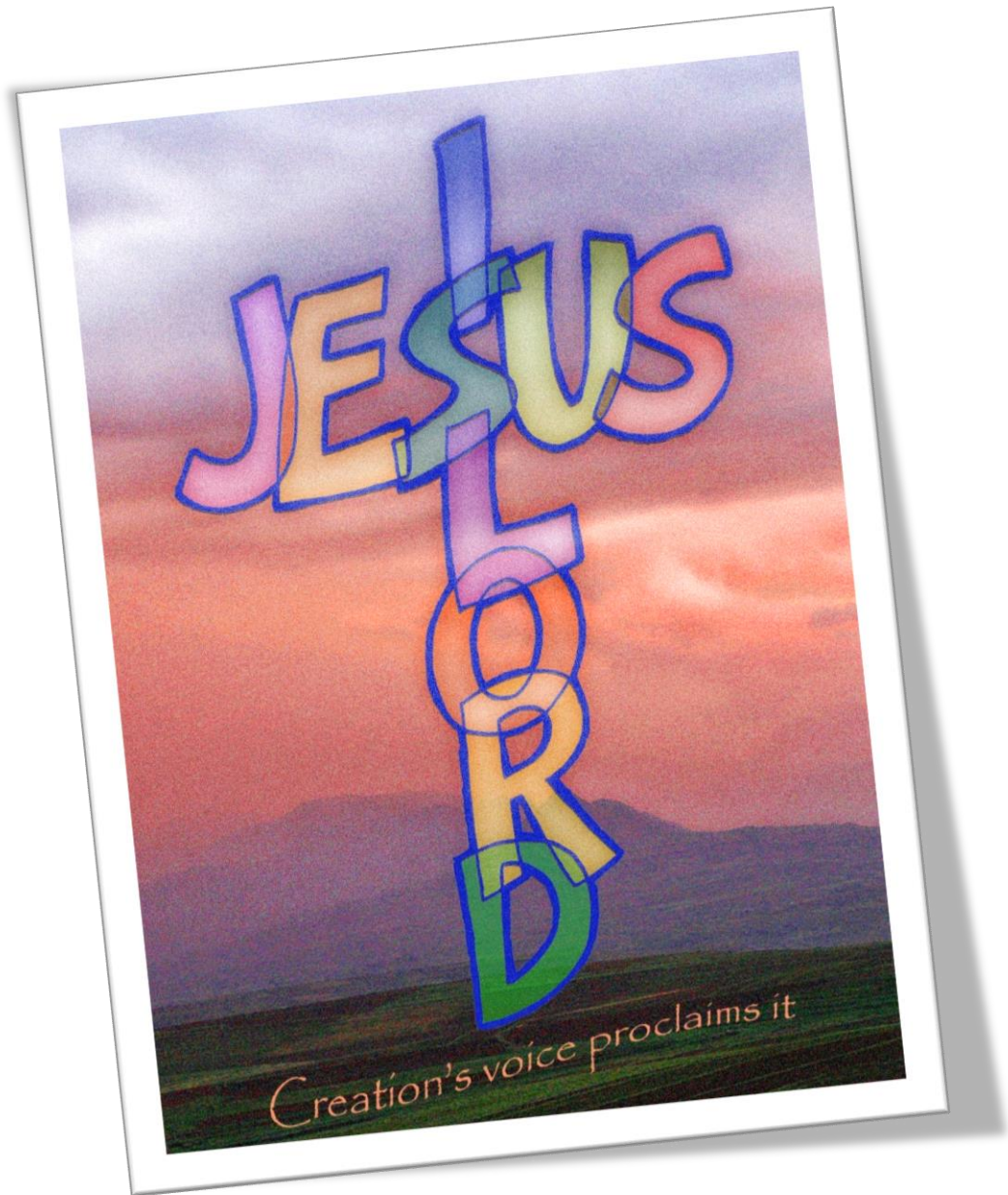


KNEC NEWS



February 2017



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





This month includes:

Update from Session Clerk

EnerJ

Kosy Kaff

Prayer Meeting

Boys' Brigade

View from the Pew

Spring Fayre

The Break

Kids' Korner

One More Step Along the Way

Although a month of the new year has already passed, this is the first edition of KNEC News for the new year so I wish everybody a Happy New Year. Thank the Lord that we can leave 2016 behind and, with no major alarms in January, enter the calmer waters of 2017.

From the middle of September 2016 onwards, when Rev Groenewald told us he was leaving, into December, there seemed to be a never-ending list of items to be attended to. We should all thank God that he had chosen servants who were enabled to put in an extra effort to ensure that during this period everything that was planned to happen in our congregational life actually did happen. Further, all the reins that André had to let go were picked up. So far there has been nothing found in a black hole! What was a little fraught at times was ensuring cover for Sunday worship. As had been planned for quite some time Brenda was on holiday during October and half of November and, with so many other vacant charges in West Lothian, finding a minister available on a Sunday was difficult. However, Ken Mackay and David Black rescued us. Thank you gentlemen.

Then December arrived and, suddenly, all the planning and discussion regarding a locum minister came to fruition and slotted neatly into place. Phyllis Thomson helped out by running the Annual Scout Service and that was much appreciated given everything else that was going on.

What about the search for a new minister? After André's induction to Balerno on 25th October, we were free to start the search for a new minister and Session actually moved quite swiftly. During November, some groundwork was laid. At the end of November, Session made a pre-requisite decision and also tasked a small team from Session with producing a Parish Profile. I pray that the Parish Profile will be finally approved by Session very early in February. In parallel, plans are in place to elect a Nominating Committee on 12th February. That means that the real work of searching for a new minister can start in earnest during February.

For those not on the Committee, sit back, don't worry, put your trust in God and enjoy normal congregational life in the locally calm waters of 2017.

Please support Energy



Silent Auction & Fun Morning



Date : Saturday 4th February 2017



Time: 10am-12noon



Place: East Calder Church Hall

All welcome



Money raised will go towards a bus for the church outing.

Kosy Kaff

The Kosy Kaff is a drop in cafe for children of primary school age run and funded by Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church. Volunteers provide FREE hot chocolate and home baking for the children who attend as well as a safe place for them to play board games together and enjoy craft activities.



The Kosy Kaff is very well attended by local children and we normally attract between twenty and forty children. We rejoice in God's provision of sufficient numbers of dedicated helpers thus far, without whom the cafe would cease to exist! Half of our volunteers come from within the church and half from the village. Volunteers do not specifically discuss Jesus with the children but all the children know that it is church funded and we do have opportunities to answer faith questions. We also give small gifts to the children at Easter and Christmas time and talk about the real meanings of these festivities which bring important outreach opportunities. Child protection is very important to us and this year we have made a point of ensuring everyone who volunteers has been on a safeguarding course as well as being a member of the PVG scheme.

Our ongoing struggles are staffing levels, child protection and space this year all of which are manageable at present.

The main issue this year I think has been space! We meet in the village hall and it can be pretty squashed when we're reaching 50 kids. It would be nice for the children to have some space to play a few ball games too.

The Kosy Kaff Team



Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking. Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch - helpful for the other person not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?



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.

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 send preferably by email using the dedicated address:

kneccnews@btinternet.com

The deadline for February's Magazine will be **Sunday 19th February.**

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.

Burns Supper and Quiz



Thanks to everyone who came along to our Burns Supper and Quiz on Friday, 27th January. We were delighted that we had a full hall with over 80 guests supporting the evening and we hope that you had a really enjoyable time.



Congratulations

The Quiz was won by 1st Degree Burns.

The photograph shows the Team being presented with the Mike Blackwood Trophy.



This year the Boys did all the speeches, toasts, serving the meals as well as presenting the Trophy and we thank them for their contribution. Maybe next year they'll do the cooking (perhaps not!!!)



View from the Pew

On 15th January, our locum, Rev. Ken McKay preached on the subject of 'gates': gates that keep us in; gates that keep us out; gates that protect us and keep us safe; gates that clang shut on freedom; gates flung open to release grateful captives. Like those heartrending old films of the concentration camps being liberated at the end of the Second World War.

Ken spoke of the poem* beginning *'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year'*. George VI used it in his famous speech to the British Empire at the beginning of 1939. The poem continues:

*'Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way.*

That was destined to be a year etched on the world's memory, synonymous with the seven years of war that lay ahead. The King's speech was chillingly prophetic. The gate of that year was opening upon some of the deepest and most dreadful darkness in human history. Known ways were about to be lost forever. Only reaching out to God in trust and dependency would help; *His* ways do not change and will never be lost.

The week before, Brenda had talked about singing to God even in the most difficult times of life. In the Bible, Paul and Simon were beaten and imprisoned but still they sang. Sometimes the worst circumstances produce the most powerful music. We think of protest songs like *'Blowin' in the Wind'* and *'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?'* We think of slaves singing their wonderful spirituals whilst toiling in the cotton fields, oppressed and abused, with no sign of release.

Putting these two sermons together, we can treat our barriers and burdens as gates that we must find a way to open. By doggedly singing the praises of God (in our hearts if not aloud!) when we are faced with closed and menacing gates – or maybe with ones that are so enormous we don't think we can push/pull them open – we can find a way through. Like the 1939 King, we can choose to reach out in trust to God, singing as we go.

'When the darkness closes in, still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord'

(song by Matt Redman)

** by Minnie Louise Haskins 1912*

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.

Spring Fayre - Saturday 18th March



Last year's Spring Fayre was a great success and we are hoping to make this year's even better. This could be your chance to buy gifts for Easter which are a wee bit different to those you buy in the shops.

What can you do to help?

- We would be pleased to receive donations of new mugs **preferably with a child theme** & new face cloths over the next few weeks - these will be gift wrapped with Easter Eggs and sold on the day.
- We would also be grateful for donations of bars of soap.
- Are you good at crafts? Would you be willing to make some simple crafts to sell at the Fayre and/or would you be willing to show others and help them to make some too?
- Would you be able to bake for our Cake and Candy stall?
- Do you have any toiletries, gift sets, etc. that you won't use but others may like to buy?
- Can you help on a stall?
- Will you tell others about the Fayre and encourage them to come along?
- Will you pray for a really good day of fellowship and fun when many people from our villages will come into the Church buildings perhaps for the first time?

If the answer to any of the above is YES please speak to a member of The Social and Community Committee -

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Break, our midweek informal service of praise, worship and fellowship re-starts on Thursday 2nd February in East Calder Church Prayer Room at 12:30pm (after the Lunch Club).



The topic on 2nd Feb will be "Do not be Afraid".

Dates till June are:

March 2nd

April 6th

May 4th

June 1st

Why not go to the lunch club and then come along and join in fellowship at the Break.

All welcome.



Join us at the Place of Grace conference in 6 weeks.

Returning after a five year break, we'd love you to come and join us at our 2017 conference in Edinburgh.

Come and hear from Michelle Guinness and Tania Bright, along with a whole host of inspiring

seminar speakers. We'll be joining together in worship led by Lou Fellingham and Cathy Burton, and the Saturday morning Bible studies will return too!

Kirknewton and East Calder Church Kirknewton and East Calder Church



Carol Singing and Torchlight Procession 24th December

During the day there were many concerns about the procession taking place due to the gales and torrential rain. Our fears were unfounded – cometh the time there was a strong breeze but the rain had stopped and seventeen Carol Singers set-off around Kirknewton and were in great voice.

We stopped along the route to sing carols and quite a number of residents came to their windows and doors to give us encouragement – not that much was needed! We were given chocolates by a couple of kind residents and one lady said:

‘Please never stop doing this, I love it’

Cold and happy we finished at the Church Hall and had lovely hot mince pies and a warm drink before the Watchnight Service.

Thanks to everyone who took part, the Singers, the Police, the caterers in the Hall and the residents of Kirknewton for their welcome and chocolates!



The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!

OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.

JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

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 st and 3 rd 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 st & 3 rd Thursday of each month 11.30am-12.30pm E/C Church Hall
The Break				1 st 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 E/C Church Hall

CHURCH CALENDAR

(See Organisations' meeting times on page 16)

Wednesday	1 st Feb	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	2 nd Feb	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	3 rd Feb	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Saturday	4 th Feb	Silent Auction East Calder Church hall 10.00am
Sunday	5 th Feb	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	6 th Feb	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	7 th Feb	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	8 th Feb	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Friday	10 th Feb	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm
Sunday	12 th Feb	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	13 th Feb	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	14 th Feb	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	15 th Feb	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	16 th Feb	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Friday	17 th Feb	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	19 th Feb	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	20 th Feb	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	21 st Feb	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	22 nd Feb	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	23 rd Feb	Forget-me-not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon
Friday	24 th Feb	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	26 th Feb	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm Prayer Meeting East Calder Church Prayer Room 2.30pm
Monday	27 th Feb	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	28 th Feb	Joint Board & Session Meeting East Calder Church Hall 7.15pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm

STOP PRESS!

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of this congregation of Kirknewton and East Calder will be held in East Calder Church on Sunday 12th February 2017 at the close of morning worship (12.20pm or as soon thereafter as is practicable) for the purpose of appointing a Nominating Committee. The task of the Nominating Committee will be to nominate one person to this congregation of Kirknewton and East Calder to be the new minister.

At that meeting, the congregation shall be invited to elect 13 people, who are on the Electoral Roll of this congregation of Kirknewton and East Calder, to serve on the Nominating Committee. If you wish to propose anyone to serve on the Committee, you may do so at the meeting providing the person has indicated a willingness to serve.

Interim Moderator