

KNEC NEWS



March 2020



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



This month includes:

From the Manse

Boys' Brigade

News from Session

Guild

Holy Week Services

The Break

Spring Fayre

House Groups

In Focus

A Touching Place

By the time you read this I suspect Ash Wednesday will have passed and we will be well into the season of Lent, preparing for and anticipating another Easter.

The early Christians didn't celebrate Lent as such. Lent was introduced after the Council of Nicaea in 325AD as a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting marking the six weeks up to Good Friday.

Many churches celebrated Ash Wednesday by marking the sign of the cross on the forehead as a sign of people's repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The ash was made from the burnt remains of the previous year's palm crosses used on Palm Sunday. The words, 'from dust you came and to dust you will return; repent and believe the Good News' were often used when the sign of the cross was made on the forehead.

The Presbyterian church hasn't always embraced such rituals but there can be something deeply meaningful in small acts of human touch.

Jesus wasn't slow to use touch in his life ministry. Remember how often in the Bible we read that Jesus stretched out his hand to heal, to lift up, to anoint, to open blind eyes, to unstop deaf ears or to simply encourage. And there was the time when, with many people crowding round him, he was able to feel the touch of a bleeding woman and stop and make time for her and heal her and commend her faith. One touch from the King changed everything.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when Jesus arrived in a certain place, the "people brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed" (Matthew 14:35-6).



Jesus came to be the touching place of life and love in a world often starved of such a touch. This cost him his life. In obedience he let it go. He laid it down and God raised him to new life. The touch of Christ is now ours to receive and ours to give.

In our coming and in our going, may we stumble upon the touching places of Christ. In our ministry together, may we create Christ filled touching places.

*Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the One who meets us here.*

*To the lost Christ shows His face;
to the unloved He gives His embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ, makes, with His friends, a touching place.*
(John L. Bell)

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.

Funerals

Ms Elizabeth Williams on November 27th at West Lothian Crematorium

Mr Roy McCullough on December 16th at West Lothian Crematorium

Mrs Margot Miller on December 31st in Kirknewton Church

Mrs Olive MacKenzie on January 21st in Kirk of Calder

Mrs Margaret Jenkins on January 24th at West Lothian Crematorium



Our new Treasurer



After almost 4 years of taking care of the Church's finances, [REDACTED] has stepped back from the treasurer's role. We are delighted that [REDACTED] has agreed to take over from [REDACTED]. Many thanks to [REDACTED] for her total commitment to the financial work of the Church over this period and we are grateful to [REDACTED] for readily accepting the financial challenge.

If you have any questions relating to Church finances, please contact [REDACTED] and she will be pleased to help.

Since the last KNEC News we've had a busy time.

As a treat for Christmas, we had a superb night for the Anchor Boys and Junior Section with Cool Creatures. We learnt quite a bit about the animals and it's great to be able to handle them.

Photo of Mrs G being very brave (although did not see her with the snake!!!)



There was a good turnout for our Carol Service on 13th December. The Boys did all the readings and many thanks to everyone who came along to support the Boys.



Another THANK YOU to everyone who used our Christmas Post service. We raised £279.90 and this was added to the proceeds from the Burns Supper in January and we sent £600 to Marie Curie.

A few photos from the Burns Supper. The 'Calm before the Storm', 'Getting ready for the Tie-Breaker', 'Presentation of the Mike Blackwood Trophy' and the grand finale – 'Auld Lang Syne'. For the first time we had five teams in a tie-breaker and another two teams just one point behind. Congratulation to Team – 'Hamish the Haggis' who won the Mike Blackwood Trophy.

We hope everyone enjoyed the evening - the speeches by the Boys and the haggis, neeps and tatties!!



What do we do on an ordinary evening? Not many ordinary evenings!! On 14th February we made cookies to take home for Valentine's Day. Supposed to be heart shaped so a little imagination required!!! Wonder how you mix the dough – see bottom

left – hit it with a spoon!! The Boys also made a special card for their Valentines made with paper hearts. How many Mums received them?



To see what the Boys get up to why not follow us on Facebook - look for [1st East Calder Boys' Brigade](#) and send a friend's request.

Extract from Session Minutes of 26th November 2019 and 28th January 2020

Safeguarding

Churches are now required to ask all new workers who have access to children and/or protected adults to apply for a Basic Disclosure check from Disclosure Scotland. This applies to new post holders only.

The Government has determined that the PVG Certificate will no longer be part of a lifetime membership scheme. This will mean that voluntary (and paid) workers doing regulated work in the Church, will be required to renew/update their Certificate every 5 years. We are awaiting further guidance around the implementation of this change in practice.

A reminder that safeguarding training (in addition to a PVG Certificate) is mandatory for all who are working with children and/or protected adults.

Listening Project

A Feasibility Study funded by Go for It was undertaken last year and the decision taken to run a Pilot having applied for funding again from Go for It. The Pilot will employ 1 part-time person and will have 2 to 3 fully trained listeners. There is a Management Group comprising at present only two people. The Group would like more people with management skills to join. Applications should be addressed to the Moderator. The Partnership Centre is to be used as opposed to the Church. A General Listening Skills course has been arranged for 4th April and is open to anybody to attend. To be an accredited listener on the Pilot one must attend a further 2 day course and join the PVG Scheme. Mid Calder Church has been invited to join us on this project.

Community Social Enterprise (Reuse and Thrive)

We are awaiting a decision on the charitable status. Policies and job descriptions have been drawn up. Need now to sign people up to participate which the team [REDACTED] will try to do. There may be a further slight delay due to the premises planned to be used suffering some water ingress.

Church Health Check

[REDACTED] introduced the results and presented everybody with a paper copy. Take these away and come prepared in March to discuss what we

need to do. Session agreed that in the meantime the results would remain confidential within Session.

ECO Congregation

██████████ and 3 others are interested in pursuing this topic. ██████████ suggested that we should not apply to become an Eco Congregation just yet. Rather the group would work through the checklist and come up with short, medium and long term aims. Session agreed with this suggestion.

Boys' Brigade

An intimation and a letter to all parents who have boys in Boys' Brigade have been circulated setting out the situation and seeking interest in assisting. There has been no response so far. One of the remaining existing leaders has indicated interest in taking on the role of Captain. The other leaders are content to continue their involvement. Keep praying for inspiration and a solution.

Minister's Report

2 Session meetings at Whitburn South as Interim Moderator. Please pray for a short vacancy.

Christmas Services - Manse Court, EnerJ Nativity, Community Carols, Christmas Eve services and torchlight.

Bereavement service – 34 candles lit.

West Calder High School - Assembly and concert reflection; met new acting Head Teacher.

Services at Kirknewton Primary School and East Calder Primary School.

Presbytery Buildings Group Survey

More data on our use of buildings requested to be fed into the Presbytery Plan.

Boys' Brigade Annual Quiz and Burns' Supper

There were 90 people in attendance with a large percentage of non-church members. This was a great outreach. Session thanked ██████████ and the other officers for arranging once again a great evening.

██████████
Session Clerk



GO FOR IT
Funding Change in Church and Community

listenWell
listening training for wellbeing

Training Opportunity

Would you like to train as a good listener and help offer a listening service in our community?

Saturday 4 April 10am-4pm
East Calder Church

(Tea and coffee provided. Free *Get Listening* training provided by Listen Well Scotland. For more details and to sign up please contact the number below or email

acowper@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity No. SC006973 Tel. No. 01506 357083 07791 524504



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

The deadline for June's Magazine will be **Friday 22nd May**.



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**.

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.

Following our winter break The Guild resumes meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Church Hall in East Calder at 7.30pm.

On March 3rd we welcome [REDACTED] from West Lothian Council; the topic will be Recycling.



All Guild meetings are open so if you have an interest in any of our topics please feel free to come along. A warm welcome awaits.

WE ARE GOING ON A BIG ADVENTURE



this year's Holiday Club will run from 3rd – 7th August in East Calder Church Hall when we will take an imaginary journey through Europe.

As we travel, we will uncover what happened during Jesus' final week with his friends and explore what his death and resurrection mean to people everywhere.

We already have several volunteers and if you would like to be involved with the running of the Holiday Club please contact:



A meeting of all volunteers will be held in East Calder Church Hall on Thursday 2nd April at 7.30pm.



| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Apr 5 th | Palm Sunday Services | Both Churches |
| Apr 6 th , 7 th & 8 th | Holy Week Services | East Calder 7.30 pm |
| Apr 9 th | Manse Court Maundy Thursday Service | The Lounge 11.00am Kirknewton 7.30pm |
| Apr 10 th | Good Friday Service | East Calder 7.30 pm |
| Apr 12 st | Easter Day Services | Both Churches |

THE BREAK

The Break continues to be a popular opportunity to meet in fellowship for a short time of worship, prayer and thanksgiving. Meeting in the Prayer Room on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 12.30pm for 30 minutes, following the Lunch Club.

Our theme for this Church year being 'The Parables of Jesus'. Throughout the year, each meeting consists of a couple of worship songs, prayer and a short reflection led by a member of our fellowship (and a couple of guests Rev Ken MacKay will lead on March 5th and Rev John Povey on May 21st).

Please check the weekly intimations for who will be leading and the parable they will reflect upon. Come and join us and share in fellowship, all welcome.





Spring Fayre – Saturday 21st 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.



We are also looking for foil covered mini eggs, bunnies, Easter sweets - these will be gift wrapped with Easter eggs and sold on the day.

Please hand mugs and eggs to any committee member from now until 15th March

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?

Could you donate **good quality** Bric-a brac, toys, books, dvds?

Can you help on a stall?

Will you tell others about the Fayre and encourage them to come along?

Will you encourage children you know to decorate an Easter Bonnet/hat or make one for yourself?



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 –

The hall kitchen will be open on Friday 20th March from 6.30pm until 9.00pm and we would be pleased to receive any donations that evening. If you are unable to bring them to the hall yourself please contact a member of the committee and we can arrange to uplift them.

We look forward to hearing from you!



This midweek opportunity for bible study, prayer and sharing in an informal and welcoming environment (starting with a cuppa, biscuit and chat) is an important part of fellowship within the life and work of our Church.

Last term (finishing in December), the group progressed their study of the growth of the early Church and Paul's first missionary voyage (focussing on Acts chapters 9 to 15).

After the Christmas break, term 2 continued to consider the early Church with the groups studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. So far this has created lots of discussing and sharing.

Doors Open - All welcome.



In Focus offers an opportunity to meet with others for informal Sunday evening worship in The Church Hall, East Calder (6.30pm). A time to focus on Jesus and enjoy his presence. All are welcome.

Looking at this life-path of ours, speakers share and reflect on issues we might encounter on the journey, explained through a variety of themes. This might involve looking into Proverbs to help us understand God's wisdom for our daily lives; or through caring for others; or working in the community. Also, there will be an opportunity to gain insight into other faith beliefs; learn about the Herald's Trust and one evening share Communion together. Songs of Praise nights mark the end of each term.

In Focus stops for Easter on 5th April inclusive, and resumes on 26th April through to 14th June, inclusive, which then signals time to stop and enjoy the summer break.

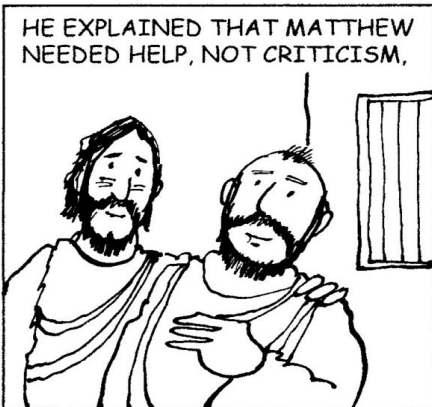
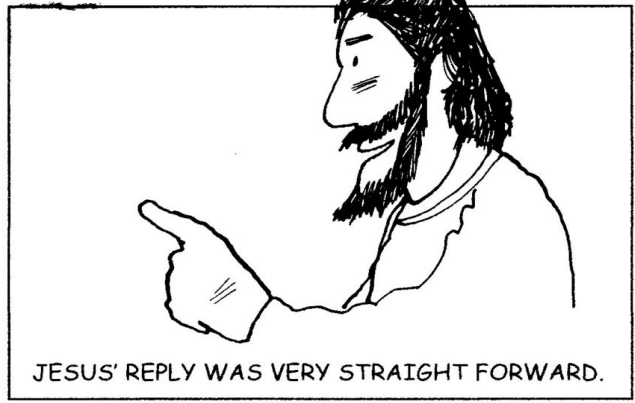
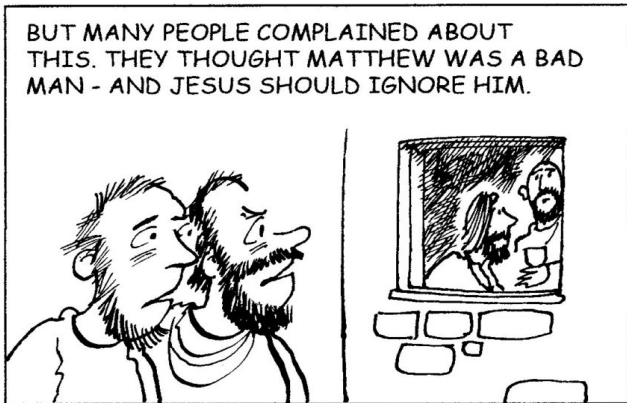
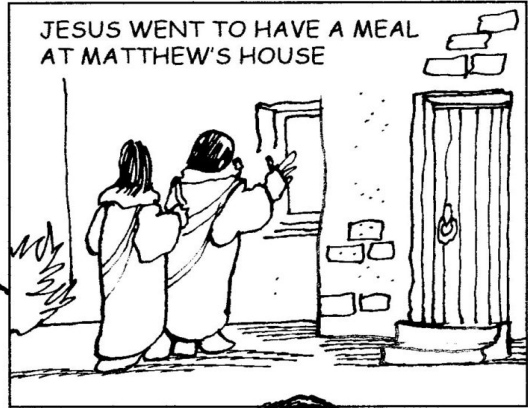
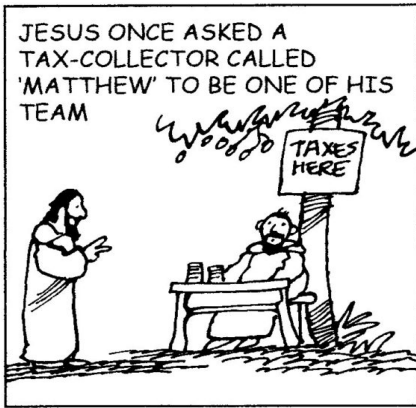
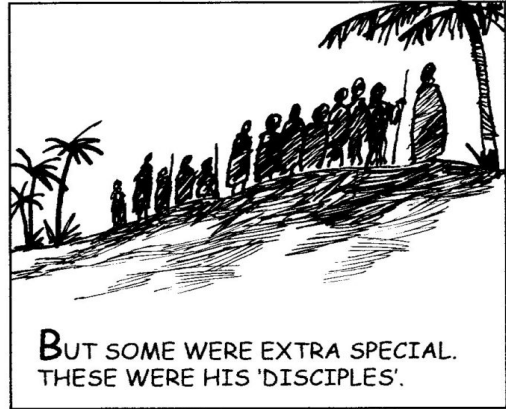
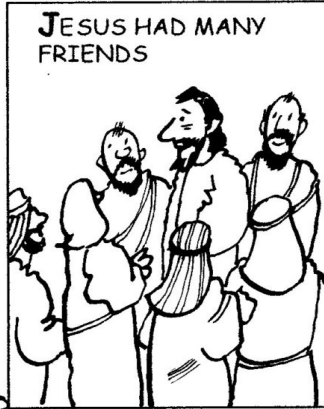
Please think about coming along. For more information on anything relating to In Focus, or if anyone needs a lift, please contact

In Focus Planning Team



Community Social Enterprise
*shop opening soon; volunteers
wanted*

The Doctor and the Patient



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 |
| Youth Church | | | | Sundays: 11.15am East Calder Church S1 upwards |

