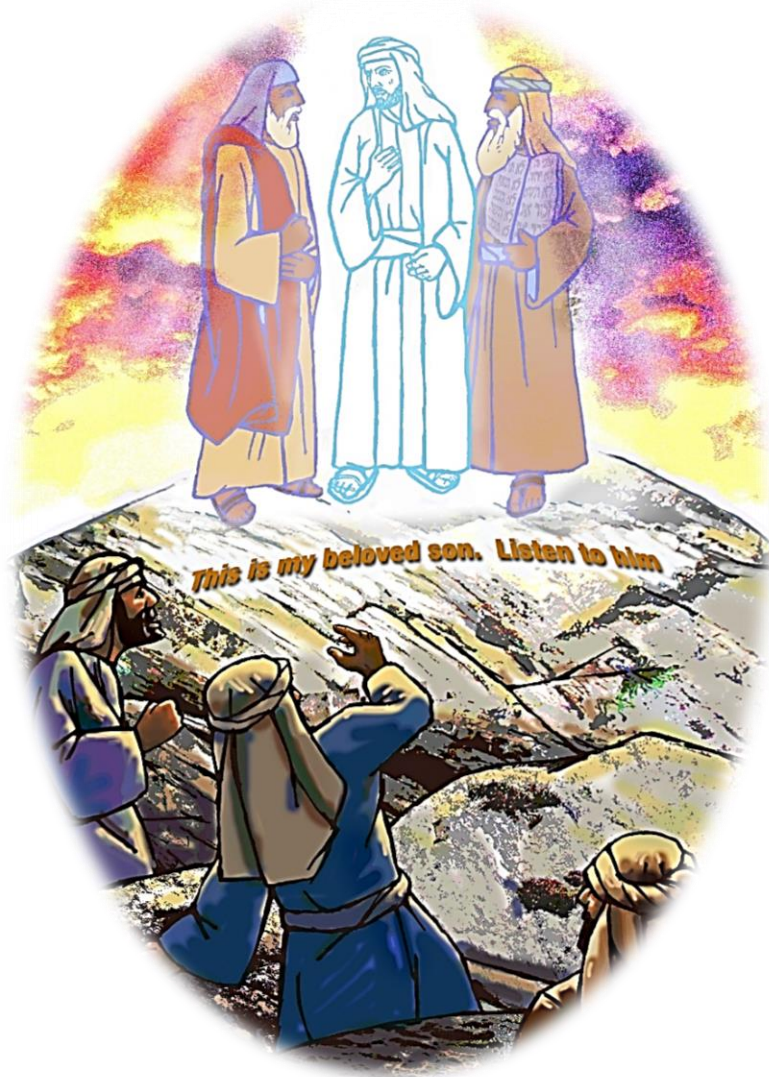


KNEC NEWS



March 2017



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



This month includes:

Spring Fayre

Vacancy News

The Break

Annual Stated Meeting

Boys' Brigade

View from the Pew

Holiday Club

Mirror, mirror on the Wall

WILLLOL' WILLLOL OU FUG M911

How do you see yourself this Lent?

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the baker's I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front of the shop. On the eighth time around, there it was!'

Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let us use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in three key areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep the Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter?



What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit ourselves to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence!

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Pastoral Visits

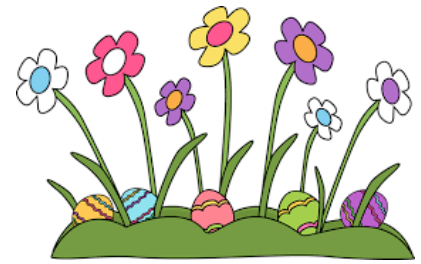
Please advise Brenda, Ken, the Session Clerk, or your Elder of anyone known to you who is ill, either at home or in hospital, and who would welcome a visit.

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.

REMINDER!

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 and seeing you on 18th at 10.00am!

A BIT OF HISTORY

Early in the New Year, the Session Clerk received a communication from a lady living in Kent stating that when her father, Alexander Whitelaw, died recently aged 92 years in his possessions she found a booklet entitled “East Calder Church Centenary (1886 – 1986)”.

Therein was a reference to the fact that her father had gifted a reading lectern to the Church on 2nd May 1973 in memory of his mother Margaret (Meg) Whitelaw. Could she visit the Church?

It was fairly quickly learned that the Whitelaw family had lived in Langton Road and some of our members remembered them well even buying chips from the house near the school entry. Now to identify the lectern!!

A session minute of 1972 showed that Alexander Whitelaw had offered the Minister at the time, Mr Mechie, £50.00 to purchase a “reading desk” in memory of his mother. A member of the congregation remembered Mr Mechie asking him to make a reading lectern to match the Baptismal Font at East Calder which had been gifted from Ratho and Wilkieston Church in 1970.

The lady did visit, saw the lectern and, most touching, was able to visit with her second cousin, who lives across from the Church.

The booklet referred to was issued by the Centenary Committee, compiled and researched by Tom Burgess and James Miller. Copies were available at that time.

VACANCY NEWS

At the Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday 12th February a Nominating Committee was elected.

Those on the Nominating Committee would appreciate the congregation's prayers as they seek our new minister.

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.

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 sent it preferably by email using the dedicated address:
knecnews@btinternet.com
The deadline for April's Magazine will be **Sunday 26th March.**

If you would like to receive KNEW News by email please send your email address to:
knecnews@btinternet.com

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**'.

The Parish Profile and copies of KNEC News are also on the website.

Have a look!

The Break

The Break, our midweek informal service of praise, worship and fellowship will take place on Thursday 2nd March in East Calder Church Prayer Room at 12.30pm (after the Lunch Club).

The topic on 2nd March will be "*Only By Grace*".

Dates till June are:

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.

Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual Stated Meeting of Kirknewton and East Calder Church will take place on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm in East Calder Church hall. This is an opportunity for everyone to review the life of our congregation during 2016. The Treasurer, on behalf of the Trustees, will present the Annual Report and Accounts (copies will be available beforehand) and there will be another couple of reports. Elections to the Congregational Board will also take place if required. This is your chance to ask any questions regarding the life of our church. At the close of the business part of the evening, which will not be prolonged, there will be an opportunity for fellowship over a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Activities Weekend

The Battalion's activities residential weekend at Carronvale is being held between 24th and 26th February. The programme includes worship, sports, indoor and outdoor activities, computer games and lots more. Three of our Boys are going to Carronvale and looks like they're in for an adventurous weekend.

Junior Section Spiritual Competition - The Lost Sheep



This year, the challenge for the Boys is to use things from the BB cupboard to tell the story of a parable and to convey its meaning. We have decided to do a Powerpoint presentation regarding the lost sheep. One or two items had to be 'planted' in the cupboard but we've made the

sheep and the shepherd and over the next few weeks we'll finalise the presentation.

We'll let you know how we get on!

Anchor Boys - Softplay

To celebrate West Lothian Battalion's 50th birthday, the Anchor Boys have an opportunity to go to the Yo-Yo Softplay in Bathgate on 10th March. We're all looking forward to having some fun (leaders as well!)

Spring Fayre

The BB will have a stall for the Boys' Brigade (Church of Scotland) World Mission Fund (Scottish Charity No. SC016662) at the Church's Spring Fayre. This year the Project is *CCTV - Climate Conscious Total Village*. In Bangladesh, many people at village level are aware of climate change but do not know that they can help reduce the effects or find new ways of ensuring good harvest. The Church of Bangladesh is beginning a new project to help people learn more about how to make a difference in their own lives.



This is going to happen in Thanarbaid village, Tangail District where four young people are going to be trained to work as a Climate Conscious Brigade.

Look out for our stall and you may smell the aroma!! Chocolate fountain and candy floss!!



View from the Pew

Do you have an 'attitude' problem? That word has come to mean thinking too much of ourselves, blind to the truth because we see everything through the prism of our own prejudices. But, in February's sermons, Brenda, Jaco and Ken made us think again about this word.

Brenda preached from Revelation – that disturbing section about being lukewarm – wishy-washy, we might say – about our faith. She gave us an increasingly depressing list of similes for lukewarm: indifferent . . . uninterested . . . lackadaisical . . . passionless . . . If our attitude to God is any of these, we are in big trouble! Revelation tells us that God will spit us from his mouth: we make God sick! And our Christian witness to others will have only half-hearted results at best; at worst, a negative impact, repelling people from our apathetic faith.

Brenda challenged us to consider the impression we want to give to any potential new minister. Can we hope to attract a dynamic person, whose faith is aflame, if our own spiritual temperature is tepid?

A week later, Jaco talked about our attitude to happiness. Human beings are programmed for the pursuit of happiness: it is even enshrined in the American Constitution as an unalienable right, alongside life and liberty. Like the Scarlet Pimpernel, we seek it here, we seek it there, we seek it everywhere! But finding it, recognising and appreciating it, requires wisdom of a kind not naturally found in human beings. So, we have a Catch 22 situation: we can't be human without seeking happiness but we can't find it because we are human.

The only way out is to seek not happiness but wisdom: the wisdom of experience through the lessons of history and the counsel of wise people; and the wisdom of ages which we find uniquely in The Bible, which distils the experiences of and – even better – the revelation given by God to some 400 people over many centuries. It requires an attitude shift from chasing after satisfaction, worldly wealth and pleasure to seeking wisdom, understanding and peace.

On the third Sunday in February, Ken focused on our attitude to power. He cited historical and present-day examples of people succumbing to the temptations that come with it. He also cited examples of people who use it lightly and humbly, who neither let it corrode their character nor use it corruptly.

Ken asserted that, however great anyone's power is, however well or badly used, it is as nothing compared with the power of God. We do well to remember it and stand in awe. And yet, Jesus never used this power inappropriately whilst on earth. He was often taunted to do so – by men and by the devil – but he had complete clarity about what kind of kingdom his power belonged to. He showed us how to remain focused and faithful. Not lukewarm but utterly committed; not seeking worldly happiness but utterly content; not seduced by status or celebrity but utterly clear about where the real power-base lies.

Focused and faithful: what a wonderful attitude!



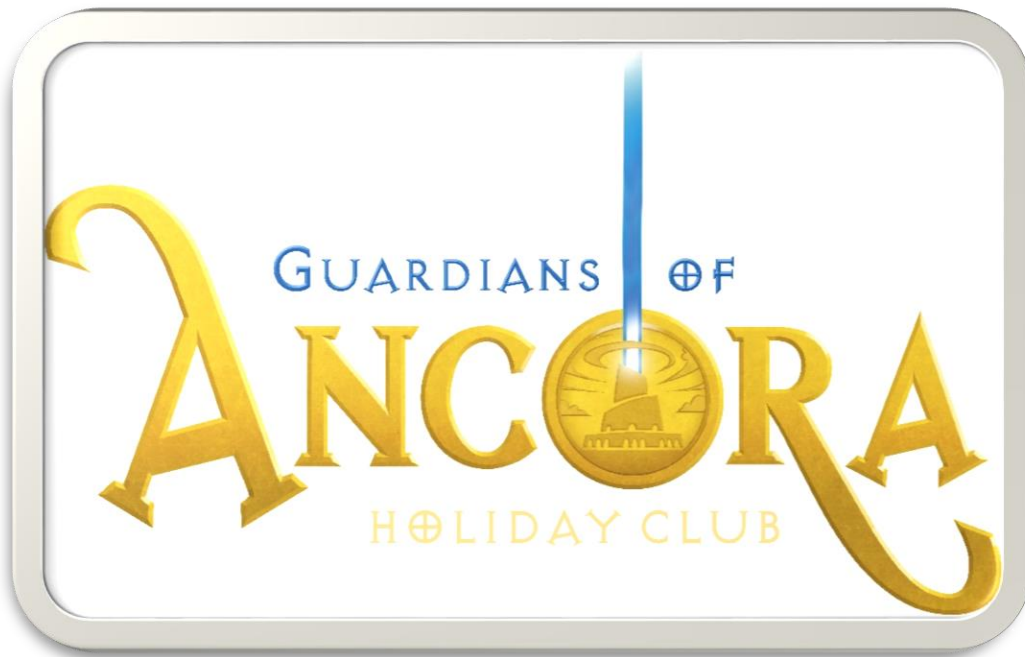
Rob Parsons has travelled the world meeting people from all walks of life and from cultures as diverse as New York and Borneo. He has spoken to governments, companies and over a million individuals.

At ***The Wisdom House – Live*** you get the chance to spend an evening with Rob as he unpacks some of the life lessons he has learnt from old and young alike, plus a few he has learnt the hard way! Bring your friends and neighbours to this popular event.

With inspiring teaching, stories to touch your heart and time to laugh together, any minute of this evening could change your life...*forever*.

Rob Parsons is coming to the Central Hall, 2 West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP on Tuesday 21 March from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Tickets for this evening cost £6 each or £5 when you buy 4 or more.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wisdomhouselive.



Plans are now well in hand for this year's **HOLIDAY CLUB**

“GUARDIANS OF **ANCORA**”

which will run from 7th – 11th August in East Calder Church Hall.

The task of the Guardians (the children at the club) will be to find a lost story-treasure, return it to the Hall of Memory and explore the story that it represents.

As the Hall fills up, the Guardians will discover how each story fits together to reveal more about who Jesus is and how they might develop their own relationship with him.

Watch out for further details!

COME, LISTEN, AND OBEY!

Are you serious about God? If so, Jesus says come, listen and obey. If not - problems! It's about good foundations. If you build on Bible truth your foundations will be solid. If not, when tough times come, you will just be washed away. What kind of a house are you building?
Read more in Luke 6: 46-end.



1
She was sensible - she came, she listened and she obeyed!



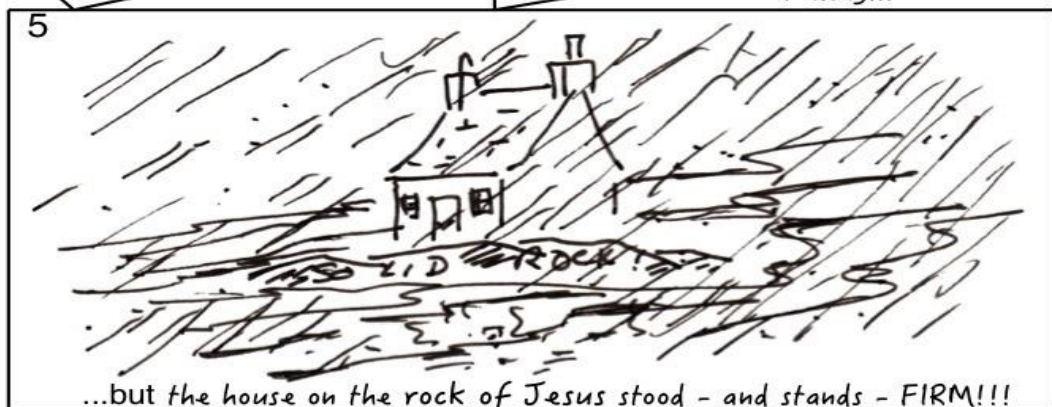
2
Solid! Built on the rock!



3
Not solid!



4
... the storm washed it away...



5
...but the house on the rock of Jesus stood - and stands - FIRM!!!

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 East Calder Church Hall

CHURCH CALENDAR

(See Organisations' meeting times on page 17)

Wednesday	1 st Mar	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	2 nd Mar	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	3 rd Mar	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	5 th Mar	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	6 th Mar	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	7 th Mar	The Guild – Update on The HIV Project East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	8 th Mar	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Friday	10 th Mar	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	12 th Mar	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	13 th Mar	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	14 th Mar	ASM - East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	15 th Mar	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	16 th Mar	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am
Friday	17 th Mar	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Saturday	18 th Mar	Spring Fayre East Calder Church Hall 10.00am
Sunday	19 th Mar	Morning Worship Service Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	20 th Mar	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	21 st Mar	The Guild – Bible Study with Gordon Pennykid East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	22 nd Mar	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Friday	24 th Mar	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	26 th Mar	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 Mar	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	28 th Mar	Session Meeting East Calder Church Hall 7.15pm The Guild Spring Rally & AGM Armadale Parish Church 7.30pm with The Salvation Army Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	29 th Mar	Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	30 th Mar	Forget-me-not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon
Friday	31 st Mar	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm