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September 2019



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



This month includes:

From the Manse

Boys' Brigade

Finance

News from Session

Youth Church

In Focus

Holiday Club

Singing Group

Guild

The Break

House Groups

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God

(Romans 8:14)

We are living in a time of tremendous change and uncertainty. Perhaps every age has felt like this. There is great change afoot in both church and nation. The Church of Scotland is about to embark on a three month period of prayer about its future before implementing what is called the Radical Action Plan.



Our political life seems to be a bit of a mess and there is great change about to descend upon us as we continue to grapple with the uncertainty of Brexit. It seems there is no shortage of things to be fearful of in this world.

Which is why, now, more than ever, we need to be able to draw aside and listen to a different voice from the voices we're being bombarded with on a daily basis.

The Bible assures us that those who belong to Jesus have the Spirit of the Living God living inside them and that this same Spirit will give life to their mortal bodies and tell them they are God's children *(Romans 8)*.

All times and seasons bring their changes. And in all times we need help to be reminded of our first love as children of God. We need to pay attention to "the great silence that is present in every moment" and try not to be distracted by "an overactive mind that refuses to wait in a humble unknowing for a pure wisdom from above (James 3:17)" *(James P. Danaher)*.

The world today needs the wisdom from above. May we use the wisdom we receive to bring God's transformative energy into every situation.

Grace and peace,

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

Mr Albert Morrison on June 10th at West Lothian Crematorium.

Mrs Annie Stitt on July 1st at Mortonhall Crematorium.

Mr James McGill on August 5th at West Lothian Crematorium.

Mr Robert Duncan on August 20th at Mortonhall Crematorium.



"Thank you so much for your generous and faithful support for my work in Chad over many years. I've really appreciated all that you have done and thank God for you. May the Lord bless you in every way.
Love Joan.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

> the adventure begins here



1st East Calder

We're back again, batteries charged and set for another year!!!

Our registration evening was on the 23rd and it was great to see a few new Boys and to welcome back the 'old faces'.

Our first normal meeting night was on the 30th August and our plans for the activities to mark our 40th anniversary discussed with the Boys.



It does not seem like 40 years since the Company started – some great memories (some not so great!!!)

We're now on Facebook - keep up to date with what's happening in the Anchors, Juniors and Company sections by joining us on Facebook - look for

1st East Calder Boys' Brigade

and send us a friend's request



'Safe Families' would like to say how grateful we are to volunteers in East Calder and Kirknewton Parish for decorating the home of a local boy in East Calder. This boy was sleeping on a mattress but

thanks to some wonderful volunteers he is now in his own room and is sleeping in a new bed. Another volunteer is now taking the boy out weekly and a volunteer from East Calder Parish is visiting his Dad regularly. "Safe Families" is about restoring hope and showing the love of God in very practical ways. We would like to thank the church for their partnership and for the lasting difference they have made to this family.

The Church's Financial Position – August 2019

All of the following financial information is correct as at 19th August 2019.

Receipts

Our current overall income is £71,588 which is behind budget by £1,425 (2%). This figure includes the Gift Aid from donations to date which will be claimed later this year totalling £6,621.

Our offerings total of £48,010 is currently behind budget by £2,461 (5%) for this stage in the year.

The income derived from people and groups using our Church premises is ahead of budget by £862 (25%). In terms of weddings and funerals, we have received £692 to date. Fundraising activities, namely the Spring Fayre and Gala Tea Tent, have been very successful with £920 raised at the Spring Fayre which went towards Church funds. Meanwhile, all proceeds from the Gala Tea Tent (£1,097) were donated to West Lothian Foodbank.

Payments

Our general expenditure to date is £70,737 which is within budget by £3,434 (5%).

The cost of looking after our Church buildings is £6,798 to date, which is in line with the forecast budget. Current expenditure includes some small property maintenance expenses as well as more significant work, notably painting East Calder Church Hall and slate patching and gutter cleaning of both Church buildings. As a Church family, we remain indebted to the volunteers who help to maintain our Church properties.

Net position versus budget

The 2019 Annual Budget presented to the Congregational Board members at the end of 2018 projected income of £107,680 and expenditure of £107,643 which would result in an end-of-year surplus of £37. The current net position is a surplus of £851.

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 Gift Aid donations received from November 2018 until the beginning of April 2019, we have been able to claim back £8,803 for our Church.

If you wish to set up a standing order, or start using Weekly Offering envelopes, then please speak 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



SPILL THE BEANS is a lectionary-based resource with a Scottish flavour for all-age learning and worship. We have already started trialling the material in Church. Both EnerJ and Youth Church will also be making use of the resources this coming session.

Extract from the minutes of the Session meetings held on 28th May 2019 and 18th June 2019

Darren Philip

Darren, the youth worker at Livingston United Parish Church (LUPC), spoke about how LUPC included children in worship.

Minister's Report

Interim Moderator at Blackburn and Seafield ends 30th May.

Schools – been asked to lead assemblies at St Paul's.

2 funerals since last meeting. 4-6 pastoral visits/week.

General Assembly feedback given at In Focus on 9th June.

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Event - a few popped in, 5 on the Saturday night; thanks to [REDACTED]

Alpha - what next? - discussion group format starting September?

Bairns' Rock growing, average now 16 children/week having had a record of 20 last week.

Christian Aid

The coffee morning and envelopes raised around £450. Session thanked **Bill Martin** for his hard work once again.

News from Presbytery

Asbestos. Presbytery Instructed the Property & Fabric Committee to circulate all Kirk Sessions with a Questionnaire to determine the status of asbestos in ecclesiastical buildings, including manses, to be returned to the Convenor by 31st August, and to report its findings to a later meeting of Presbytery.

Safeguarding

Session noted and approved the names of those volunteers participating in the Holiday Club.

Appointments

Presbytery Elder.

Session appointed [REDACTED] to represent us in the Presbytery of West Lothian during the year commencing 1st July 2019. This will be [REDACTED] third and final year as our Presbytery Elder.

Next Term Commencing September 2019

Shoebox Appeal.

Session agreed that we would participate in this appeal once again. [REDACTED] agreed to organise this once again.

Other Business

Guild Service.

Session agreed that the Guild would arrange the evening service on the Tuesday of Holy Week in 2020 (7th April). This date coincides with what would have been a normal Guild evening.

Listening Project.

Research is ongoing.

Community Social Enterprise Project.

More people are required to help get this off the ground.

[REDACTED] reported that he and others had attended [REDACTED] setting apart in Uphall Church. [REDACTED] wished to thank all those in our own church who kept him in their prayers.

Inclusion. Session agreed to form a small focus group to look at the issue of inclusion (specifically LGBTQ+ inclusion) in response to an issue which has arisen in our community.

GDPR. [REDACTED] advised that as a year has elapsed since the GDPR became effective it will be necessary to review the various Notices and Policies

Session Clerk

Calling all Church Golfers and Guests

This Year's Annual Competition will be played on:

**Monday 23rd September at
Niddrie Castle Golf Club
Castle Road
Winchburgh**



Tee Off time 2.00pm

A warm welcome is extended to all and hopefully we will be blessed with good weather.

Youth Church (YC)

Youth Church (for S1 and above) will restart on Sunday 22nd September. YC will meet at East Calder Church for the start of the 11:15am service before leaving to go across to the Kirk Hall for a time of worship, sharing, discussion and prayer.

Watch the weekly intimations for more information

IN FOCUS

In Focus will resume on 22nd September at 6.30pm. All are welcome to come to evening worship in East Calder Church Hall. As always, the programme will be varied for the year ahead. There will be: -

- Sharing personal faith experiences;
- Hearing about caring for others;
- Community based groups explaining how they encourage, inspire and brings hope to others;
- In addition, as part of our Christian worship, speakers from other religions will be invited to explain and give an insight into their faith/ beliefs;
- Speakers will reflect on Proverbs, which teaches us how to apply God's wisdom to daily life and
- One evening in the year we will share in communion; the end of each term will conclude with Songs of praise; also there will be a "Christmas in The Community" service which will be held in the Partnership Centre.

Please come along and be part of the fellowship, giving thanks for God's grace and mercy towards us.

In Focus Planning Team

From 5th – 9th of August East Calder Church Hall was transformed into a



An average of 36 “Space Cadets” attended the Holiday Club on a daily basis with 6 young helpers and 23 adults joining in the fun. The morning was filled with stories, games, singing, exercises, crafts, quizzes, challenges, delicious cakes and lots more. Needless to say all the Cadets graduated from the Academy with flying colours (and a Mars bar)



The review evening on Friday saw the hall packed with around 100 children, parents and friends which was great to see.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Holiday Club in so many different ways.

Where will we go next year?
Wait and see!

READY FOR “BLAST OFF”

Making the most of your time

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

Firstly, **see time is a gift from God**. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, **commit your time to God**. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.



Thirdly, **set aside time for God, others and ourselves**. How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.'

(Martin Luther)

Singing Group

I would like to put out a call for singers of all standards, no auditions, for the Singing Group. I would like to cover material for Sunday services at Kirknewton and East Calder but also some secular material such as songs from Musical Theatre and the American Songbook with a view to providing entertainment at Care Homes or possibly St Columba's Hospice at a future date.

A warm welcome is extended to present, former and new members.

We are currently rehearsing at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings at Kirknewton Church but if sufficient members of East Calder show interest I am happy to rehearse at East Calder as well and adjust the time for East Calder so as not to clash with the Guild.



Following our Dedication and Communion Service, on 20th August, our regular meetings take place on the first and third Tuesdays of Sept, Oct, Nov, and we have Advent Carols and readings on 3rd December.

Speaker for 3rd September is Moira Niven with an illustrated talk on The Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

On 17th September we will have a Guide Dog Puppy Walker accompanied by "Snowball" telling us about Guide Dogs and Puppy Walkers.

Our Guild meetings are open to all and a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

THE BREAK

The Break starts again on Thursday 19th 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 Parables of Jesus' with each meeting being led by a member of our Fellowship.

Rev Cowper will lead on 19th September on 'The parable of the wheat and tares'. All are most welcome.

HOUSE GROUPS

Our House Group programme provides a mid-week opportunity for bible study, sharing, fellowship and prayer and restarts after the summer break on Wednesday 18th September.

Watch out in the weekly intimations for more information.

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 20th 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' – 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.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:1-7, 11-16, 25-35

Once the Israelites had moved into their
promised land, they obeyed God, but not for
long, so God let other countries invade.

The Midianites invaded every
year, and stole all the food
the Israelites had grown.



The Israelites had to
hide in the hills.



After 7 years,
the Israelites called
out to God for help.

Gideon was secretly
threshing wheat when
an angel arrived.



The Lord is helping you,
mighty warrior.



I don't
mean to be rude, but it
doesn't look like He is.

God said, "I will give you the
power."



But my clan
is the weakest in our tribe and
I'm the weakest in my family.

"I'll be helping you. Start by pulling
down the altar built for Baal and
build one for Me."



Gideon did as he was told (but he
waited and did it at night).



In the morning, people
came to complain to
Gideon's father.



If Baal is upset, he
can take his own
revenge, can't he?



Gideon sent out messages
to call men to fight the
Midianites..



and 32000 came.

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 |



Gracious Father,

You created us. You know us through and through and still you love us. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you accept us and call us your children when we put our trust in Him. In this world of change and uncertainty you are our still point. You know our names, you provide for us and have good plans for us. We are completely safe and secure in you. How wonderful that is! Thank you loving Father.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching