

# KNEC NEWS

*December 2021*

*Love Grows in Frail Flesh* – a word from our minister.

*'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her. 'You have found favour with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give*

*him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!'* (Luke 1:30-33)

The birth of Jesus - God with us - is an amazing miracle. Only God could have devised such a plan to take on human flesh and be born, through water and blood, in an animals' shelter. Anyone who has ever been present at the birth of child knows that something supernatural is going on. How is it possible? That this fragile bundle of human flesh, with perfectly formed limbs and unique fingerprints, can emerge from within the womb of a mother?

Mary was likely only a teenage girl when the angel visited her, but from that moment on, the love of God was growing inside her. God had 'taken notice of this lowly servant girl' (Luke 1:48) and she knew that from now on she would be blessed. She needn't be afraid. Nothing was impossible for the God who had spoken to her. The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted all of us and has brought great challenges to many. In challenging times, it can be difficult to believe that God is with us. But faith depends not on our feelings but on our active 'yes' to trust in the word from God that promises life. Mary said 'yes' when asked to trust the word of the angel sent by God. May we find ourselves saying 'yes' to the God who loves us and has promised to never leave us, until God's kingdom is complete.

As we prepare to celebrate another Christmas, may you know, that because of the incarnation of God with us, the love of God is growing inside you too. And despite your hesitations and doubts, the God who is with us, is determined to bring his gift to fulfilment, so that you might experience grace upon grace, and live and love, out of the overflow of his mercy.

Like Mary, may your soul praise the Lord, and your spirit rejoice in God the Saviour.

*Alistair*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP **IN PERSON**

**12<sup>th</sup> December:**

**Kirknewton** 9.45 am

**East Calder** 7.00 pm Advent Reflections

**17<sup>th</sup> December:** 7.00 pm (Friday)

**East Calder** The (famous!) *BB Christmas Concert*

**19<sup>th</sup> December:** 11.15 am

**East Calder**

**24<sup>th</sup> December** (Christmas Eve)

**East Calder** 7.00pm (*family service*)

**Kirknewton** 11.30pm (*watchnight service*)

**26<sup>th</sup> December** 11.15am

**East Calder**

## **PLUS**

CHURCH ONLINE at: [www.knec4jesus.org.uk](http://www.knec4jesus.org.uk) and/or on YouTube  
*Premiering at 10.00 am each Sunday  
and remaining thereafter*

**From 2 January 2022, our worship service time on a Sunday will change to 10.30am - whether in **East Calder** or **Kirknewton** (alternate Sundays)**

We will try this change out until Palm Sunday and review it before then. It will mean there will no longer be a 9.45am or 11.15am service and that the online service will also be scheduled for 10.30am every Sunday. One of the advantages of doing this is to remind us all that we are one congregation worshipping in three different places (Kirknewton, East Calder and online) and that hybrid church (a healthy mix of onsite and online) is with us for the foreseeable future.

## Reports

*from our Session Clerk and our minister*

- 📄 **We have opened our buildings.** Thanks to all those who ensured that this happened safely.
- 📄 The **community space** outside E C Church Hall is complete. Thanks to all those who participated in this venture and thanks to Tesco for the grant of £1,000.
- 📄 **Pew Bibles** cannot yet be returned to pews
- 📄 **Alcohol Policy:** the status quo remains: consumption of alcohol on church premises prohibited
- 📄 **Coffee/Teas after Church Service:** at both churches now
- 📄 **Prayer Room** is now open, and the Prayer Group is meeting there each Monday evening
- 📄 The **sofas** in East Calder sanctuary have had to be removed
- 📄 **Communion** from January will be with the elements served, not passed from hand to hand
- 📄 **BB Enrolment Service** a huge success (see the BB report later in the magazine)
- 📄 REIS **Food Hygiene** Course - 10 applications submitted.
- 📄 **Reuse and Thrive** - 9 out of the 22 volunteers are from church. It is now more than covering its costs and disbursing funds to local community groups e.g. Manse Court, East Calder Primary, The School Bank and our Christmas Hampers Outreach. The role of Treasurer has been handed on.

### ***The following positions in KNEC have been filled:***

- 📄 ***Data Protection Officer***
- 📄 ***KNEC News Editor***
- 📄 ***Safeguarding Coordinators:***
- 📄 ***Health and Safety Administrator***
- 📄 ***Boys' Brigade Leader***
- 📄 ***Listening Project Coordinator***
- 📄 **EnerJ:** Now planning for in-person meetings but would welcome support to deliver the lessons they are preparing.
- 📄 ***Church Officer at Kirknewton:*** not yet filled, being done on an *as required* basis

**PRESBYTERY NEWS**

☞ **The Presbytery of West Lothian will cease to exist on 31st December 2021.** The final two meetings will be in-person at Bathgate High and Broxburn. Resignations have been accepted from the Presbytery Clerk and the Depute Clerk and Treasurer

☞ the current paid posts in the Presbytery of Edinburgh of Presbytery Clerk, Depute Clerk, Administrator, Treasurer, and the four Presbytery Chaplains, will continue in the new ‘Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian’, with the current post-holders remaining.

☞ **There are seismic changes required in the Church and it is unclear where we will be in a few years.** Online must be in the mix for the future. And what about Calderwood?

☞ There are concerns regarding keeping *all* the buildings (in the presbytery area): there are too many; they are not currently being utilised well; and perhaps they are in the wrong place. Closing buildings is likely to cause upset but retaining them all (and bringing them up to modern standards) would cost a great deal.

☞ Congregations with natural convection or fan-assisted radiators have been advised to switch these on before people are in the building and then switch them off when people are in the building. **The large hall at Kirknewton is affected.**

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**EAST CALDER HALL(S): LETS**

Hall users are slowly returning to our buildings and bringing life back into the premises with a mixture of Church and Community groups, together with some one-off children’s parties,

So far, we have:

**Church Groups:** The Boys Brigade, The Guild, Men’s Fellowship and EnerJ.

**Community Groups:** Zumba with Lindsay; *Step into Dance*; Boogey Bounce; various dance lessons; and Parents and Toddlers.

Other groups are waiting until they are ready to return.

Due to unprecedented times, it was decided that responsibilities for using the Church premises must be documented. All groups must clean the touch points, before and after use, remove all rubbish into outside bins, basically leave the premises as they are found. For *Test and Protect* purposes, each group must keep a record of everyone attending and all must adhere to Covid guidelines to keep ourselves and others safe.

Should you have any enquiries about using Church premises, please tell us.

[marion.goodall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marion.goodall@yahoo.co.uk)

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**DAILY READING NOTES: 2022**

You, like me, may have been reflecting on God’s will for our lives in the circumstances we now face. Yet we don’t need to wonder because He has given us his written Word to show us his will. The Bible speaks to each of us, across generations, across life experiences.

Bible notes can be helpful:

- Every day with Jesus, costs £20.94 for a year, (6 issues).
- Life every day, now costs £24.00 per year, (4 issues).
- Daily Bread, costs £19.96 per year, (4 issues).
- Encounter with God, costs £19.96 per year, (4 issues).

These notes encourage us to read our Bibles every day, as Jesus teaches us to do. Please let me know if you would like to try any of these.

email [marion.goodall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marion.goodall@yahoo.co.uk))



We started off meeting outdoors at the Sports Centre and in Almondell Country Park for a few weeks. Attendances were great with all our core boys (20) from last year returning and several new boys joining us.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of August we held a special service in the church. two older boys were presented with their **Queens Badges**. Both young men had worked tirelessly to achieve this prestigious award. One had completed his prior to Covid, but we had not been able to have a presentation; the other was quite remarkably, was able to complete his during the pandemic.

Our retiring chief officer and his wife were our guests and presented the badges. Their work and commitment to the 1<sup>st</sup> East Calder were acknowledged and they were presented with a BB clock.

After a few weeks of sessions outdoors in September, we returned to the Church Hall. Although it is a little different to our normal indoor sessions, it is great to be back.

At this year's Enrolment Service (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October in East Calder Church), there was a great 'buzz' with over a hundred people, and about 90% of the boys, attending.

Our Friday evenings continue to be busy, with activities, sports, crafts, and bible classes. The Company Section had two special visitors on the same evening: one who led the boys in a bible class about Joseph, linking it to a trip to Rwanda; and one who gave the boys a taste of his life as a professional darts player. He had been a BB boy with us. We wished him all the best on the European darts tour.

Five Company Section boys took part in the Remembrance Service in Kirknewton Church before marching to the Memorial, where one boy read 'In Flanders Fields' (by John McCrae) and another laid the wreath. 'Well done' to the boys who took part

We are holding our Christmas service on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December in East Calder Church at 7pm. it would be great to see you there!

As we finish up for Christmas, we can take great encouragement into the New Year. We finished the last BB year with twenty boys. This year, by the end of November, we had thirty-eight. In this difficult time for youth organisations around the country, we rejoice that our future looks bright.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the happiest possible New Year.

1<sup>st</sup> East Calder team



It is a great privilege to be appointed as the coordinator of the Community Listening project. We currently have ten listeners who will form the team.

We hope to sign up two or three people for the Advanced Listening course which runs January to March. This will allow us to do more formal listening by referral and appointment. In the meantime, we plan to set up an informal 'listening café', where people can drop in for a cup of tea and chat or play a game. This will start off in the Church Hall at East Calder in January with a view to moving to different locations as we discover what works for people. We have a year to pilot this project with a report due in November 2022. There will be a lot of trial and error and we would appreciate your prayers. We have been working on getting people through the safeguarding training and progressing disclosures.



We will be setting up a Facebook page and circulating posters to alert people within the community to the project. This is an exciting time and, mid pandemic, there is a real need to be there for and listening to the needs of our neighbours. More details will follow as time progresses.

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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

We have been blessed in managing to keep a full programme going through this difficult Covid period, thanks in the main to Zoom communication. Not my favourite! But it really has kept our fellowship alive at such a difficult time.

It *has* meant that we could have speakers who live a considerable distance away and would not normally travel to be with us. Our speakers ranged widely, e.g.

- ☞ one who came to us from Kenya where he heads up a school
- ☞ one who produces the Christian radio show, *Heart of the Matter*
- ☞ one who lives locally and has just published a book, *The Heart of a Father*
- ☞ one from Operation Mobilisation (OM)
- ☞ Various charities which are reaching out in Jesus' name to those in need, e.g. The Salvation Army and Bethany Trust.

We have had an average of 10 men attending but would, of course, welcome more into our group. Our 2022 season starts on Sat 15th January (more details to follow). Hopefully we can meet more often 'in-person' in the Church Hall but that depends on how the pandemic progresses.



### ***CHRISTMAS HAMPERS OUTREACH***

Many thanks to all who have donated towards the provision of hampers for needy families in our community. These are presented to our local primary schools the week before Christmas.

If you haven't already had the opportunity and you would like to give a donation, then please contact our treasurer. It's a great outreach to our community and much appreciated by the schools – and, of course, by the families.

Who doesn't want to put a smile on children's faces at Christmas?

