

KNEC NEWS



October 2016



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



**This month
includes:**

Manse Letter

Simply Church

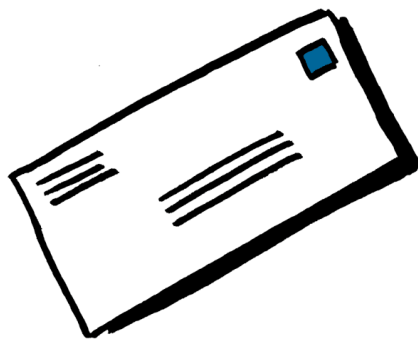
*Leaving
arrangements for
Dr Groenewald*

View from the Pew

In Focus

Housegroups

The Boys' Brigade



25 August 2016

Dear Congregation

I am really sad to say that this will officially be my last letter to you as the minister of Kirknewton and East Calder Parish. I have enjoyed my time in this Parish and will go away knowing that I am a better person through knowing you. You have accepted me and my family and you have opened your hearts to us. Your homes were always a safe place for us to anchor whenever we needed a wee bit of TLC. We will never forget all the kindness and love shown to us. Kirknewton and East Calder Parish will always have a special place in my heart. In many ways you have enriched my journey in Scotland. For this I will remain forever grateful.

I hope and pray that my legacy will live on long after I have left. My legacy to you will be to continue to break down all the barriers that exist between the established church and the community, and all the walls between people of faith and people who do not have any faith at all. There is a big difference between faith and religion and as followers of Jesus we practice faith and not religion.

I want to leave you with the passage in Philippians 4:4-9:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about

such things.⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

May God bless you and keep you close to Him!

*Sincerely yours,
André*

PASTORAL VISITS

Please advise the Session Clerk, 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.

Simply Church

As mentioned in the last issue of KNEC News, West Lothian Presbytery's 'Simply Church' event was held on 27th August.



After worrying about the weather we were blessed with a lovely day, a picturesque location and an excellent response from the Churches and the congregations in West Lothian.

The purpose of Simply Church was to get churches together and to display the work that is done in West Lothian by the Churches and other groups associated with them.

There was a happy atmosphere and there was always a buzz (sometimes wasps) but on the whole the buzz was from the people.

There was an avenue of 28 marquees leading to the main marquee where the band played during the afternoon and led the songs of praise. The main marquee being open at the sides meant that you could look down the avenue and through the main marquee and see Linlithgow Loch at the other side. Lovely sight.

It was interesting to see the number of different ideas and presentations.

Our display was based on **OUR HISTORY, OUR VISION, OUR GROUPS & OUTREACH.**

We also had flower arrangements (they were well admired) depicting three important dates in the Church Calendar:



Christmas
with a
reading
from Isaiah
9 v6 and v7

Easter
based on 1
Corinthians
15 v3 - v8

**Harvest Supported by MP 732: We thank You then, O Father,
For all things Bright and Good,**

The fourth arrangement illustrated 'Our Vision' and the 1st and 4th verses of MP 511 'Be thou my vision'. The arrangement included three lilies representing the three distinct priorities in our Vision - Our Parish, Our Congregation and Our Young People.

Posters, leaflets and photographs illustrating our History, Vision and Groups/Outreach were included on the Display Stand.

The display was replicated in Church on Sunday, 28th and formed part of the service the theme of which was 'Show and Tell'.



LEAVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DR GROENEWALD

Dr Groenewald will conduct worship in both Churches, for the last time, on Sunday 9 October and the following arrangements have been made to mark this occasion.

Farewell event:

Following the shortened Kirknewton worship service, there will be an opportunity for the congregation to have tea and cakes and a time of fellowship with Dr Groenewald in the Church Hall.

Following the East Calder worship service, an informal "Soup & Sandwich" lunch will take place in East Calder Church Hall, starting at approximately 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this lunch, which is being provided by the Church.

For catering purposes, we would like to know approximately how many people will be coming to the lunch so, if you would like to be there, please contact The Board Clerk.

Farewell gift:

The Trustees of the Church have agreed that Dr Groenewald should be presented with the gift of a framed biblical text, a book token and, perhaps, also a cheque, to mark his time with us and that the congregation should be given the opportunity to contribute towards this gift, which will be presented to Dr Groenewald at the close of worship in both Churches on 9 October.

If you wish to contribute, please pass your donation to the Session Clerk or Board Clerk by 5.00pm on Tuesday 4th October

DR GROENEWALD'S INDUCTION AT BALERNO

Dr Groenewald's Induction to Balerno Parish Church takes place on Tuesday 25 October at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this service



By the time this magazine comes out, we will be one week away from being a ‘vacant charge’. An odd expression which conjures up a picture of either a dull-witted dependant or a riderless warhorse!

Hopefully, KNEC *sans* minister will be neither of those.

For sure, we are not dull-witted. Our two congregations comprise: the wise and experienced; the willing and competent; the well-educated and articulate; and the kind and caring.

We have had our outgoing minister for seven years and inevitably have depended upon his energetic leadership and have shaped our fellowship to fit his distinctive style. Now, we have to shake off dependence and rise up to the challenge of steering our own ship.

We will be ‘riderless’ in one sense, not directed by one person in authority, but we need not be directionless, simply stumbling through the next year or so in a fog, like what my old granny used to call ‘a knotless thread’. We can use the time to discover or *un-cover* skills of planning, creating and achieving that may not get such an outlet when there is an appointed leader.

Have you seen the film ‘Warhorse’? The star of the show, a simple farm-bred horse, rises to the challenges thrown at him. He is not given a choice. He has to endure four years of relentless hardship, brutal forced-labour and life-threatening danger. By the end of the Great War, he is barely recognisable as the fine animal he once was. He is broken and defeated, all his noble spirit gone . . .

Until he hears a faint whistle, a tune he recognises from long-ago, happier days, a tune he associates with a beloved master. And his ears prick up, his head lifts, his emaciated, wounded body straightens itself, his exhausted legs find a last surge of energy. He has been found by his master and all his love and loyalty comes flooding back. Not a dry eye in the house, of course. Who doesn’t love a happy ending?

The next year for us, in our vacant, riderless state, will not put us through anything like four years in the Great War. It will require endurance, loyalty, hard work, stamina and commitment but, unlike that unfortunate, exploited animal, we will not be separated from our beloved master at any time, bereft of hope. Our Lord and Master will be with us every step of the way.

Farewell, André, go with our thanks and our blessing. We hope you will pray for this old warhorse you are leaving behind, as we will pray for you and your lovely family in your new, no-longer-vacant ‘charge’.

In Focus

In Focus, our special time of Worship, Praise and Fellowship on a Sunday evening, has restarted after the summer break.

In September 2002, our Sunday evening service moved from the church into the church hall in East Calder, the format changed and **In Focus** was born.

In Focus has been an importance part of our fellowship over the last 14 years and I'm sure this will continue into year 15.

This year, as in previous years, there will be different categories of evening and people will speak on the following:

- **Cafe**: My favourite hymn(s) from childhood.
- **Experiential**: Experiencing God in real life situations.
- **Reflection**: On the verses of "In Christ Alone".
- **Songs of Praise** evenings.
- **Music Nights**.
- **Guest Speakers** will discuss "Social Responsibilities".

The programme until the end of 2016 is:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>
02-Oct	Cafe
09-Oct	Reflection
16-Oct	Guest / Food Bank
23-Oct	Experiential
30-Oct	Music Night
06-Nov	Cafe
13-Nov	Reflection
20-Nov	Experiential
27-Nov	No In-Focus (Lights E/C)
04-Dec	Cafe
11-Dec	Reflection
18-Dec	Christmas Songs of Praise

All welcome, Sunday evenings 6:30pm in East Calder Church Hall.

House Groups



Our House Group programme, providing a mid-week opportunity for bible study, sharing, fellowship and prayer has restarted after the summer break. Groups meet on a Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Until Christmas, groups will study the letters of Peter.

All welcome.

The Boys' Brigade

Our Annual Enrolment Service was held on Sunday, 25th September when the Boys were officially registered for another year. This year we're pleased to welcome three new faces and another two just waiting for their 5th birthdays then they'll be BB Boys!

Looking towards the end of the session, we are returning to Canty Bay, North Berwick for our camp. So hopefully the weekend of 28th to 30th April will be dry and sunny!!



The Company Section Boys have been invited to see round Livingston Police Station on Friday, 7th October. Please note that we have been invited not summoned!!!!

We'll also be providing the Christmas Post service again and having our Burns Supper and Quiz in January so please keep reading the intimations for more information nearer the times.

This year we have one young man starting work towards his Queen's Badge. Two years to complete at least 30 hours community work, 30 hours BB/Church work and show progress in skills and sports. This is over and above school studies so he's in for a busy time!

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'

KNEC News is now available on the website.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

If you have an article for KNEC News please submit it by email using the dedicated address: knecnews@btinternet.com

The deadline for November's magazine will be **Sunday 23rd October**.



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.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

Crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

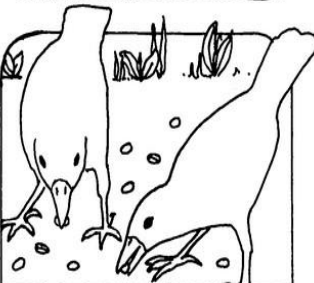
A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path

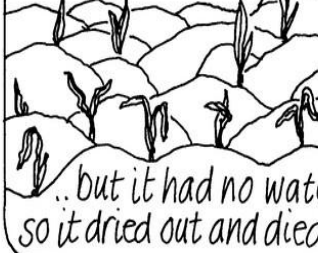


Some fell among thorn plants and



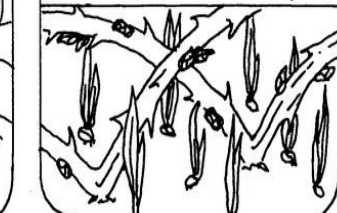
The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...

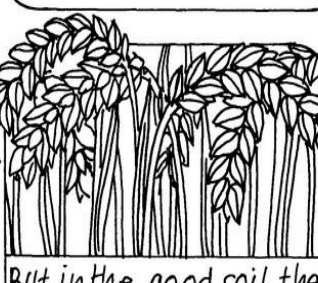


...but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



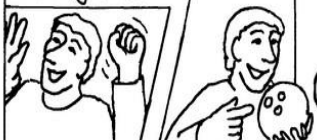
But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move onto another 'best thing.'

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it,



and that makes all the difference!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	2 nd Oct	Morning Worship Services – Back to Church Sunday Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday	4 th Oct	The Guild - National Youth Assembly Moderator East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	5 th Oct	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm House Groups 7.30pm
Thursday	6 th Oct	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	7 th Oct	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	9 th Oct	Morning Worship Services – Harvest Thanksgiving Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday	11 th Oct	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	12 th Oct	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm House Groups 7.30pm
Friday	14 th Oct	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	16 th Oct	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm

CHURCH

CALENDAR cont'd

Tuesday	18 th Oct	The Guild - Harvest Supper East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	19 th Oct	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm House Groups 7.30pm
Thursday	20 th Oct	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am
Friday	21 st Oct	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm
Sunday	23 rd Oct	Morning Worship Services - Communion Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday	25 th Oct	Kirk Session Cancelled due to Dr Groenewald's Induction at Balerno 7.00pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	26 th Oct	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm House Groups 7.30pm
Friday	28 th Oct	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	30 th Oct	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm