

# KNEC NEWS

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



*This month includes:*

*From the Manse*

*Alpha*

*News from Session*

*Games Night*

*The Break*

*Spring Fayre*

*In Focus*

*EnerJ*

*Holiday Club*

*Boys' Brigade*

*Kids' Korner*

# *Back to Basics*



We have just started the Alpha Course this week and, as always, it has been a privilege to be part of this. I personally find this sort of gathering quite stimulating. I love meeting people who are not familiar with 'church jargon and procedures'! It's refreshing. It forces me to think carefully about the words I use to describe my own faith. In that way, it is usually really helpful for those hosting because it allows us to understand what is important to us in our faith. It helps us to think about what we believe.

When we are with 'outsiders', (for want of a better term), I think it's helpful if we consider carefully what words we use to describe what we believe, when we get the opportunity.

In the Scriptures, Peter and Paul give us two bits of advice on this. Firstly, always 'let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone' [Colossians 4:6]. Secondly, 'always be ready to explain the hope that is inside of you' [1 Peter 3:15].

Here's a simple example which came from the first meeting of Alpha in Kirknewton. Someone was pointing out how it was difficult to believe in a distant god 'up there'. It's not rational. After a bit of discussion on the difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge, someone spoke of how they thought there was this Creative Source of Energy who made creatures like us, made up of the same particles as the Source and with an ongoing attraction between the two and between other 'beings'. He said that he then chose to call this Source, 'God'.

Now this is not the language of the Scriptures but I believe it is the essence of the Scriptures to point to the Source of Life in this way. It certainly seemed helpful to the discussion that first night.

I'm looking forward to more stretching conversations in the weeks ahead. And may the Spirit of Christ equip every one of us to engage with 'outsiders', and with each other, in this way.

Grace and peace be with you always.

*Alistair*



## at The Green Room in Kirknewton

The Alpha Course is a series of gatherings exploring the Christian faith in God. Each week looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Coffee and cake. Everyone welcome. No charge.

# Thursday 7.30 - 9pm

Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland Scottish Charity No. SC006973  
[www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org) [www.knec4jesus.com](http://www.knec4jesus.com) 01506 357083 07791 524504

## EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF SESSION MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The Kirk Session met in the Church Hall of East Calder Church on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and the meeting was constituted with prayer and a reading.

### **Youth Church:**

No volunteers have come forward. We are very low in young people.

### **Kosy Kaff:**

This has closed down as the clientele had changed (mainly P1 and P2 children now) so it was no longer possible to run as a drop-in café. There is a meeting in January to discuss what might replace it.

### **Minister's Report:**

2 Funerals (1 each with Brenda), 2 Baptisms (Brenda), 6 Pastoral Visits per week. As well as presbytery and chaplaincy meetings, I've met with the Rector of St Mary's, KN Youth Worker, Minister's Support Group, and WL Faith Group and attended the formal opening of West Calder High School.

**Dates:** St Andrews Prayer Day 30/11, Bereavement service 2/12, Scouts, Guides carol service 10/12 at Kirknewton, Baptism of Aria 16/12, Community Carol Service in East Calder 16/12, Service of Healing - 13/1.

In response to a question the members of the Minister's Support Group are:

[REDACTED]

### **Safeguarding :**

An additional two volunteers are now members of the PVG scheme for working with children. Applications to join the PVG scheme have been made for two others.

### **Intimations, Correspondence and Information:**

The Bridge Community Project is looking for a Trustee with knowledge of finance.

There being no further business, the Moderator closed the meeting by our saying the Grace together.

## *Baptism*



## *Funerals*

Mrs Linda Findlay on 20<sup>th</sup> December in East Calder Church

Mrs Wilma Manson on 4<sup>th</sup> January at West Lothian Crematorium

Mr Robert Bond on 14<sup>th</sup> January in East Calder Church

Mr Peter Nicol on 21<sup>st</sup> January in Kirknewton Church



Mr Neil MacLeod on 24<sup>th</sup> January at West Lothian Crematorium

## *Pastoral Care*

Please let Alistair or Brenda know if you'd like a home visit, or to go out for coffee. They don't always know who'd like a visit, so it would help if people asked for one. They'd hate to miss out people. Also, if you are happy for Alistair to hold your 'phone number on his mobile 'phone, please let him know if you haven't done so already.

## *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.

## *Interim Moderator*

From 1 February Alistair will be Interim Moderator at Blackburn and Seafield. Your prayers for a quick vacancy (in God's timing of course) would be appreciated!

# Games Night



The Social & Community Committee are holding a Games Night and Beetle Drive on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 6.30pm to 9.00pm in East Calder Church Hall. The Games Night last year was a great success enjoyed by all. We hope to have a

good turnout of our own Church Members as well as people from our villages. Please come along and bring your friends and family with you. If you have any board games you would like to play with others please bring them too! This will be a completely free night with tea/coffee/juice and home baking provided during the evening. We look forward to seeing you all there.

***Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult.***

## The Break

The Break continues the theme 'The Miracles of Jesus' and during February will meet twice.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February, [REDACTED] will lead on 'Jesus feeds 5,000'.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, [REDACTED] will lead on 'Jesus restores sight to Bartimaeus in Jericho'.

Come along and join this short service of praise, worship and fellowship - 12:30pm, after the Lunch Club.



We are holding a Spring Fayre on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 10.00am to 12 noon. The Boys' Brigade will serve teas, coffees and hot filled rolls in the downstairs hall. Upstairs there will be Books/DVDs, Fancy Goods and Gifts, Cake & Candy stall and Craft Stall.

Can you knit, sew, bake or do any paper or card crafts? Please start planning what you can do to help. There are so many talented people in our congregation and if everyone made just a little thing we could have a really successful morning.

We will be having an Easter Bonnet/ Hat competition, an egg decorating table and lots more. Please encourage any children you know to make an Easter bonnet or hat and bring it along (or even make one yourself) as we will be giving a chocolate egg to everyone who participates and there will be prizes for the best decorated.



Although it would be good to raise some funds, our main focus is to welcome our village children and their parents/friends into our Church buildings for a fun filled morning. Please keep the date free and come along to support this event.

**\*\*\*\*Can you help us now?\*\*\*\***

***We would greatly appreciate donations of new mugs, suitable for children, and small foil wrapped eggs or bunnies as soon as possible or by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. Please give to any committee member.***

If you would like to help or need any more information, please speak to any member of the committee.





# In Focus

In Focus is held each Sunday evening at 6.30pm in East Calder Church Hall. During this time, we meet in fellowship, to worship and praise God, and learn through others experience about God's goodness towards us. All welcome.

The programme for February 2019, is as follows: -

- 3 February: Café: The National Secretary of the Guild, will speak on how the Guild enables fellowship and encourages outreach within communities;
- 10 February: [REDACTED] will reflect on getting to know God better through experiencing a new beginning or ending in his life;
- 17 February: Big Issue: A representative from Craigshill Good Neighbour Network , will speak on the importance of being a good neighbour;
- 24 February: Café: A member of the Congregation will tell of their passion for fostering children and how God has empowered them to do what they do;

Please think about coming along to meet others at In Focus. Refreshments are provided.

In Focus Planning Team

# EnerJ News



Christmas seems a distant memory now but we hope you all had a special time and pray 2019 will be a blessed year for you all. The children (and leaders) had a great time at the Christmas party – the Sports Centre has a new bouncy activity run which was fun to explore. Santa visited which is always lots of fun and all the kids were on their best behaviour.

We hope you enjoyed the nativity, the children did a great job and did us all proud. It's always special to see them dress up and sing their songs.



We have enjoyed two weeks back at EnerJ since the New Year! Our first week looking at how baby Jesus (that we learned about) loves each one of us and wants us to pass it on. We had a sports morning throwing and catching balls encouraging the children to remember Jesus loves you – pass it on. Our second week was looking at Jesus childhood – the children had a chat about what they thought Jesus would have done when He was their age. We watched a short video clip, made a prayer box after learning Jesus spent a lot of time talking to God and reading about Him and remembered Joseph taught Him to be a carpenter so coloured a picture of that.



We collected our Smartie tubes in last Sunday for our charity The West Lothian School Bank (Charity Number: SC046483) and made a total of £445.08. Thank you to everyone who helped us in this fundraising event. This will go a long way in helping families in crisis in West Lothian. We have also collected 3 pairs of school shoes and 2 winter coats which are much appreciated by the charity.

Looking ahead, we will be looking at the miracles of Jesus and look forward to exploring these with the children. Thank you for your continued support.

The EnerJ Team



## HOLIDAY CLUB

Plans are now well in hand for our Annual Holiday Club which will be held from 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August in East Calder Church Hall. This year we will be looking at the story of Daniel from our base in the **SPACE ACADEMY**. If you would like to be involved in the running of the Holiday Club – the only requirements needed are that you are PVG checked and attend a Safeguarding Course.

## 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](mailto:knecnews@btinternet.com)

The deadline for February's Magazine will be **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

## 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' – now available to listen to via the website or to download or subscribe as a podcast on iTunes etc – the links are all on the website. 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](mailto:knecnews@btinternet.com)

## *Be my Valentine?*

St Valentine's Day falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February and since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anonymously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.



One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed 'Your Valentine.'

All of us long to know that we are loved by someone but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.

One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, "I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)."

*PP Looking at God Feb19*



1<sup>st</sup> EAST CALDER  
COMPANY

Thanks to everyone who came along to our Burns Supper and Quiz on 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year the Mike Blackwood Trophy was won by the Canine Companions and you can see the trophy being presented to the happy winners. Only 2 points separated the first 5 teams this year, in fact the closest competition we've had for years. Congratulations to all the teams.

At the beginning of the session, we mentioned that money raised from the BB Big Brunch, the Christmas Post and the Burns Supper would be sent to the Boys' Brigade (Church of Scotland) World Mission Fund (*Charity registered in Scotland No SC016662*). We're delighted that we have raised £940. Thanks to everyone who has supported us.

The Boys' Brigade national are encouraging Companies to support Marie Curie this year and take part in the Great Daffodil Appeal. Our next fundraising venture will be providing the refreshments and rolls at the Church's Spring Fayre. Please come along to the fayre and after getting your Easter Eggs join us for a cuppa. All profits from the "BB Refreshments" will go to the Marie Curie Appeal. (*Charity registered in Scotland No SC038731*)

Towards the end of February, three of our Boys will be going to the BB Headquarters at Larbert for an Activities Weekend. This is usually a fun packed week-end so the Boys are looking forward to the experience.

Three of our young men have now almost completed the work required to gain their Queen's Badge. The final hurdle is attendance at a Completion Course and this will take place at Larbert in March. Assuming that all goes well, after the weekend they will become Queen's Men. Quite an achievement and the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> East Calder are proud of them.

Captain

## ***Prayer for revelation***

*PP Poems Feb 19*

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving us.

Thank You for sending Jesus

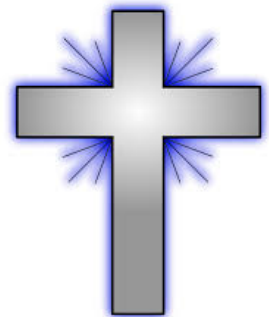
and for the work of Your Holy Spirit in opening people's eyes to recognise Him.

Please open our eyes and hearts afresh to Him.

Help us to truly trust Him and to be aware of the price He paid so that we can know Your peace and live with You forever.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

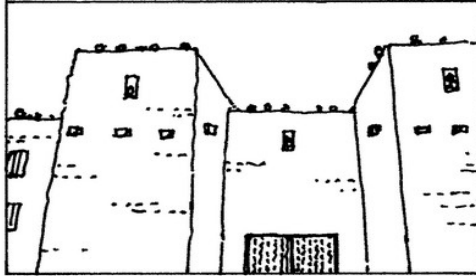
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

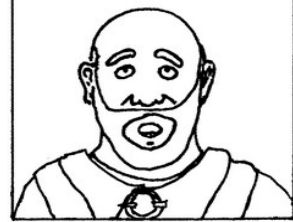
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



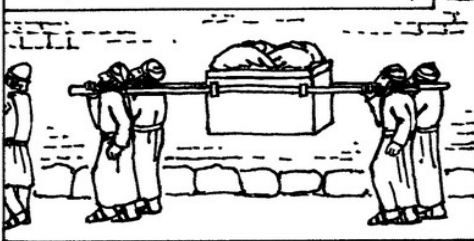
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



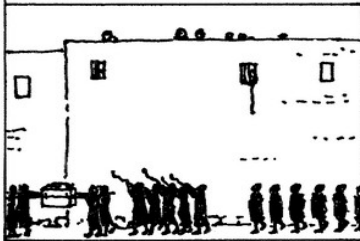
The army followed not saying a word.



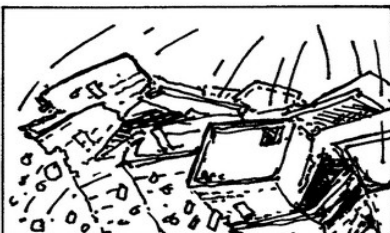
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

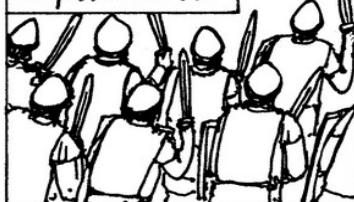


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.



# WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

## February & March

3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
		East Calder Church	11.15am
10 <sup>th</sup> February	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm
	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
17 <sup>th</sup> February		East Calder Church	11.15am
	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
		East Calder Church	11.15am
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm
	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
10 <sup>th</sup> March		East Calder Church	11.15am
	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
		East Calder Church	11.15am
24 <sup>th</sup> March	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm
	Worship Services	Kirknewton Church	9.45am
31 <sup>st</sup> March		East Calder Church	11.15am
	In Focus	East Calder Church Hall	6.30pm

# CHURCH GROUPS

## CONTACT DETAILS and MEETING TIMES

Group	Contact(s)	Email	Tel	Details
<b>Bairns' Rock</b>				Wednesdays: 9.30am-11.30am East Calder Church Hall Pre-school children
<b>Bible Study</b>				Last Wednesday of each month 10.00am-11.00am Kirknewton Church Hall
<b>Boys' Brigade</b>				Fridays: East Calder Church Hall 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
<b>Congregational Board</b>				Meets on last Tuesday of Sept, Nov, Jan, Apr and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of June at 7.00pm and on last Tuesday Feb a joint meeting with Kirk Session at 7.15pm. East Calder Church Hall
<b>EnerJ</b>				Sundays: 11.15am East Calder Church Hall Ages 3 – 11.
<b>Forget-me-not Café</b>				Last Thursday of each month 10.00am-12noon East Calder Church Hall
<b>House Groups</b>				Wednesdays: 7.30pm Thursdays : 7.30pm
<b>Kirk Session</b>				Meets on last Tuesday of Sep, Nov, Jan, Apr and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of June at 8.00pm and on last Tuesday of Oct, Feb, Mar and May at 7.15pm. East Calder Church Hall

<b>Group</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Lunch Club</b>				1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 11.30am-12.30pm East Calder Church Hall
<b>Men's Fellowship</b>				2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month East Calder Church Hall 8.30am
<b>Open Door</b>				Thursdays: 10.30am East Calder Church
<b>Praise Band</b>				Sundays: 11.00am East Calder Church and 6.00pm East Calder Church Hall
<b>Prayer Group</b>				Mondays: 7.30pm East Calder Church Prayer Room.
<b>Singing Group</b>				1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 7.45pm in Kirknewton Church 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in East Calder Church
<b>The Break</b>				1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 12.30pm-12.50pm East Calder Church Prayer Room
<b>The Guild</b>				1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month 7.30pm in East Calder Church Hall
<b>Thursday Prayer Group</b>				7.30pm in East Calder Church Prayer Room