

# KNEC NEWS



## MARCH 2023

Kirkcaldy and East Calder  
Parish Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No: SC006973





## FROM THE EDITOR

I initially thought to have a cover with a seasonal theme. Spring is that most photogenic of seasons, with its colourful, abundant flowers. Or maybe it just seems

so after the bare trees and brown earth of winter.

Whose heart doesn't lift at the first glimpse of Wordsworth's 'host of golden daffodils'?

But then Elizabeth sent me some photos of our Warm Hub in action and *my* heart lifted. Maybe it was the intense concentration of the adults 'colouring-in' or of the children playing draughts; maybe it was the age span from nine to ninety; maybe it was the bright tablecloths, the palpable warmth of the friendship on offer, the welcoming, relaxed atmosphere.

Jesus gave us lots of clues as to how to keep God's commandments, but He also stressed that we only really need two: love God; and love each other. The Hub is open to everyone in our parish, young and old, friend or stranger, believer or not. On offer is not just a warm space with hot food, enjoyable company, and lots of laughs; there is always a listening ear, informally in the Hub, or more confidentially in the 'Listening Room'. It's just one of the ways that we show our love for each other which springs from our love for God. If you haven't dropped in yet, you don't know what you're missing!

***Fran***

***email:*** [franbbrady@aol.co.uk](mailto:franbbrady@aol.co.uk)

***tel:***



*from our minister....* **EASTER'S SAVING LOVE**

In 1982, an aeroplane took off from Washington, DC and crashed into the Potomac River. It was winter and the river was full of ice. Soon the world's media gathered, and TV cameras rolled. Millions of viewers watched as a helicopter let down a lifebelt on a line to a man struggling in the water. He grabbed the line, swam to another survivor, and clipped the woman in. She was hoisted up to safety. The helicopter let the line down again, and the man swam to someone else and rescued them. He saved five people before finally, exhausted, he himself drowned.

Why did this man not save himself? Like Jesus, he was only out to save others. Because of what Jesus brought into effect at Easter, we can now live with his resurrection power at work in our lives, the very lives God meant us to live. His overwhelming love can flow through us in every moment, every place, as we journey on. The Spirit that raised Christ is the same Spirit that lives in the world and brings new life. The same saving love and power is there to be discovered and shared today, wherever and whoever we are. Why not take a moment to breathe in that love afresh, hold it and receive it; then ask the Lord to show you how, when, and where to breathe it out?

*Alistair*

*email:* [acowper@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:acowper@churchofscotland.org.uk) *tel:*





The Project has grown over the last couple of months. The **Warm Hub** is going very well with record numbers of 26 attending on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February and 24 attending on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 50 people in a week (although a few of them were there on both days). There is a real buzz as people provide good company and look out for each other. We have had a few children join us and it is lovely see the interactions between all ages and stages of life. Why not pop along (Mondays and Thursdays, 11.00 am - 3.00 pm) to see it in action? I am very aware of God in our midst - it is truly a place where we can put our faith into action. I am truly thankful for my team of very faithful and hardworking volunteers. Without them, it would not be possible.

We have a **Family Fun Day** in the offing; we are looking into **evening support groups**; and of course, work continues on **funding applications**.

**Please pray** that we find a funder willing to pay salary costs. It is difficult to have vision when the job of Project Co-ordinator is not yet financially secure. I do love this job. The part of nursing I miss most is caring, and this role lets me care again, albeit in a different way.

**Elizabeth**

**email:** cealpennykid2007@gmail.com

**tel :**





Since our last update, the boys have been busy working away each Friday on various pieces of badge work.

All three sections have been preparing for the Battalion Spiritual competition. The theme is David and Goliath: Anchor Boys are to produce a collage of the story; while the Junior Section and Company Section are being quizzed on the passage, then acting out the story to rap music. Let the rap battle begin!

Aedan and Arran, two of our boys working towards their Queen's badges (King's badges now?), will be attending the completion course in March. All being well, we will be presenting them with this top award at our display.

The Company section will be looking at photography with Chris and trying their hand at some DIY.

### ***The BB Team***

Calum, Craig, Colin, Iain, Heather,  
Elizabeth, Robert, Sandra, Chris, and Ben

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The *Men's Fellowship* has continued to meet, with Craig as always providing breakfast - you could call it brunch - before we get started. And we give thanks for the food. We have had a variety of speakers:



Peter Hugenbach told us about his trip to Chile



John Young gave a talk on faith and faithfulness



Martin Shamlan gave us an update on the situation for Christians in China



David Aird from Black Diamond Radio came back once again to give us an uplifting message



'Times of sharing' - different themes each time



We are looking forward to having Gordon Pennykid, a chaplain at Saughton prison

We are two-thirds through this session already. How time flies when you are enjoying doing something meaningful and spiritually uplifting! We are one of only a very few churches with an active 'men's group'.

***And we welcome new members!***

**John** *email* [jay.young0543@gmail.com](mailto:jay.young0543@gmail.com)

*tel:*



## YOUTH CHURCH

for young people in Primary 6 and up.



We have 3 boys at the moment and plan a programme that will explore Bible passages and Christian morals, always keeping it relevant to their everyday lives and interests. Our first meeting was spent getting to know the boys, finding common themes of card games, phones, and sports.

Our second meeting looked at **power**:

- Is there good and bad power?
- What do you think is the most important thing about power?
- What powers do your Pokémon cards have?
- If you could choose one, which would it be? Why?
- Can we find a couple of Bible verses about power?

It is great to have these discussions. They are at a tough age, with peer pressure, schoolwork getting harder, and busyness with groups, clubs, etc. They are also at a fragile age and stage in their faith journey. **Please pray** for them. It is crucial that we nurture them and involve them in the life and work of our church.

Youth Church will work on a rota system. Thank you to the people who have volunteered to help. Please speak to the young people about what they have been doing. They all love to chat and I'm sure will be happy to share with you.

**Elizabeth**

**email:** cealpennykid2007@gmail.com

**tel :**



## WHAT'S ON

### Sunday Services 10.30am

12 March	Kirknewton
19 March	*East Calder plus Our Annual Stated Meeting
26 March	Kirknewton
2 April	*East Calder
9 April	Kirknewton – <b>Easter Sunday</b>
16 April	*East Calder
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Kirknewton
30 <sup>th</sup> April	*East Calder - <b>with Communion</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Kirknewton
12 <sup>th</sup> May	*East Calder
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Kirknewton
21 <sup>st</sup> May	*East Calder
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Kirknewton
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	*East Calder

Also: every Sunday: live online You Tube @kneccchurch

**\*Children's Church – 'ENERJ'** up to Primary 6

Alternate Sundays - when the service is in East Calder

**\*Youth Church** for P7 upwards – during EC services

**12<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30 pm:** Singer-songwriter, **Ian White**, is leading worship music at Holy Trinity in Wester Hailes. All welcome. Speak to Fran or Brenda if you need a lift.

***30th March, 7.30 pm: Resurrection Praise in the Usher Hall, Free/donations. Book online/phone the box office.***

**Boys Brigade** *E C Hall every Friday*

- Anchor boys (Primaries 1-3) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Junior Section (Primaries 4, 5 & 6) 6.30 - 8.00 pm
- Company Section (P7 to age 18) 7.30 - 9.30

**Table Tennis** *E C Hall alternate Saturdays, 4- 5 pm*  
*19 March; 1/15/29 April; 13/27 May; 10/24 June*

**The Guild** *E C Hall alternate Tuesdays 2 – 3.30 pm*  
*21 March; 4/18 April; 2/16/30 May; 6/20<sup>th</sup> June*

**Men's Fellowship** *E C Hall alt. Saturdays 8.30 – 10.00 am.*  
*finishing with our annual outing on 20<sup>th</sup> May*

**Prayer Meeting** *Prayer Room, E C Church,*  
*every Monday 7.30 – 8.30 pm*

**House Groups** *Wednesday evenings at 7.30*  
*at home of Robert Alexander*  
*Thursday afternoons at 2.30*  
*by Zoom, hosted by Dora Bennett*

**Trustees meetings (Session)** *28 March / 25 April/ 30 May*



The Guild continues to be a lovely time of friendship and reflection. This year already we have welcomed five new members and had 4 meetings:

- **Robert Burns Week:**  
John Campbell visited to tell us about Robert Burns and treated us to a very professional and enthusiastic recital of some poems.
- **Focus on Rainbows**  
Elizabeth Pennykid shared her love of rainbows and experiences of God sending one to catch her attention.  
The ladies each made a rainbow key ring
- **Boys' Brigade**  
Calum Pennykid talked about keeping things relevant and relatable for the boys in the 21st century.
- **AGM** was well attended, Thanks to Alistair and David. For their support. Jinty has agreed to join the committee.

Please join us for any of the weeks, A warm welcome awaits. We meet in the East Calder downstairs hall  
from 1.00 – 3.00 pm

## Our Guild Program for February 2023 – June 2023

7<sup>th</sup> March – Alistair Cowper – Bible Study + Time in Africa

21<sup>st</sup> March – Michelle Herron on *Reuse and Thrive*

4<sup>th</sup> April – no Guild this week due to Holy Week

18<sup>th</sup> April – Karen Jamieson on Meloosha Home Care

2<sup>nd</sup> May – Calum Pennykid talking about *Cool Creatures*

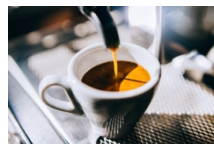
16<sup>th</sup> May – TBC                      6<sup>th</sup> June – Songs of Praise

20<sup>th</sup> June – Afternoon Tea and -Fellowship

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## **FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ**

A relaxed, informal setting for people living with dementia and their carers to meet and enjoy some social time together.



Where?      East Calder Church Hall



When?      Last Thursday of the Month



Times?      10am - 12pm

To book a place, call 01506 533 108



## PRAYER MATTERS

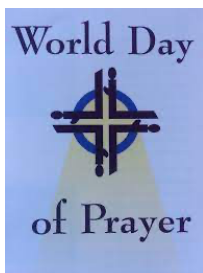
*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*

The Prayer Group meets for an hour each week: on a Monday evening, in our Prayer Room (at back of East Calder Church); at 7.30. ***You are most welcome to join us.***

Ten or so of us meet to share our joys and sorrows, our concerns for the world, for our own nation, for the hot spots in the world, and for all we are shown by the Holy Spirit to pray for. We have had two birthdays recently, celebrating with cake and candles! A very good way to begin any church meeting!

There is once again the opportunity for individuals to seek and receive prayer after the Sunday services. This prayer time is, of course, securely in confidence. Prayer requests can also be written and laid in the green bowls on the communion table in both sanctuaries. These requests will be collected, and we will pray for them at our Monday evening meetings. If at any time you have a concern and want prayer, please ask Alistair, Brenda or me.

Keep an eye out for further information as we plan an event for Pentecost in May.



## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

*The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto, **Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action**. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.*

KNEC is in a local group of churches who come together in worship on this special day, and so become part of this wonderful, worldwide, prayer initiative. Each church takes a turn to host the event. It was our turn this year!

Representatives of: St Theresa's; St Mary's Dalmahoy, Kirk of Calder, West Calder, Kirknewton and East Calder, and Polbeth Harwood, met earlier this year to organise the service.

On Friday 3rd of March, we celebrated the *World Day of Prayer* in East Calder church. Approximately 50 people came to worship and follow the service outline written by Christian women of Taiwan.

As this service is led right across the world on this chosen day, it is like a giant Mexican wave of worship and prayer.

It is always on first Friday of March, so please join us next year when it will be held in West Calder Kirk.

***Dora Bennett, Prayer Secretary***



*In you, O Lord, I take refuge*

ALL START AT  
7.00PM

*Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday  
(3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> April)  
in East Calder*

A time to reflect, pray, listen, sing, and draw close to Jesus in this, the hardest week of his earthly life.

*Thursday*, in Kirknewton Church, we will remember how he washed his disciples' feet and broke bread with them, sharing their Passover meal - then turning it into the wonderful Sacrament of Communion. We will share in that meal and that sacrament as we celebrate Communion with Alistair, our minister. ***'For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.'*** (John 13:11)

Friday – *Good Friday* - in East Calder Church, Alistair will lead us in a time of reflection on and appreciation of what Jesus accomplished on this day of days.

***'He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.'*** (Isaiah 53:5)

**Please join in with any or all of these special services**

## HOW TO WIN BY LOSING

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34–35)*

Christians too often preach a self-absorbed gospel of religiosity, rather than a 'lifestyle gospel.' The gospel is so radical that if we truly believed its message, everything we think and do would be called into question. Did we totally miss the point when we made a religion out of Jesus, instead of realising he was giving us a message of simple humanity, vulnerability, and nonviolence, necessary for the reform of *all* religions? Should we be more concerned with *following* Jesus and less with worshipping Him?



If we dedicate our lives to building bridges (the 'ministry of reconciliation') the price is that we will be - like all bridges - walked on from both sides. Reconcilers are normally hated by all because they are neither on one side nor the other. They build the vulnerable bridge between the sides; but this can look like conceding ground to the foe. Jesus is both person and process, the Son of God *and* 'The Way', the goal *and* the means. However, we would like the person of Jesus but not his process or path, the cross as a 'heavenly transaction' but not as a pattern for our lives. To the world, the way of the cross looks like failure. But Christianity is about how to win by losing!

*Adapted from Richard Rohr: 'Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go'.*



*Loving God, thank you for the saving love of Easter, for loving your world so much that you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ to save it. We receive afresh, that freeing, healing love and new life. Help us to channel that same love and power today to wherever it needs to go.*

*In Jesus name. Amen.*