

# KNEC NEWS

JUNE 2022



*You set all the boundaries of the earth; you made  
both summer and winter      Psalm 74:17*



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



of



## FROM THE EDITOR

Jesus' challenge to Peter, shortly before he left them for the second time, was 'Do you love me?' and he asked it three times. We think of Shakespeare's sonnet: 'How do I love thee? Let me count the ways . . .'

Jesus used three different words that have (unhelpfully!) all been translated into English as 'love'. The most important one was *agape*, the kind of love God has for us: pure, unselfish, unstinting love that will always go the extra mile. Jesus described it so: '*I am the good shepherd*'. To Peter (and to us) he said: 'Feed my sheep.'

This kind of love is not about feelings or self-gratification. It is a million miles from slushy chick-lit or erotic fantasy. This is 'slog love', putting our money (and our time, talents, and energies) where our mouth is. It's wonderful to be safe in God's love and to bask in his 'blessed assurance'; but Jesus calls for more, and his call to 'feed my sheep' rings down the centuries and never becomes irrelevant. The poor are 'always with us' – the poor in income, health, education, opportunities, and even in basic safety, as we see in Ukraine these past dreadful months.

Have a good summer. Enjoy the long light nights and warm days, the chance to meet up with friends again, and perhaps the chance to spread some *agape* love and feed His sheep.

## THE GUILD

It is a privilege and a pleasure to take on leadership of the Guild. Already I have been made very welcome, encouraged, guided, and supported to get this great organisation up and running again.

It has been a long haul through the pandemic for everyone, and the Guild is no exception. We finally had our first official meeting on Tuesday 17th May when 23 ladies attended. There was a real buzz in the hall, and it is clear how members enjoy the fellowship. We looked at Jesus' commandment to 'love one another'. a simple command, but not always simple to put into action.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along to the Guild (men and women), You will be made very welcome. Perhaps you don't come because you have never been or perhaps you are not sure if you would like it. Why not come and give it a try?

We will continue to meet through the summer on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm-3pm:

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 21st June,
- 5th and 19th July



If you have any questions or might be interested in coming along, please come and chat.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

### What I'm learning from bees



For a long time, Sarah and I have harboured an aspiration to look after honeybees, not to collect honey, more to encourage pollination and protect the honeybee from decline. Einstein famously said: 'If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years left to live.' A project for our retirement, perhaps.

For the last few years, Sarah's sister has allowed a beekeeper to keep his 8 or 9 hives in her (large) garden. The beekeeper had heard that there were often swarms of honeybees in Kirknewton and East Calder in May and June. He suggested that a bait hive be placed in our garden. We agreed, not thinking for a moment that it would work. Three days later we saw a few bees scouting out the hive, and a week later a swarm of fifteen/twenty thousand arrived at the hive, which I had stupidly placed beneath our living room window.

Our neighbour heard the noise of the swarm overhead and saw it land in our garden. Trying not to panic, we spoke to the beekeeper. He was very excited! Rather than come and take them away, he suggested we set up a proper hive in the garden. We now have a beehive! The neighbours are happy, and he will come and take them away if it doesn't work out.

At the start of the pandemic, I had signed up to do the beekeeping course with Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers Association. I managed most of the course before having to withdraw due to long Covid. I hope to complete the course. 4

Here's what I've learned so far:

- females do all the work!
- colonies can only survive if each bee plays their part, scouting, cleaning, guarding, protecting, nursing, feeding, warming, foraging, sharing, storing, serving ...
- bees are a joy to watch.
- they work hard.
- they love the sun and warm.
- they prepare for the long term.
- they serve the queen.
- they look out for each other.
- they can welcome outsiders into their colony.
- they move on to new pastures rather than stagnate.

Has God given us bees to teach us how to live together in harmony? Is it possible that the Spirit speaks to us through these tiny creatures?

As we mark another Pentecost season, seeking truth in our lives, I am reminded that Jesus said, *'When the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.'* John 16:13

God of all creation, guide us in your truth together, through your Son.

Grace, peace, and love everyone.



## GALA DAY IS FAST APPROACHING!

**East Calder:** Saturday 11th June  
**Kirknewton:** Saturday 18th June

Both communities have a full programme of events in the week leading up to the big day. Their Facebook pages have a full run-down.

Volunteers will hand out flags at the East Calder church entrance as the parade goes by on Gala Day (Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>). It will pass the church twice, first going east to west, and again west to east, and then on to the park. Anyone willing to help, please meet at EC church, 12.45 on the 11<sup>th</sup>; June

Thanks to all who have promised to help with refreshments in the E.C. Partnership Centre. Still looking for more volunteers to:

- transport food, from the Church Hall to the Partnership Centre, between 10.00 - 12.00 on the 11<sup>th</sup>
- serve in the Centre from about 12.30 onwards
- contribute towards the cost of provisions, so that we can donate more to the Foodbank\*. A

HUGE thank-you to all who have already done this!

Please pray for real fellowship, safety, and success as well as for a dry day!

We prayerfully hope that next year we can return to a more normal day.

\*All profits go to **West Lothian Foodbank**, a very worthwhile, local, and relevant cause.

*Charity number SC048112*

<p>Please remember that many roads in East Calder will be closed from 12.00 until 2.00pm, including Main Street &amp; Langton Road (from Redcraig Road to Main Street) There will be NO PARKING behind the Health Centre or Partnership Centre .</p>
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## COMMUNITY LISTENING PROJECT

It is good to have the Advanced Listening training complete, allowing us now to offer one-to-one listening sessions, by appointment. These will take place in 'the comfy room' in East Calder Church Hall. We are in the final stages of decorating the room for this purpose.

The Café continues **Monday afternoons**, from **1.30 – 3.00** in the Church Hall downstairs. We have had between 3 and 12 people coming. You would be very

welcome for an informal blether and a cup of tea/coffee with friends.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It seems no time since the last update.

*Does time pass more quickly as one gets older?*

We continue to meet on Zoom as it suits several members and have had several uplifting and inspirational speakers in this second quarter of 2022:



- a speaker from Bethany Trust came to tell us about their work with homeless people in Edinburgh
- The minister of Dalkeith Church told us about how he came into the ministry, and how the Church faces many challenges. How do we react to the times we live in?
- A speaker from CAP\*, based in Blackburn, spoke about their work helping and counselling people who are heavily in debt, as they try to find their 'normal' in this high-pressure world
- Rev Ken, an old friend of our Church, spoke about retiring from full time ministry - or so he thought! His ministry is still regularly required, due to the shortage of ministers. Ken's stories are both amusing and profound, always with a good message
- Our 'time of sharing' meeting when, instead of a guest speaker, we share our own stories. These range over many subjects and experiences, both spiritual and secular.



My thanks to all the men who support and contribute to our Fellowship and a warm welcome to our two new members!

*\*Christians Against Poverty*

## BOYS BRIGADE



It has been a fantastic year back at Boys Brigade in person. Seeing the boys interact with each other is a great joy and privilege. Our older Company Section boys have done a fantastic job, helping with the Anchor Boys and Junior Section, showing care, initiative, hard work and commitment. 'Well done and thank you' to them.

There have been many highlights from our year which ended with our display on the 27th in the church. A special guest presented the boys with their well-earned badges. It was great to see the boys receive these, with members of their own and of the church family there to support them. Thanks to all who attended.

The company breaks over the summer as usual and we look forward to making lots of new plans for the year ahead. We have a couple of names for new boys to join Anchors; some Anchor Boys move up to Junior Section; and some Juniors move up to Company Section. We are sure all the boys will enjoy their new sections.

Please pray for the boys, the homes they come from, the leadership team and the year ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

### ***The BB Team***

## **THE UKRANIAN DISASTER**

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares* Hebrews 13:2 KJV

### **CONSIDERING OFFERING HOSPITALITY TO REFUGEES?**

C pf S has some helpful guidelines/things to consider:

***Location:*** are you near good public transport links?

***Sharing living space:*** bathrooms; kitchen; garden; lounge

***Communication/language***

***Unemployment:*** maybe long time/constantly at home

***Access:*** are you happy giving them a key?

***Pets:*** will they be OK with your pet(s); have they a pet?

***Food:*** are you vegetarian? are they?

***Smoking:*** would you accept a smoker?

***Alcohol:*** what level of consumption are you happy with?

***Children:*** what if their parenting style differs from yours?

***Vaccines:*** will you accept unvaccinated people?

***Boundaries:*** your 'red lines' re personal preferences?

***Long stay:*** if they have nowhere to go after 6 months?

***£££:*** even with the £350 a month from the government

***Needs:*** they may have come with nothing or very little

***Emotional Impact:*** suffering from PTSD; a state of shock

**Rest:** they may not be able to sleep well, especially at first  
**Anxiety:** worried about those they have left behind  
**Grief:** they may be already bereaved; 'survivor's guilt'  
**Your response:** hard to witness their misery and loss  
**Care:** may need wraparound support/all aspects of living  
**Faith:** none/ Catholic/Russian Orthodox

### **WHAT ELSE?**

Your normal **house insurance** will be sufficient. The local authority will **assess your property** for suitability (minimum standards and adequate room) and there may also be **regular checks** thereafter.

Ideally, there should be someone in your home who is **PVG checked**. If not, someone else who is PVG checked will be appointed to take responsibility. This may be something we as a church could supply.

Host families will need their own support network of friends, relatives, local agencies and facilities. This is where we, as a church, could come in. Even if we cannot offer residential hospitality ourselves, we can help to support the families/households who are doing so. *The Baillie Gifford Community Awards Scheme* has grants available to congregations with plans and projects to help refugees.

### **Giving**

C of S has already sent **£75,000** and is working with:

- The Hungarian Reform Church (a large diaspora in several countries adjacent to Hungary)
- the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee)
- The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain
- The Faith Impact Forum

***More information at:*** [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, MEETINGS, ...**

(Report from our Session Clerk)

### ***Sunday Services***

Since the first of May, we have been ***live streaming*** our Sunday service to YouTube, (instead of pre-recorded). A link is sent out to everyone by email and is also on both the Facebook page and the church website. People who prefer a DVD copy of the service will still receive one, albeit after the service has finished. It has cost about £800 to set up live streaming, for camera, wireless microphone, and WIFI. The plan is to continue alternating Sunday services between the two churches.

### ***Session and Board Meetings***

The meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May was a 'hybrid', i.e., both in-person *and* with the opportunity to join online through Zoom. This may well become the norm, although we may choose to meet solely through Zoom in the winter months.

### ***Annual Report and Accounts (year ending 31/12/21)***

The treasurer presented these at the April Session Meeting, A 'big thank-you' to all who gave financially during 2021. Their generosity is reflected in the income figures. The Accounts & Annual Report were approved.

### ***The Presbyteries Mission Plan***

Following our online consultation on 8<sup>th</sup> March, our views regarding the draft Plan were submitted, saying:

- *we see ourselves as an integral part of Mission District 3 (Livingston and the Calder)*
- *we are willing to explore a partnership with the villages of Ratho and Wilkieston, and possibly also with the Kirk of Calder (in Mid Calder)*
- *we are always open to sharing resources across MD3 where there is mutual benefit*
- *our present intention is to retain the church buildings in both of our vibrant villages*
- *we also hope to use the not-yet-built community space in the burgeoning Calderwood development*
- *we do realise that alternative decisions over buildings may need to be made in future*

### ***Covid Regulations***

We are going with the legal requirements during services and meetings: masks optional; hand sanitiser available; make up your own mind about distancing; the Offering will avoid handing round the collection bags, the

elements of Communion will be served, rather than handing round plates and wine carriers; ventilation during services will continue, but more gently.

**Safeguarding:** we have a new co-ordinator.



**DIGNITY BOXES** is a charity which supplies free toiletries to those in need.

Collection boxes for donations will be placed: in both our church buildings on Sunday mornings; and at the Listening Café in East Calder Hall on Monday afternoons.

Charity number: SCO48930

**THEY ARE NINETY!!**

**Happy Birthday and lots of love to  
our two new nonagenarians**

## PRAYER MATTERS

*'Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will ...'* 1 Thessalonians 5: 16/17 (NIV)



*'Make your life a prayer. In the midst of everything, be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan ... Never put out the fire of the Holy Spirit.'* 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-19 (The Passion Translation)

Father God, we thank you for your son, Jesus Christ, and for our redemption through his blood shed on the cross. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your Holy Spirit to be with us every moment of the day. The desire of our hearts is to love and obey you. Bless us in our daily lives Show us situations where to speak your name would be a blessing. Help us to live in such a way that our lives show your presence with us and attract others to you. We pray always in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

Prayer opportunities are all around us:

- on our own in the night when we can't sleep
- silently/inwardly
- with our Christian friends and family
- altogether in church, praying and singing
- at our regular Monday night prayer meeting
- over the phone / Facetime / by text / online by Zoom
- in a letter or email

Prayer is a vital part of our lives, anytime, anywhere. We don't need the internet: the 'Godnet' is free and always available!

If you want to ask for prayer (in confidence), please ask.

The first hymn was just long enough  
for Flora to pull her skirt until the pleats  
were where they ought to be  
She'd dressed in a rush

I  
t took her the whole prayer  
to work out the week's meals

The intimations allowed Flora  
to worry about lunch  
Had she turned down the oven?

The sermon lasted the total count  
of all the panes in both arched windows  
the sum of the top three numbers  
on the hymn board  
divided by the bottom one  
plus two presbyterian peppermints

The final blessing ...?  
It hit Flora like a hammer blow



for the very first time

She left

a new woman