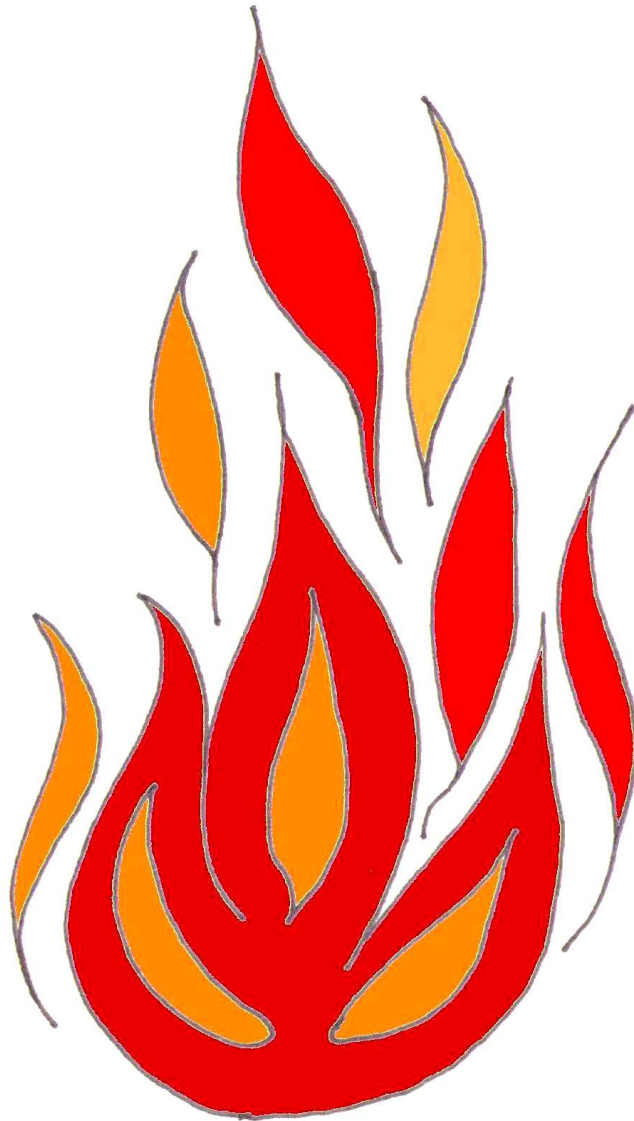


KNEC NEWS



June 2019



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



This month includes:

From the Manse

In Focus

Boys' Brigade

EC Gala Day

News from Session

Holiday Club

The Break

Love is the key to growing a healthy church

Jesus said, 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

I'm writing this on the final day of the General Assembly 2019. One of the recommendations agreed is that the Church of Scotland adopt a radical action plan, birthed in a season of prayer, which will include planting at least one hundred new worshipping communities in the next few years. I hope to say a bit more about that at In Focus on 9 June. But it's got me thinking about what it means to be a healthy growing church.



In 2011, I wrote an article for a church newsletter and thought I'd cheat a bit by sharing it again here as it still seems relevant eight years on.

There have been a couple of recent studies which seek to discover the essential elements of churches which are growing in number. Yes, believe it or not, some churches in Scotland are growing despite a clear decline in church membership overall.

Of course, growth is not just measured in numbers who attend a worship service on a Sunday. Nevertheless, numbers are important. I have yet to come across a church which does not wish to impact as many people as possible in their community with the love of God in Christ.

A recent study from the Church of England identified seven key factors evident in growing churches. Growing churches are energised by their faith in God rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive. They are outward looking in their focus, with a 'whole of life' rather than a 'church life' concern. They seek to find out what God wants, discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone. They face the cost of change and growth rather than resist change and fear failure. They operate as a community rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation. They make room for all, being inclusive rather

than exclusive. Lastly, they do a few things and do them well, being focused rather than frenetic.

This is not exactly rocket science. It's good common sense. It is essentially about us loving God and loving our neighbours as we love ourselves. God alone makes these simple things possible. And he does it time and time again, through ordinary people like you and me.

It is good for us to always seek more and more and to be all we can be in the love of God. We will never exceed the limits of God's love. It is both beyond us and yet deeply within us and around us. The love of God in Christ sustains us, completes us and continually reaches out through us into our families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and strangers.

Let us all continue together to pray for the church that it will be all that God intends it to be and that we will be an authentic growing witness to God's love wherever we are and, in so doing, glorify God and enjoy God together, forever.

Alistair

Pastoral Care

Please let Alistair know if you'd like a home visit, or to go out for coffee. He doesn't always know who'd like a visit, so it would help if people asked for one. He'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.



Funeral

Mr Bob McCabe on May 30th at West Lothian Crematorium.



In Focus (evening service) is held each Sunday at 18.30 in East Calder Church Hall. The last evening service before the summer break is on 16 June. We meet in fellowship, to worship and praise God, and learn through others experience about His goodness towards us. All welcome.

As we approach the summer holidays, the final programme for June, is as follows: -

- 2 June: **Café:** Rev Alistair Cowper and Bairns Rock team will share on how 'Bairns Rock' enables fellowship and encourages outreach to others
- 9 June: **Big Issues:** Rev Alistair Cowper will provide a view on a 'Big Issue' from the General Assembly;
- 16 June: **Café:** Summer Songs of Praise.

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

Over the summer the planning team will meet to put together a programme for next year commencing in September. All planning is futile without God, so your prayers, with ours, would be welcomed so that everything is in line with God's planning. Thank you.

In Focus Planning Team



1st EAST CALDER COMPANY

Our Display and Presentation of Awards was held on Friday 31st May when all the Boys were presented with the badges they have worked for throughout the year. We were delighted to present two of our young men with their President's Badges and David and Owen will now begin working towards their Queen's Badge which hopefully they will receive in two years' time.

The culmination of the evening was the presentation of two Queen's Badges. By the end of 2018 three of our Boys namely [REDACTED] had completed all the work required to gain the award but had to attend a Completion Course in order to be presented with their Badges. Unfortunately [REDACTED] was unable to attend a Course this year due to work and other commitments so we were only able to present [REDACTED] with their Queen's Badges. [REDACTED] intends to return next session and take that final step towards the highest award in The Brigade. Congratulations to all of them for the work they have put in over the years.

Our Annual Camp from 14th - 16th June is the final event of the session. Nineteen Boys and four Leaders are off to Canty Bay Scout Centre, North Berwick for various activities, so probably a town to avoid that weekend!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in so many ways throughout the year.

[REDACTED]
Captain

East Calder Gala Day – Saturday 8th June 2019

Gala day will soon be upon us and being one of KNEC's main outreach events in the village, we would like to make it really count. Therefore, the Social & Community Committee requires your help to make it a memorable day.

How can you help?

1. **Roll Making** We need volunteers to help make up the rolls at 8.30am in the Church Hall and a team to serve the teas/coffees, etc (even if only for 1hr.) between 12.30pm and 4.00pm.

Remember teas will be served in the new Partnership Centre

2. **Donations of home baking, or a contribution of money towards the cost of provisions, would be greatly appreciated.** It would be helpful if baking is brought along to the Church Hall between 8.00am and 10.30am on Saturday morning or directly to the Partnership Centre between 11.30am & 12.30pm on Gala Day.
3. **Transporting rolls, etc to Partnership Centre at approx. 10.30am.** It would be great if people would be willing to use their cars to transport provisions from the hall to the Partnership Centre. This should not take any more than about half an hour if we get enough volunteers

We would like to really appeal for lots of baking again this year as it is always popular and quickly runs out. Last year was amazing and people were in awe at the display of cakes so please help if you can!

What do we need? –

scones, pancakes, tea loaves, traybakes, sponges, cupcakes, tarts – anything would be great!

Who do we need? –

YOU!

If you can help in any way, please give your name to [REDACTED] or speak to any member of the Social and Community Committee ([REDACTED]) Only with your help can we make this a *Great Gala event and outreach in our community!*

All profits from the refreshments, will again be donated to:

West Lothian Foodbank (Reg charity number SC048112 | Registered in Scotland) - which we are sure you will agree is a very worthwhile and relevant cause.

Last year we were delighted to be able to hand over £1,583 to the Foodbank – an amazing amount!!

Extract from Minutes of Session Meeting held on 30th April 2019

Matters Arising

- (a) Youth Church. Session agreed with [REDACTED] that Youth Church will start up again after the summer.
- (b) Kosy Kaff. There has been no feedback as yet regarding the letter that went out to all parents at Kirknewton Primary School to gauge interest in running Messy Church on a Friday afternoon immediately after school.
- (c) Listening Project. The post of Researcher was advertised and after interview [REDACTED] was offered the post which she accepted. She will start work on 13th May.
- (d) Buildings. The Congregational Board has agreed to have the frontage of East Calder hall painted with new signage. The Board also agreed to dispose of both the organ and the piano in East Calder church and to purchase a new electronic piano.
- (e) EnerJ. The current EnerJ format is likely to continue as this fits with the age range of our children. Some names have been suggested who might consider assisting with EnerJ. The Moderator and the Clerk will continue approaching people.
- (f) Transport to Worship. We have people willing to provide transport. Any requests for lifts should be notified to the Minister.
- (g) Long Service Certificate for [REDACTED]. Session agreed that a formal presentation to recognise [REDACTED] 60 years of service would be best done as part of a joint summer service.
- (h) East Calder Social Enterprise Project. The idea is to set up a charity shop using the space offered by [REDACTED]. Although the church is driving this at present it is intended to form a separate entity run by the community.
- (i) Presbytery Planning. Presbytery has agreed the concept of partnerships between churches. We are partnered with Mid Calder. As a small start, links to each other's websites have been put in place. What else might happen is up for discussion.

Minister's Report

No funerals, 2 baptisms, 4-6 visits/week.

Interim Moderator duties nearly at an end.

Alpha is going well and will end on 23rd May.

Bairns' Rock is averaging 12.5 children/week

The 5 Lent Study evenings averaged 22 people /week

Safe Families for Children - 2 referral requests shared

Study Day taken plus Preaching Today conference comprising 2 days study leave. Hoping to take 1 day per month as a study day.

Commissioner to the General Assembly along with [REDACTED] 18-24 May

Safeguarding

There is a safeguarding training course on 13th May, which 3 of our members will attend. We have a further 1 person to be trained. Session decided that they need a refresher course in safeguarding.

Giving to Charities for the Coming Year

Session agreed the following:

The retiring offering at the July communion will go to Bridge Community Project (SC045049); at the October communion to CrossReach (SC011353); at the January communion to Tearfund Toilet Twinning (SC037624); and at the April communion to the Vine Trust (SC017386).

The offerings at the Christmas Eve services will continue to go to the Scottish Bible Society (SC010767).

The offerings at the Easter services (Monday to Friday) will go to African Inland Mission (AIM) (SC037594).

Other Business

Kirknewton Gala. The church is lending tables and chairs as our contribution.

[REDACTED]
Session Clerk



HOLIDAY CLUB

Registration is now open for this year's Holiday Club.

Forms are available at the front door of both churches or can be obtained by e-mail from: holidayclubkneec@outlook.com

THE BREAK

The Break is an opportunity to meet in fellowship for a short time of worship, praise, prayer and thanksgiving. The last meeting of The Break before the summer will take place on Thursday 6th June (at 12.30pm, after the Lunch Club) and will continue our theme 'The Miracles of Jesus'.

All welcome to hear Rev Alistair Cowper lead on "The Second Miraculous Catch of Fish at the Sea of Tiberias".

As the church year comes to an end, may I take this opportunity to say a 'Big Thank-You' to everyone who has led and supported The Break over the past year..... without you, this important mid-week time of worship and fellowship could not take place.



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: kneccnews@btinternet.com

The deadline for September's Magazine will be **Friday 23rd August**.

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: kneccnews@btinternet.com

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.

Duty Done (For this month)

*Sitting there, on Sunday morning,
Congregation in their pews
Read their magazines, informing
Them of all the latest news.*

*All save one who sits there smiling -
She knows that journal very well
Having spent a month compiling -
She knows what those pages tell!*

*She it was who, deadlines facing
Got those varied items in
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing
Each a battle she must win!*

*Though she earns no princely wages
Though she gladly gives her time
Efficiently she fills those pages
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.*

*So she sits, her rest deserving
For this month her duty's done
Maybe she's just strength conserving -
Soon she starts another one!*



By Nigel Beeton

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing



But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?

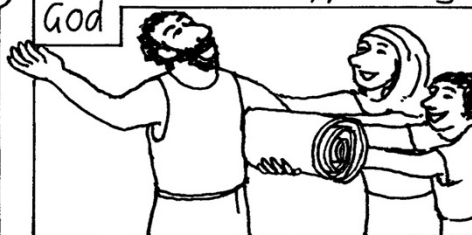


But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!

CHURCH GROUPS

CONTACT DETAILS and MEETING TIMES

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

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

***During the summer months Sunday Services
will be held as follows:***

2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th June: Kirknewton Church 9.45am
East Calder Church 11.15am

23rd June East Calder Church Joint Family Service 9.45am
followed by Church Family Outing.

Joint services will be held in Kirknewton Church during July at 9.45am - 28th July
being a Communion service.

Joint services will be held in East Calder Church during August at 11.15am.