

KNEC NEWS



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



The Future



I write this in the week when we have taken away the barrier tape from our church buildings and taken the decision to go to no social distancing (although keeping a safe distance from other households is still encouraged). However, Covid case numbers are on the rise again, reminding us that this virus hasn't gone away and that we need to find ways to live with it as safely as possible for all.

I know some people still do not feel fully comfortable about mixing in large groups and church worship on-site will not feel the same as has in the past for a while yet. Perhaps it never will.

I say that in optimism for we are part of God who makes all things new, for whom nothing is impossible, and nothing can separate us from the God who is Love. Who knows what new things we will see in the days ahead?

As regards the future, I wonder what we might pray for? That we might see through this time of disruption the new things God is bringing about and be able to let go of the things of the past?

In an expanding parish, how can we ensure we share the love of Christ with those coming to live here? How can we best share the love we've found? How can we take the church to be where people are knowing that when we do, we often find God already there?

Currently there is a local suggestion to share team ministry resources within the mission district of Livingston and the Calder as well as the plans to unite the presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian from January 2022. The team ministry idea might mean we see worship led by different worship leaders and a growing use of online worship.

What matters is what the Assembly Trustees said in July's update.

“the trustees were of the view that success as a church was not only measured by bringing people into a church building on a Sunday morning but by creating the right conditions for people to meet God and become part of the work of the Church in that way”.

Let's pray, that through this time of disruption and opportunity, the Spirit will move each of us to answer the call to create the conditions for people to meet God and become part of the Body of Christ. I look forward to hearing your ideas as to how we do that in practise.

Grace and peace everyone,

Alistair

FUNERALS

Mrs Jean Hunter on 24th June at Kirknewton Church

Mr Jim Fraser on 30th June at Kirknewton Church

Mrs Fiona McGuire on 17th August at East Calder Church

Mr Stewart Coull on 23rd August at Kirknewton Church

Mrs Helen Lothian on 25th August at East Calder Church



Extract from Session Minutes of 25th May, 22nd June and 10th August

Church Services

Alistair Cowper proposed continuing to hold only one service a week and alternating between Kirknewton and East Calder until December when we can review this. All were in agreement to this proposal. The online services and discs will continue.

Buildings

Cleaning the sanctuaries. Mrs Angela [REDACTED] who currently cleans the hall at Kirknewton will take on the church as well for the long term. At East Calder there is a volunteer team prepared to clean the church so long as services are only fortnightly. The team will consider whether they feel able to carry on longer term.

The halls will reopen from 3rd September.

Cleaning of the halls. The Livingston Cleaning Company will give East Calder Halls a thorough clean before opening and Mrs Angela [REDACTED] will do the same at Kirknewton. Groups using the halls will be responsible for cleaning and tidying up after their sessions. On a weekly basis, the halls at Kirknewton will be cleaned by Mrs Angela [REDACTED] on a remunerated basis. At East Calder Mrs Mari [REDACTED] will clean the halls on the same basis.

External users of the halls will sign a Lease Agreement based on the Church of Scotland's letting agreement template. Church Groups will not sign Lease Agreements but receive and acknowledge a Terms of Usage document. Church groups and uniformed organisations will have no charge for hall use and all other hall users will be charged £15/hour. It was agreed that the prices would be reviewed yearly.

Minister

Reuse and Thrive - shop open, volunteering opportunities, bric-a-brac donations needed.

Listening project. Some training possible. But not much will happen until September.

Workload about 60% at the moment due to long Covid - doing what needs to be done - keeping up telephone contacts and drafting pastoral letter to older members.

School end of term assemblies done for Kirknewton, East Calder and Calderwood by video.

It was agreed that for the present time meetings will be kept on Zoom.

Presbytery

West Lothian Presbytery agreed to participate in discussions with the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Lothian, Melrose and Peebles, Duns and Jedburgh regarding the formation of a Presbytery of the South East.

The following decisions of the General Assembly were noted by Session:

(b) Act uniting the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian from 1st January 2022.

(e) Overture anent the Solemnisation of Same-Sex Marriages, which is now subject to Barrier Act procedure: it will only become church law if it is approved by a majority of Presbyteries and by next year's General Assembly.

West Lothian Presbytery Planning Committee

The General Assembly approved the Assembly Trustees section of their deliverance reducing the number of ministries posts across the Church by 40% i.e. total of 1000 full-time equivalent and 75 vacancies reduced to 600 FTE with 60 vacancies by 2025. For West Lothian that same 40% reduction on available planned posts represents 11.2 FTE, taking us from the 28.2 posts agreed in 2012, to 17 FTE by 2025.

The Committee knows that this exercise will be challenging, but all congregations need to grasp the reality of the situation. To reduce to 17 posts means that single congregation charges will be the exception rather than the rule, and it will be necessary to explore innovative ways in which the mission of the Church can be carried out imaginatively with reduced ministry posts.

People

Katrina [REDACTED] has resigned from Session. The Moderator has sent her a note of thanks for her service.

Session re-elected David Gilchrist as our Presbytery Elder.

Rev Scott Marshall intimated his intention to demit his charge at Abercorn linked with Pardovan, Kingscavil and Winchburgh on 30th June 2021.

Rev John Povey intimated his intention to demit his charge at Kirk of Calder on 31st August 2021.

Alistair informed everyone that George [REDACTED] was willing to take on the property convener role as part of a team and that he would join Board.

Still require to appoint a Church Officer at Kirknewton.

Andrew Coutts,
Session Clerk.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN PERSON

15 August - Kirknewton 9.45am

22 August - East Calder 11.15am

29 August - Kirknewton 9.45am

led by Brenda

5 September - East Calder 11.15am

led by Elizabeth and Robert

12 September - Kirknewton 9.45am

19 September - East Calder 11.15am

CALL ANDREW ON 885800 TO BOOK

CHURCH ONLINE EVERY SUNDAY 10AM - WWW.KNEC4JESUS.ORG.UK

KIRKNEWTON AND EAST CALDER MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are delighted to announce the commencement of this Year's programme. Our first meeting will take place on Saturday the 18th September. The format is as usual with breakfast at 8.30am followed by meeting at 9.00am. All things being equal we will meet in the hall, with occasional Zoom meetings.

Our first speaker is our pastor Alistair followed by communion. Thereafter a full programme of interesting and uplifting speakers has been booked up until the end of May next Year.

A warm welcome and invitation is extended to all Men in the Church to come along and enjoy good fellowship and good chat coupled with a deeper understanding of God's word and activity in our society and world today. Further details will come out on our Church Web site and on Church Notices.



**Can you volunteer
with your local
charity?**

**Help in the shop
or help behind
the scenes**

'Church Chat' on What's App
'KNEC Messaging' on Messenger

Website: www.knec4jesus.org.uk to access online services.

CONTACT DETAILS



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