

KNEC NEWS

**SOCIALLY
DISTANT**

*Spiritually
together*

**WELCOME
BACK**

June 2021



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



Worshipping Together

It feels strange to be back in our buildings worshipping together. (I write this in the week before our first in person gathering). For around fifteen months we've not been able to meet in person to worship together. And even now, it's not quite the same, since there will be no singing and we will be seated with face coverings on for the foreseeable future.



All of this seems a small price to pay when we compare what we are going through with what the people of occupied Palestine continue to suffer at the hands of those who should know better. (I'm certainly not condoning terrorists firing rockets at Israel and using other forms of violence).

The Old City of Jerusalem has often been seen as a place where people of different religions could live together in harmony but the four different quarters of the city seem to have been hanging on to a very fragile peace. Now, more than ever, is the time to "pray for peace in Jerusalem" (and beyond)(Psalm 122:6).

As we see buildings collapsing and homes ruined for ever, we might feel thankful for the church buildings that we are able to make use of. But I wonder what impact the global pandemic is going to have on the way congregations make use of their buildings for worship.

Albert Bogle wrote in this month's *Life & Work* magazine, "In future when we talk of church we need to think past buildings and denominations. We need to be more flexible. Christian believers might not always be able to attend set worship times in person for a variety of reasons. The growth of online church will continue to contribute to the mission and discipleship of the local church community. As we begin to return to buildings let none of us slip back into the old habits. We have all been taught a salutary lesson (*by this pandemic*) and we are truly a church without walls. We carry the fellowship of Christ into every life situation leaving his fragrance behind us."

As we begin to meet together again in person may we smell the fragrance of Christ and see it's transforming effect in our church, our community and our world.

Grace and peace everyone,

Alistair

FUNERAL

Mr Dave King on 25th May at East Calder Church



Like all our Worship Services for the past 14 months, we celebrated Holy Week with the aid of technology.

Monday saw Jenny and lead us off on our 'Journey to the Cross..... by Faith'.

Tuesday, Mike continued the journey '.....by Hope'.

Wednesday, we travelled further with Agnes '.....by

Love'.

All supported by family and friends with prayers and scripture readings.

Alistair wrapped up the week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

We may not have been in our buildings during Holy Week, but by technology we were able to stay connected and worship together.

In spite of Covid 19 the life of 1st East Calder continues!

Since our last update at Christmas, we have been delighted that the Boys have kept up their hard work on Zoom. The amount of Boys attending has been very consistent with about 90% of the company logged on every Friday.

In December we held a Christmas celebration on Zoom with 70+ participants, thank you to all who joined!

Throughout the rest of our Zoom sessions, the Boys have still been doing badge work alongside their Bible class, games and quizzes. We have been blessed to have had lots of guest participants join our meetings to make our Zoom sessions different. Thanks to Social Bite, Bethany Trust, ex-Boys, Paramedics, Nurses, Police Officers and the Children's Author, M.G Leonard.

At the start of May, Craig and Calum visited Ross to present him with his Queen's Badge. Ross had gained this from last session and we had hoped for a fitting presentation for this award. Unfortunately, Covid didn't allow us to have an audience but that doesn't take anything away from Ross's achievement. Well done, Ross.

Likewise, Arran was presented with his President's Badge. Arran now moves on to starting his Queen's Badge and we really look forward to joining him on that journey. Well done, Arran.

At the time of writing this, we approach the end of our session and still have a few highlights left:

- On the 23rd of May David rubbed shoulders (at a social distance) with Royalty. We were privileged to have David take part in a Guard of Honour for Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, as part of the General Assembly. David was 1 of only 13 Boys from East Lowland to be selected. A fantastic opportunity for him and he did us all proud.

- Our Awards Evening was held on Zoom on the 28th of May at 7.00pm. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Boys
- Hopefully we shall be meeting with the Boys in person outdoors for a few Fridays in June.

We are very privileged to have a fantastic group of dedicated Boys who really have been amazing through this pandemic. We hope for a more normal BB session after the summer!

1st East Calder Boys' Brigade team

Calum, Colin, Craig, Elizabeth, Fraser, Gillian, Heather, and Iain.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN PERSON



It was with great joy that we opened our Church doors again on 23rd May. Due to social distancing numbers were small but as someone said, “once you’re back it feels like you’ve never been away”.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to ensure that all restrictions were met prior to opening.

At the moment we have to ask that you call Andrew on 885800 to reserve a seat at the service.

Please phone after 9.30am and before 8.00pm. Should Andrew be unavailable please leave a message and he will return your call.

30	May	East Calder Church	11.15	am
6	June	Kirknewton Church	9.45	am
13	June	East Calder Church	11.15	am
20	June	Kirknewton Church	9.45	am
27	June	East Calder Church	11.15	am

Extract from Session Minutes of 23rd February, 23rd March and 20th April

Finance report and approval of 2020 Accounts.

Before looking at the Annual Report and Accounts, Robert [REDACTED] thanked Sheila [REDACTED] for her management and control of our church finances during 2020 (a year like we have never seen before). Robert also added his own personal thanks to Sheila for her help and support during handover.

Robert [REDACTED] recorded his thanks to everyone who helped with the many aspects of church finances throughout the year, before extending a massive 'thank you' to everyone who had given during the year.

The Finance Review shows Income of £111,335, Payments of £93,497 giving a Surplus of £17,838. He noted that regular giving reached 91% of our projected income. Considering the year, this was a great achievement and as trustees we need to record our thanks and appreciation.

Andrew Coutts gave thanks to all the groups for their reports and noted that there is still a lot going on despite the pandemic. Thanks were given to Alistair Cowper for continuing to encourage and lead us in being a church without walls. The Chairman commented on God's goodness to us allowing us to finish the year with a surplus. The Chairman will write to Sheila [REDACTED] thanking her for her hard work in producing the accounts for the year.

Reopening Our Buildings.

Session agreed that we will reopen our sanctuaries for public worship on 23rd May. Our halls will remain closed for now. Initially there will only be one service per Sunday alternating between our two buildings starting with Kirknewton on 23rd May. In preparation to open, initial thorough cleans of the buildings are arranged for 26th April at East Calder and for 28th April at Kirknewton.

Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator.

Session formally appointed Jenny [REDACTED] who had agreed to take on this role. Session thanked Jenny for taking on this important role.

Recognising Long Service.

There was a short discussion on how in general we should recognise long service other than as an elder. Those who serve our church are not looking for public recognition so we will continue as is to quietly encourage as opportunity arises and to give general thanks at both the ASM and in the Annual Report. Those who serve will know that the thanks are aimed at them.

Minister's Report.

3rd year anniversary on Sunday past (21st March). Thanks to the session.

Health - GP confirmed post Covid fatigue (long Covid) - trying not to let this hold me back but some days it's hard!

Worship - this Sunday (28th March) will see us complete one whole year online averaging 132 views per Sunday morning service. We will continue online certainly for the foreseeable future.

Marriage Preparation course ongoing with two couples.

The Listening Project update - one regular Walk and Talk request; training of volunteers - 4 of the 7 have now completed the Listen Well Virtual workshops; recruitment of coordinator not yet started.

Reuse and Thrive update - building good community, lots of community interest, shop opens 29th April for three days a week.

News from Presbytery.

Presbytery met on 2nd March 2021 and the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Dr Martin Fair, as part of his online visit to the Presbytery of West Lothian, was invited to address Presbytery.

Dr Fair focused on four words beginning with 'S':

SAVIOUR - the need for our primary focus to be Jesus our Saviour and not the survival of the Church of Scotland as an institution.

SACRED - the need to provide sacred space, which is of interest to many, especially young people, who are not particularly interested in many traditional church activities.

SERVICE - the importance of caring and serving, as he had witnessed in his online visit to the Bridge Community Project; the church needs to be in the front line of those who care – "People won't care about what we know until they know that we care."

SMALL - conscious that the Church of Scotland is becoming smaller, but there are positives in small groups, fostering close Christian fellowship, accountability to one another, service and evangelism.

Dr Fair encouraged the Presbytery to go forward boldly and confidently, and assured Presbytery of the greetings of the General Assembly to the church in West Lothian.

Presbytery Reform

Further to previous meetings, Presbytery appointed Derek Henderson, Gordon Jamieson, Lynne McEwen, Darren Philip and Julia Wiley to serve on the Steering Group as the representatives of the Presbytery of West Lothian.

Christian Aid.

This will be done online this year. Mention of how to donate will be made at the appropriate services in May.

Tesco Bags of Help.

We have received £1,000 which will be used to develop a public space in front of the East Calder Hall.

Easter Services.

Session expressed thanks and grateful appreciation to all who participated in and made possible the services during Holy Week.

Charities to be supported in the coming year.

Session decided on some charities to support in June 2020; but, due to the Covid pandemic we were unable to action anything. Session decided to go again with last year's decision and support:

Compassion UK Christian Child Development (SC045059), Vine Trust (SC017386), The School Bank West Lothian (SC046483) and CrossReach (SC011353).

Session further agreed that how to donate to the West Lothian Foodbank would be advertised on the online services.

Church Officer at Kirknewton.

Kenneth [REDACTED] has resigned. Session thanked him for his service.

Andrew Coutts,
Session Clerk.



January 21st this year, saw the start of our first online Alpha Course with 16 people signed into the planned Zoom session. Some 11 Thursday evening sessions and a Saturday morning later, the course finished, with all 16 making it to the end.

The videos and talks contained within the Alpha Film Series were much enjoyed by all. While the 'in person' enjoyment of the normal Alpha course was missing, the technology was a good substitute for the course. Who knows, as restrictions begin to ease and we all get back to meeting together, perhaps we will be able to run another Alpha course soon when we can join again in person.

Thank You

Alex and I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, thoughts, prayers and best wishes that we have received on our recent move to Cumbria, we have been truly touched. We have settled in well despite the pandemic.

I hope that when we can travel and church's reopen fully that I can make a visit with cake to say a proper goodbye. Until then stay safe.

God bless

Rosemary and Alex

The story behind the HYMN

PP June '21

'Lord, for the years'.

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.*

*Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.*

*Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.*

*Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

By Timothy Dudley Smith



This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: “I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I’m thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn’t find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!”

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children’s Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul’s Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius’s *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – ‘Lord for the years’ was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a ‘hit’ in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God ‘for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way’...

And so indeed the ‘extra’ verse added for the Queen has also held true:

**Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

Although we are unable to meet together at this time there are many ways for us to keep in touch. Some of the following may be of interest to you.



Prayer Meeting

Men's Group Meeting



House Group Meetings

Boys' Brigade



'Church Chat' on What's App
'KNEC Messaging' on Messenger

Website: www.knec4jesus.org.uk to access online services.

CONTACT DETAILS

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