

KNEC NEWS

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

SEPTEMBER 2018



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



This month includes

From the Manse

Finance Report

Lunch Club

In Focus

Boys' Brigade

Holiday Club

Bairns' Rock

The Guild

Men's Fellowship

Prayer Matters

The Break

House Groups

From the Manse



Rest

I woke this morning conscious of the need to write something for *KNEC News* and felt in my spirit that I should say something about rest. I had the thought, which I think was from God, that if God rests (from the work of creating), then how much more must we rest from all that we do (and say and think).

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

(Genesis 2:1-2)

Later that same morning, I switched on the computer to find an email from a friend sharing a 'word for today' from the Glasgow Prophetic Centre. It seemed to say what I was thinking and so I decided I should share it with you. Here it is under the title of '*I am He who ends*':

"I am He who begins and creates but I am also He who ends and closes. Don't think that when I call you to finish in areas of your life that this is a sign of failure, instead, I see it as a cause for celebration that you have completed what I asked of you.

Many of you have been aware that there are exploits that you've been involved with that I am calling to a close, including jobs, volunteering, ministry and more. Don't allow yourself to perceive me asking you to step back or to close as a sign that I am disappointed in you. This couldn't be further from the truth! I am the Alpha – the beginning, and I am the Omega – the end. It's part of my nature to bring completion and I celebrate that you have got to this time in your life where there is an end.

You'll see in the years and decades to come that I ended these things so that I could set you on a trajectory of growth, expansion and life. You'll understand that this ending was miraculous and good and it came about to empower you to fly into my purposes. Child, will you partner with the Omega nature of my personality? Will you let me complete and close? And will you dare to dream with me of the wild adventures that are on the other side of this finishing? Let us do this together."

Rest is an important part of our living. But it's not just about ensuring we get enough sleep. Resting in the context above is about knowing when it's time to cease, knowing when something is 'complete'. In the Genesis account, God knew it was time to cease the work of creating in order to allow creation to continue on (and have wild adventures) from a place of rest.

New things can usually only begin if something else ceases, in order to allow time or space for the new to flourish. As Dora Bennett has said, "endings are the door to new work not yet revealed to us".

This is the beginning of a new season for you as an individual and for us as a church. I wonder what things we might need to cease from, or what endings we need to allow, in order to embark on new adventures.

I'm looking forward to seeing these new adventures begin as we continue to seek the transformation of all people's lives and the world around about us in the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Let us pray,
God, our Father,
May we rest in you always,
Letting your Spirit breathe within,
Ending what needs to cease,
And birthing that which needs to begin,
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Alistair Couper

Pastoral Visits



Please advise Rev Alistair Cowper, Rev Dr Brenda Robson 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.



Funeral Services

Mary Beswick on June 18th at West Lothian Crematorium.
Magnus MacKay on July 11th in Kirknewton Church.
John Harker on July 12th at Kirknewton Cemetery.
Mrs Agnes Stark on August 14th in East Calder Church.
Mrs Muriel Quigley on August 21st in East Calder Church.

The Church's Financial Position - August 2018

All of the following financial information is correct as at 24th August 2018.

Receipts

Our current overall income is £69,818 which is behind budget by £1,853 (3%). This figure includes the Gift Aid from donations to date which will be claimed later this year totalling £6,747.

Our offerings total of £49,599 is slightly behind budget by £873 (2%).

The income derived from people and groups using our Church premises is behind budget by £620 (18%). In terms of weddings and funerals, we have received £1,050 to date, which is slightly ahead of budget. Fundraising activities, namely the Spring Fayre and Gala Tea Tent, have been very successful with £937 raised at the Spring Fayre which went towards Church funds. Meanwhile, all proceeds from the Gala Tea Tent (£1,583) were donated to West Lothian Foodbank.

Payments

Our general expenditure to date is £70,097 which is within budget by £2,469 (3%).

The cost of looking after our Church buildings is £5,884 to date, which is £898 (13%) within budget. Current expenditure includes some small property maintenance expenses as well as more significant work, notably on East Calder Church ceiling and replacing lighting units in Kirknewton Church Hall. Further to this, improvements to the manse and work on East Calder Church steeple were completed and funded from the Fabric Account as approved by Board. As a Church family, we remain indebted to the volunteers who help to maintain our Church properties.

Net position versus budget

The 2018 Annual Budget presented to the Congregational Board members at the end of 2017 projected income of £105,880 and expenditure of £105,773 which would result in an end-of-year surplus of £107. The current net position is a small deficit of £257.

I would urge anyone paying income tax on their salary or pension to complete a Gift Aid form. Donating through Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give for our Church, at no extra cost to you. For donations received from November 2017 until the beginning of April 2018, we have been able to claim back £7,320 for our Church. Robert Gardiner, our Stewardship Convenor, will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding Gift Aid.

If you wish to set up a standing order, or start using Weekly Offering envelopes, then please discuss this with me.

I would ask that you please give the finances of our Church your prayerful consideration and thank you for your continued support.

Treasurer



The Lunch Club recommences on 20th September. It provides a lunch consisting of homemade soup, dessert, cheese and biscuits with tea or coffee for £2. It is available on the first and third Thursday of the month and serving begins at 11.30. In the past the Lunch Club has been very popular and

I know that you will receive a very warm welcome if you are able to attend.



In Focus, restarts on 16th September at 6.30pm, in East Calder Church Hall, where we meet in an informal environment for Worship, Praise and Fellowship. There will be opportunities for learning, listening and sharing as the programme unfolds week by week. A general outline of the

programme, is as follows:

Café nights:

Our own Church Groups and organisations will share how they enable fellowship and encourage outreach within their group?

Members of the congregation will talk about something they are passionate about and how God has empowered them to do what they do.

Experiential Reflections Nights:

Life is a series of new beginnings and endings; again, some of our own, will share from their experiences of beginnings / endings in their lives and reflect on the way it has given them opportunity to know God better?"

What other Churches do:

The Bible tells us to defend the weak and the orphans; defend the rights of the poor and suffering? (Ps 82:3). Speakers from other local Churches will tell us how they do this.

Big Issues:

Alistair and other Ministers will give a view on important issues from a Christian perspective.

Others: Songs of Praise evenings. Communion.

The programme starts with a welcome back evening at which the different categories for the year will be presented and the rest will unfold from there.

We look forward to welcoming all back to In Focus. If you have never attended before, please come along and join in Fellowship. Refreshments will be provided.



1st EAST CALDER
COMPANY

After a lovely warm summer we are now back for another busy session. Three of our Boys are well on their way to completing their Queen's Badge work and another two just beginning.

30th September will be our Enrolment Service in East Calder Church followed on 7th October by the Battalion's Founder's Day service at Bathgate St John's Church.

We have various events and competitions coming up during the session but one we would really like to draw your attention to is the

“BIG BB BRUNCH”

which will be held East Calder Church Hall on 27th October to celebrate the Year of Young People. We hope many of you will be able to come along and celebrate with our own Young People.

This is a nationwide event and the date has been chosen as it is our founder, Sir William Alexander Smith's birthday.

Look out for further details in next month's KNEC News.

Captain



Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to making this year's Holiday Club a great success.

56 children were registered with an average of 49 attending on a daily basis led by a great team of volunteers of all ages.

Bairns' Rock

Bible, music, singing, craft and play for all God's babies and preschool kids with carers in East Calder Church Hall on Wednesday mornings from 9.30-11.30am.





Following our Dedication and Communion Service on 21st August the new session of the Guild meets on the first and third Tuesdays of September, October and November with an advent meeting of Carols and Readings in December before we break for the winter.

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to come along to any of our meetings. Look out for the details in the Church Intimations.



The new session of the KNEC Men's Fellowship starts on Saturday 8th September.

We meet in East Calder Church hall for breakfast at 8.30am, with meeting starting at 9.00am.

Every 2 weeks we will have good worship together with a wide variety of speakers from many different Christian based organisations.

We give a warm welcome to all men to come along whether you are a regular or a newcomer and share this precious time of fellowship together.

A syllabus for the year will be available shortly.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Bluegrass Concert

Midnight Run Band



Supported
by local band Albakirkie

**Will be appearing on Thursday 4th October
2018 at East Calder Church Hall, Main Street, East Calder EH53
OHF.**

Midnight Run is a high energy, Tennessee based bluegrass band made up of four like-minded musicians, set out to create a band that ties to the rich tradition of bluegrass music.

The band performance keeps the energy high and the audience on their feet. Midnight Run has been referred to as one of the most entertaining new acts on the bluegrass scene today.

A performance for all the family and a show you will not want to miss.

Tickets £7, concessions £5

Doors open 7.00pm. Book early.

Prayer



Matters

Passion Translation Ps 50:23

The life that pleases me is a life lived in the gratitude of grace, always choosing to walk with me in what is right. This is the sacrifice I desire from you, if you do this, more of my Salvation will unfold for you.

Challenging words that bring hope and the desire to walk with God in what is right. Praying that we would choose this better way in all our relationships and all the work our hands do.

We give grateful thanks for our 24 hour prayer time held at the end of July. Many people came, some to sit quietly, some to lead us in worship with their gifts of music. Many prayers for our fellowship and all relationships in it. For what God is calling us to do in this place and in our community. Thank you Shonagh for our beautiful new prayer flags.

On dry Monday evenings over this summer we have been 'prayer walking' around our villages. Some of us have stayed and prayed for those out walking. In 2/3 we have prayed as God has led us up and down the familiar streets. So if you spotted us that's what we were up to! Asking God's favour on every aspect of life in this place and all the people.

The weekend of 28-30 September is a national prayer weekend so please watch out for more information in the Sunday information sheet.

Father, thank you for your great grace towards us in the life and example of Jesus. We ask your blessing upon us as the new session begins. Reveal to us in our hearts the gifts you have given us for the building up of your church in this place.

Help us to have grateful hearts and grateful mindsets.

In Jesus name

Amen

Prayer Secretary

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 October's Magazine will be **Friday 21st September**.

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**'.

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

The Break

The Break starts again on Thursday 20th September in the Fellowship Room (back of East Calder Church). The Break will take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 12.30pm for 30 mins (after the Lunch Club) and is an opportunity to meet in fellowship for a short time of worship, prayer and thanksgiving.

The theme for the year will be 'The Miracles of Jesus' and like last year, each meeting will be led by a member of our Fellowship.

Rev Cowper will lead on 20th September on 'Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding in Cana'. All are most welcome.

House Groups

Our House Group programme (providing a mid week opportunity for bible study, sharing, fellowship and prayer) restarts after the summer break on Wednesday 19th September.

Like last year, groups will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. This year a third group will meet on a Thursday at 7:30pm at the Manse. All are welcome to join one of these groups.

'Reclaiming Jesus' is the bible study material which will be followed by the groups.



“I Can Only Imagine” is a very moving song about what heaven might be like, written by Brad Millard, the lead singer of American group MercyMe. The story behind the song has been turned into a film and a group of us went to see it. Brad had a difficult and abusive childhood, raised by his harsh father after his mother could no longer cope with the domestic violence in the home and she left. It is a story of Brad's faith journey in the midst of his troubles and how God transformed and redeemed his father. The film portrayed the story very well and, of course, reached a climax with Brad singing I Can Only Imagine. It is a story of hope and courage and the power of God to change lives. The film only showed at Showcase in Coatbridge. It was meant to be a one day release but ran for two weeks because interest and demand - which is great. When it comes out on DVD it would be good to show it at a film night in the church so watch out for further news about it at the end of the year.

Brenda

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 1 st & 3 rd 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 7.45pm Kirknewton Church
Bairns' Rock				Wednesdays: 9.30am-11.30am East Calder Church Hall
Lunch Club				1 st & 3 rd Thursday of each month 11.30am-12.30pm E/C Church Hall
The Break				1 st & 3 rd 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
Bible Study				Last Wednesday of each month 10.00am-11.00am Kirknewton Church Hall
Praise Band				Sundays: 11.00am East Calder Church and 6.00pm East Calder Church Hall
Men's Fellowship				2 nd & 4 th Saturday of the month East Calder Church Hall 8.30am

CHURCH CALENDAR

(See Organisations' meeting times on page 17)

Sunday	2 nd Sept	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am
Monday	3 rd Sept	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	4 th Sept	The Guild East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	5 th Sept	Bairns' Rock East Calder Church Hall 9.30-11.30am
Thursday	6 th Sept	Open Door Drop-in East Calder Church 10.30-11.30am
Friday	7 th Sept	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Saturday	8 th Sept	Men's Fellowship East Calder Church Hall 8.30am
Sunday	9 ^h Sept	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am
Monday	10 th Sept	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	11 th Sept	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	12 th Sept	Bairns' Rock East Calder Church Hall 9.30-11.30am
Thursday	13 th Sept	Open Door Drop-in East Calder Church 10.30-11.30am
Friday	14 th Sept	Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	16 th Sept	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	17 th Sept	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	18 th Sept	The Guild East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Wednesday	19 th Sept	Bairns' Rock East Calder Church Hall 9.30-11.30am Housegroups - 7.30pm
Thursday	20 th Sept	Open Door Drop-in East Calder Church 10.30-11.30am Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm Housegroup - The Manse 7.30pm
Friday	21 st Sept	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Saturday	22 nd Sept	Men's Fellowship East Calder Church Hall 8.30am
Sunday	23 rd Sept	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Monday	24 th Sept	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Tuesday	25 th Sept	Congregational Board - East Calder Church Hall 7.00pm Kirk Session – East Calder Church Hall 8.00pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.45pm
Wednesday	26 th Sept	Bairns' Rock East Calder Church Hall 9.30-11.30am Bible Study Kirknewton Church Hall 10.00 -11.00am
Thursday	27 th Sept	OpenDoor Drop-in East Calder Church 10.30 – 11.30am Forget-me-Not Café East Calder Church Hall 10.00am – 12 noon Housegroup - The Manse 7.30pm
Friday	28 th Sept	Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	30 th Sept	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Boys' Brigade Enrolment In Focus East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm