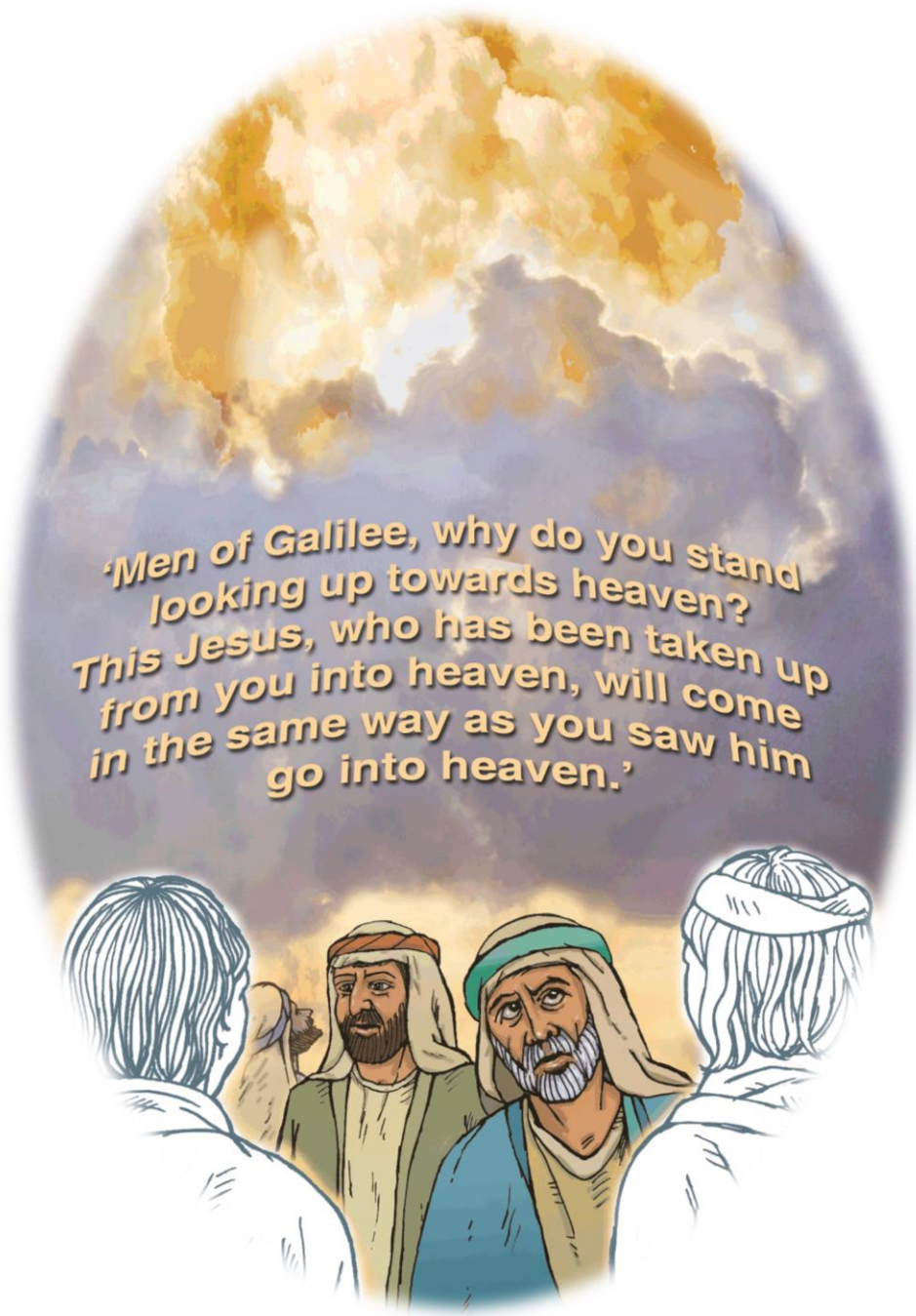


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MAY 2017



Kirkcaldy and East Fife Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity No: SC006973



This month includes:

In Focus

Vocations Conference

Alpha Course

House Groups

View from the Pew

The Break

Holiday Club

Kids' Korner



A Strange Farewell

One of the most extraordinary passages in the Bible tells the story of Christ's goodbye, which we call the Ascension:

"While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after worshipping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God."

It was the last time the apostles would see Jesus. They had experienced the utter catastrophe of His death, followed within days by the triumph of His resurrection. Later, He left them. Instead of the sadness we might expect after His final farewell, they were exuberant and went back to Jerusalem. What an extraordinary reaction. Jesus had gone, Jerusalem was fraught with danger, yet they seemed brimful with confidence.

Ringling in their ears was His repeated teaching about the Kingdom of God and the commission to preach forgiveness of sins throughout the world, beginning at Jerusalem. They were to wait there until they were "clothed with power from on high."

Far from feeling abandoned, they were full of hope and eager to be equipped for their vocation. They and the Christian community would represent Christ on earth, as He represented them in heaven, “seated at the right hand of the Father”, in the words of the Creed.

All this is temporary. God has not planned the world to remain in its present state in perpetuity. Our particular era may seem to be particularly grim, but it is but one strand in human history and we are no more distinctive than any other generation. Although the world as it is seems to be lasting a long time, we are living in what the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews calls ‘the final age’. We are to anticipate a finale, when Christ’s rule will be apparent to all. There’s an Old Testament proverb which is particularly apt: “Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Isn’t that exactly what we hope for every time we pray for God’s will to be done on earth, as in heaven?

The Archbishop of Canterbury and others are prompting us to join in a global ‘wave of prayer’ between Ascension and Pentecost (25 May to 4 June), concentrating on “Your Kingdom Come”. That will make us usurpers, praying for God’s Kingdom to displace all others! It will also make us one with Christ.

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.

NEWS FROM SESSION

August Joint Services at East Calder. Session has decided to alter the starting time for these services to 11.15am i.e. the normal service time at East Calder. For the avoidance of doubt, the starting time of the July joint services at Kirknewton will remain at 9.45am i.e. the normal service time at Kirknewton.

Our Vision. You will remember that I reported to you over the past 2 years news of various forums in which Session gathered data from various stakeholders (e.g. you the congregation, the elders, the community) with a view to ascertaining whether or not we were being true to our vision both as a Parish Church and as a church of our people and also to ascertain whether these stakeholders were content with how our church was running.

Session has now finished analysing this data and the time has come for Session to consider what actions we need or want to take. There were no trends obvious in the data collected so there are no issues that scream out for immediate attention.

However, there are some very interesting comments and ideas which do merit further consideration. That is what Session will do over the next few months.

I shall, of course, keep you appropriately informed.

Session Clerk

I N FOCUS Programme: Term 3

In Focus resumes on 30th April 2017. All welcome to come along and share a time of worship, thanksgiving and fellowship each Sunday evening at 6.30pm in East Calder Church Hall.

The Church is made up of people with different skills, abilities and backgrounds who believe in Jesus as Lord and are committed to serving and obeying Him. Acknowledging the gifts God has bestowed on them is demonstrated through members of the fellowship, willingly sharing in Church activities. In evening worship context, reflecting meaningfully on hymn "In Christ Alone", sharing experiences of God working in real life situations, remembering favourite hymns from childhood, are just some ways our people are serving God and his Church.

The programme for next term is as follows: -

- 30 April:** Memories of favourite hymns from childhood;
- 7 May:** A reflection on words of the hymn "In Christ Alone" verse 4 lines 1 - 4;
- 14 May:** The function of Street Pastors and their social responsibility role;
- 21 May:** In Focus has been cancelled. An alternative option is to attend worship in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh to mark start of the General Assembly. Transport can be provided for those wishing to attend.
- 28 May:** Memories of favourite hymns from childhood;
- 4 June:** Evening Communion;
- 11 June:** A reflection on words of the hymn "In Christ Alone" verse 4 lines 5 - 8. Speaker to be confirmed;
- 18 June:** Term 3 concludes with 'Summer Songs of Praise'.

Whether you can come along every week or just now and again, it would be nice to see you.

Want to serve God?



The Ministries Council wants to find more Church members who may be inspired by those who have already said “Is it me, Lord?” and willing to ask that question of themselves.

IS IT YOU?

This Conference is a vital and useful first step for everyone sensing a calling.

To be held at The Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline on Saturday 17th June 2017.

To register please contact:

Ministries Council
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN

Tel: 0131 225 5722 ext 2233

Email: vocation@churchofscotland.org.uk



Alpha Course

The Alpha Course which started on Wednesday 18th January reached its conclusion on Wednesday 29th March.

This course was offered to any member of the congregation who wished to explore the different aspects of his/her faith.

Twenty members accepted the invitation. The numbers held up right to the last meeting. Most of those attending had already completed an Alpha Course - some more than one! We had watched the video before. Could we learn any more?

- all came to listen;
- some were able to voice their thoughts; and
- we were treated as individuals.

The success of this Course was due in no small measure to the leader, who was appointed by the Kirk Session, namely, Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier, our Interim Moderator.

After viewing a section of the video, Jaco encouraged us to share our thoughts in small groups and then bring any points of particular interest back to the whole group.

Could we share our doubts, our fears, our worries, our misunderstandings relevant to each topic? Jaco shared in some of the uncertainties we all have, giving confidence to those who could open up to sharing.

His earthly stories with a heavenly meaning cleared up many a doubt, an anxiety, muddled thinking or even wrong interpretations.

As we finished the course;

- we all had listened;
- some surprised themselves by being confident enough to speak; and
- all did learn.

Our faith is still a work in progress but this course has helped us on our way.

When another invitation to join an Alpha Course is offered, could it be for you?



Following the conclusion of 'Alpha', House Groups resume on 26th April at 7.30pm.

This term, April to June, we will look at Ephesians, namely Paul's letter to believers in Ephesus.

House Groups give people the opportunity to meet in fellowship, in a homely environment, to read selected Bible passages, discuss and learn from one another what the meaning and relevance was then, when written, but also how pertinent it is to our lives today. We don't have all the answers but a willingness to take part and learn more about our faith. God reveals to us what we need to know when we need to know it!

Wherever you are on your faith journey, should you wish to join these small groups and explore the challenges of the Bible, together with other seekers, you will be made very welcome.

View from the Pew



One of the interesting aspects of having two ministers, job-sharing our locum position during the vacancy, is the variety in style and approach.

Ken is a mine of information and, occasionally and entertainingly, of speculation. Had the disciples previously met Jesus and been already mulling over his call to 'Follow me - and become fishers of men', when they did just that? Would good husbands and fathers have simply got up and walked away from their lives and their responsibilities, without even saying goodbye, let alone putting in place adequate arrangements for their wives, children and elderly relatives? Had they reached their decision and been preparing for the moment of departure for some time? Or was this the work of the Holy Spirit, laying hold of these simple fishermen and transforming them in a trice as only He can do? If so, how did those wives and grannies cope? The Bible does not tell us; so we are free to speculate.

Ken is also a mine of interesting facts: did we know what 'synoptic' meant? Did we know that it is a word borrowed from meteorology (one of Ken's past lives!) where weather observations are taken from different angles at exactly the same time everywhere. Evidently a most effective way to enable forecasts. There are three *synoptic* gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke): the same incidents / events / teachings in Jesus' ministry are recorded from three different angles, by three different people who were all there witnessing them happen.

We never come away from Ken's sermons without having been made to think in a fresh way about old stories and scriptures.

If Ken is our mine, Brenda is our lighthouse, shining light in dark places, helping us to see clearly the precious gospel messages that are there in the bible, even ones we might miss because of over-familiarity. One such was the well-known story of the two thieves on the crosses either side of Jesus. One scorns the hope Jesus holds out; the other acknowledges that Jesus is the son of God: 'Remember me when you come into your Kingdom.'

As we know, Jesus accepts him, reassures him and forgives his sins by telling him he will be with Jesus in paradise. For all of us, said Brenda, who pray - and have prayed for years – into the void for loved ones, friends and family who will not acknowledge Jesus as Lord, this story is the ultimate comfort. It is never too late for someone to find Jesus and come to faith, even at – literally - the last gasp.

A message redolent of that wonderful *Ian White* song:

The cross is still there, even after all these years
Yes, the cross is still there; and it's calling to you
Calling to me, calling to everyone
To turn and believe.

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.

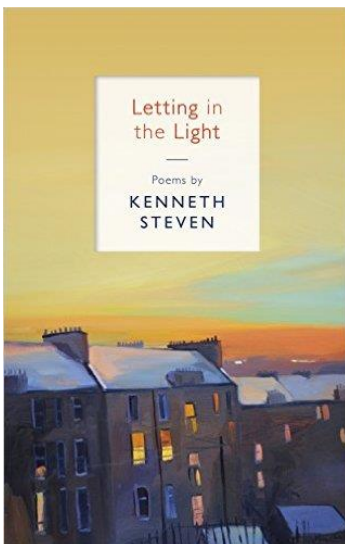
THE BREAK, our midweek informal service of praise, worship and fellowship will take place on Thursday 4th May in East Calder Church Prayer Room at 12:30pm (after the Lunch Club).

The topic on 4th May will be 'Temptation: a doorway to grace'.

(The last Break before summer will be on 1st June).

Why not go to the lunch club and then come along and join in fellowship at the Break.

All welcome.



Kenneth Steven will be the speaker at a day conference in Stirling on Saturday 13th May. It is the twice-yearly conference of the Scottish Fellowship of Christian Writers.

Kenneth is a well-known poet and novelist (and a Christian). In the morning, he will be speaking about and reading from his latest collection 'Letting in the Light'.

In the afternoon, he will lead an (optional) poetry workshop. A prose workshop will be led by the Scottish Crime Writer, Wendy H Jones.

The conference costs £7 for the day (bring own packed lunch).

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 pass it, preferably by email using the dedicated address:
knecnews@btinternet.com
The deadline for June's Magazine will be **Sunday 28th May**.

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!

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



Registration for this year's **HOLIDAY CLUB** will open during May.

Watch out for further information on the Church's web site knec4jesus.org.uk and in the intimation sheet.

Flyers will be distributed at the local schools so register early to guarantee your place!

Reminder to all helpers that our next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 1ST JUNE AT 7.30PM IN EAST CALDER CHURCH HALL.**



Dear Friends,

SCOTLAND UNITED IN PRAYER FOR PARLIAMENT

We again invite you to take part in this important initiative to gather Christians at Holyrood to pray alongside MSPs. The next event is on Tuesday 9th May 2017 6.00 - 7.30 pm, in Committee Room 1; Kate Forbes, recently elected MSP, is our host.

The aim of Scotland United in Prayer for Parliament (SUPP) is to pray for the MSPs, staff and relevant current issues in the heart of the Parliament. It is being spearheaded by a group of City Church Leaders and hosted by an MSP, with contributions from key Public Affairs groups with their finger on the pulse.

We normally plan to gather twice a year now: i.e. Spring and Autumn, so the following evening will be in November 2017.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO TRUSTED PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH CIRCLE

Due to both the space and security restrictions, we need to submit names in advance, on a 'first come, first served' basis. To avoid disappointment and secure your place, please email Anne Comrie now on info@supp.org.uk. Closing date is 5th May, 2017.

PLEASE INCLUDE your FULL NAME and CHURCH LINK

Participants need to arrive in the Reception Area for Registration and to collect their Visitor badge by 5.40p.m. latest. Please, also allow ten minutes to pass through the Security check.

Kind regards,
David Hewitt,
On behalf of the SUPP Core Team



St DUNSTAN

Dunstan (909 - 988) was the most popular saint in England for nearly two centuries, being famous for many stories about defeating the devil.

A story tells how as a monk Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's horse. This caused such pain, and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door.



They say that is why people still hang horse shoes over doorways.

St Dunstan is the patron saint of blacksmiths and bell ringers as well as goldsmiths and silversmiths. His Feast Day is 19 May, which is why the date year on the hallmarks on gold and silver runs from 19 to 18 May, not the calendar year.

NOT JUST ON YOUR FEET....

The answers to these are all something you could wear on your feet, but the word also means...

1. A sure-footed pack animal
2. A thin sharp knife
3. A wobbly dessert
4. A poisonous snake
5. Isn't safe on ice
6. A gymnastic move
7. Equipment used to move water
8. An Irish accent
9. Part of a car used for storage
10. A sports coach



What do you call a shoe that looks like a banana?

A slipper.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?

A horse.



Answers: 1 Mule 2 Stiletto 3 Jelly
4 Moccasin 5 Slipper 6 Flip flop
7 Pump 8 Brogue 9 Boot 10 Trainer

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)

Monday	1 st May	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	2 nd May	The Guild – St Cuthbert's Way, Audio Visual Presentation East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	3 rd May	Housegroups 7.30pm
Thursday	4 th May	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	5 th May	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	7 th May	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	8 th May	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	9 th May	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	10 th May	Housegroups 7.30pm
Friday	12 th May	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	14 th May	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	15 th May	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	16 th May	The Guild – Close of session with Fish Tea and Fellowship East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Wednesday	17 th May	Housegroups 7.30pm
Thursday	18 th May	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am
Friday	19 th May	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	21 st May	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	22 nd May	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	23 rd May	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	24 th May	Housegroups 7.30pm
Thursday	25 th May	Forget-me-not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon
Friday	26 th May	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade Display & Presentation of Awards East Calder Church Hall 7.00pm
Sunday	28 th May	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Prayer Meeting East Calder Church Prayer Room 2.30pm In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	29 th May	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	30 th May	Kirk Session East Calder Church Hall 7.15pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	31 st May	Housegroups 7.30pm