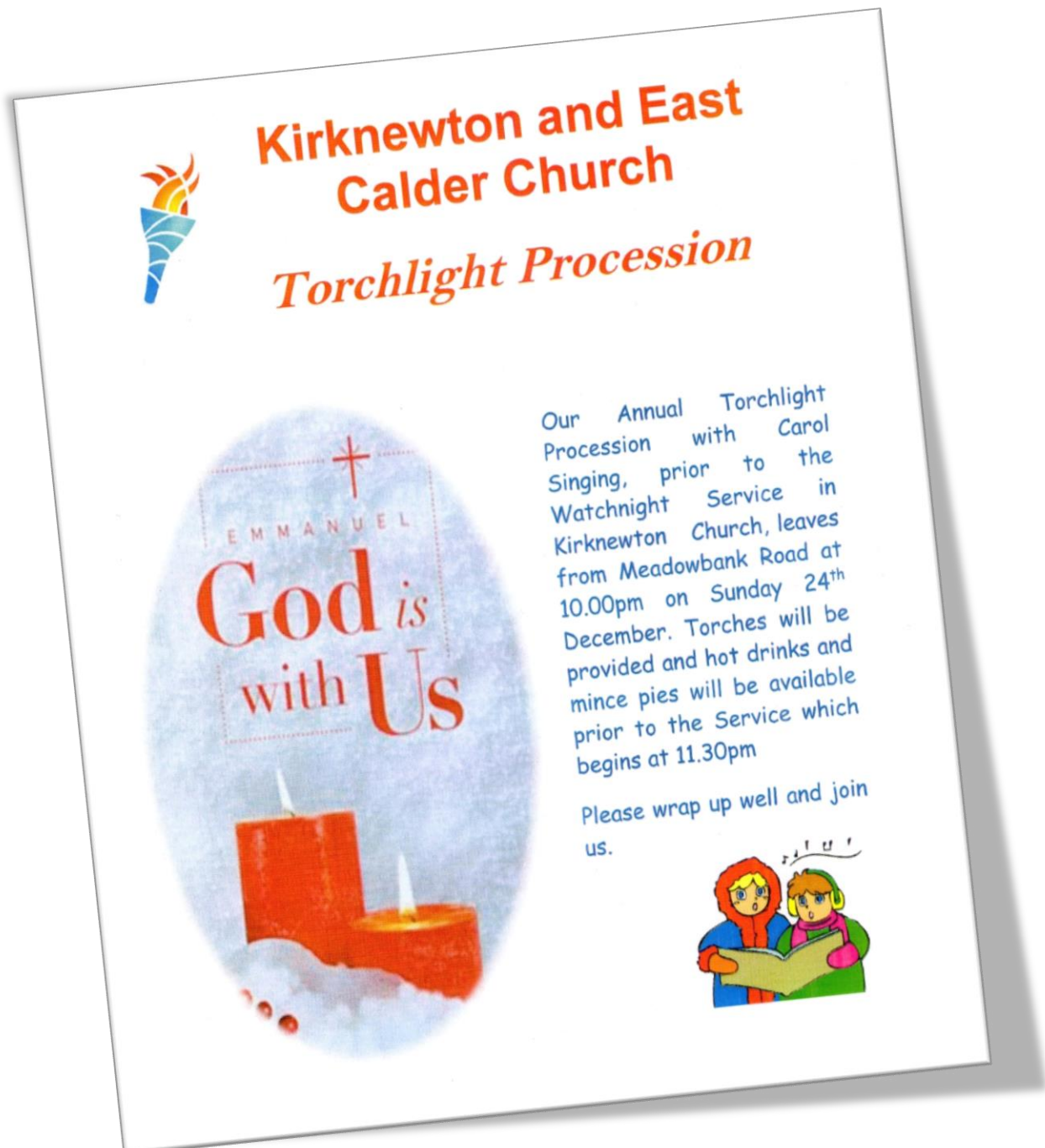
One of our members will reflect on verse 3 of hymn "When we walk with the Lord" and chorus, Trust and Obey;


If you have never attended In Focus before, please think about coming along. We would love to see you.

Christmas Services at Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church

Sunday 17th December - Joint Nativity Service 11:15am East Calder Church.
Please note there will be **NO SERVICE AT KIRKNEWTON**.


Sunday 24th December - Morning Services.
09.45am Kirknewton Church and 11.15am East Calder Church.
Family Service 7.00pm East Calder Church.
Torchlight Procession -Meet at Meadowbank Road Kirknewton at 9.45pm (see below).
Watchnight Service 11.30pm Kirknewton Church.

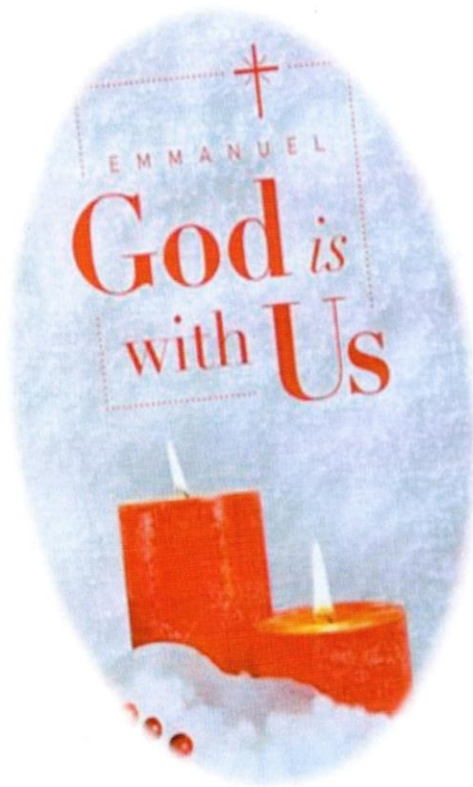


 **Kirknewton and East Calder Church**
Torchlight Procession

Our Annual Torchlight Procession with Carol Singing, prior to the Watchnight Service in Kirknewton Church, leaves from Meadowbank Road at 10.00pm on Sunday 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.





The Break

The Break (an opportunity to meet in fellowship for a short time of worship, prayer and thanksgiving) will meet for the last time in 2017 on Thursday 7th December when we will continue our theme 'The Sermon on the Mount'. The passage will be based on Matt 5:7 (Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy).

The Break will restart on Thursday 18th January 2018 which will be based on Matt 5:9 (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God).

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 submit it, preferably by email, using the dedicated address: knecnews@btinternet.com. The deadline for February's Magazine will be **Sunday 21st January**.

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 **KNEC NEWS** by email please send your email address to: knecnews@btinternet.com



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



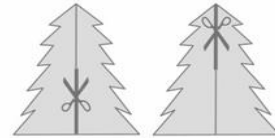
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

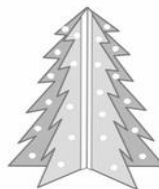
Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of one tree and along the top half of the centre



of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.

Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free of decorations so that you can write on it.



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*

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 1 st & 3 rd 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 st and 3 rd Tuesday in month 7.30pm East Calder Church Hall
House Groups				Wednesdays 7.30pm
Singing Group				Tuesdays 7.45pm Kirknewton Church
Baby and Toddler Group				Thursdays: 9.30am-11.30am Kirknewton Church Hall
Lunch Club				1 st & 3 rd Thursday of each month 11.30am-12.30pm E/C Church Hall
The Break				1 st & 3 rd 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
Bible Study				Last Wednesday of each month 10.00am-11.00am Kirknewton Church Hall
Praise Band				Sundays: 11.00am East Calder Church and 6.00pm East Calder Church Hall

CHURCH CALENDAR

(See Organisations' meeting times on page 13)

Friday	1 st Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	3 rd Dec	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Bereavement Service: East Calder Church 3.00pm In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	4 th Dec	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	5 th Dec	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	6 th Dec	Housegroups 7.30pm
Thursday	7 th Dec	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	8 th Dec	Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	10 th Dec	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	11 th Dec	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	12 th Dec	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	13 th Dec	Housegroups 7.30pm

CHURCH CALENDAR cont'd

Friday	15 th Dec	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade Christmas Open Evening East Calder Church Hall 7.00pm
Sunday	17 th Dec	Joint Nativity Service East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	18 th Dec	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	19 th Dec	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Thursday	21 st Dec	Forget-me-Not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am – 12 noon
Sunday	24 th Dec	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Family Service East Calder 7.00pm Torchlight Procession Meet at Meadowbank Road, Kirknewton 9.45pm Watchnight Service Kirknewton Church 11.30pm
Sunday	31 st Dec	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am



Happy Christmas