

KNEC NEWS



Begins 28th
September
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September 2016



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





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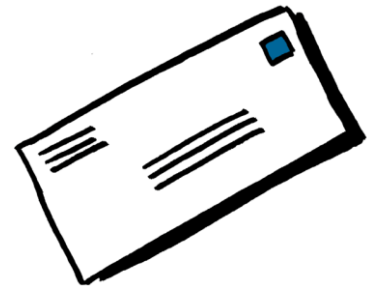
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Letter from The Manse



Dear Congregation

I hope you all had a wonderful time of rest and relaxation. We enjoyed our holiday in South Africa visiting and meeting up with many family relations and friends. We also had time to enjoy each other's company while watching some amazing animals close by.

We returned home to busy Parishes with everything going at a fast pace. It was as if we have never been away with phones ringing, conducting funerals and then of course preparing for the Holiday Club. The Holiday Club "Rocky's Plaice" went so well. We were blessed with good weather (well at least during some of the mornings!) during the Holiday Club, committed team members and enthusiastic children. The last night of the Holiday Club was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, thanks to all the delicious home baking and the entertainment of our own Hollywood actors. I also heard of all the positive comments about the Sunday services where the congregation was given a glimpse of the Holiday Club week. It was an unforgettable experience for all those who attended.

As the chaplain (appointed by The Ministry Council) for all the candidates in Ministry at the Candidates' Conference at St Andrews, I reflected on John 10:11-18. It is inspiring to hear Jesus say that He is our Good Shepherd. We have nothing to fear. We can go through life knowing that He is with us always and ever. We do not have to journey ever alone. He is the Good Shepherd who leads us on until we find eternal peace in heaven.

May we never rely on our own powers but instead trust God, take His hand and walk with Him in the new church year!

All my blessings, André

PASTORAL VISITS

Please remember to keep Dr Groenewald informed about anyone known to you who is ill, either at home or in hospital, and who would welcome a visit from him.



‘Out of the mouth of babes . . .’ we say, meaning that children can, in their innocence, often say what adults might be thinking but would not say, whether out of fear of reprisal or sensitivity to others’ feelings. In these days of political correctness, the bluntness of children can sometimes feel like a breath of fresh air. And sometimes they can capture in a simple image what theologians and philosophers have written whole books about. Rev David Black, who led our worship for two Sundays in July, gave us a marvellous instance of this.

When asked what a saint is, the child replied: ‘A saint is someone that the light shines through.’ The child was thinking of stained glass windows in churches but how loaded with meaning and metaphor that is!

‘We have this treasure (Christ in us) in jars of clay’ or, as the old King James Version puts it, ‘in earthen vessels’ (*2 Corinthians 4:7*). There is a well-known painting, inspired by this scripture, of a cracked and rather unlovely vase with beautiful light seeping and spilling out through its cracks. That child unwittingly expressed the same truth.

David’s essential message to us over two Sundays was that ‘God is light and in him is no darkness at all’ (*1 John 1:5*). Our only and most effective weapon against the darkness that seems, in a season of terrorist tragedies, to be closing in around us is to let the Christ-light within us seep and spill out - however cracked and unlovely we may be feeling! He reminded and

reassured us: the light has shone in the darkness *and the darkness has never been able to put it out.*'

Brenda spoke to us, at the end of July, about how we might guard ourselves against possible terrorist attacks in places of worship. Official guidance goes down the line of checking litter-bins, preventing vehicles parking outside churches and being wary of strangers. We can subscribe to this view, close ranks and live in fear. But is this the 'armour' we, as vessels of the light, should be putting on?

She reminded us of how Peter acted out of fear and self-preservation when Jesus was arrested and how very differently he and the other disciples acted after Pentecost, once they had been filled with the Holy Spirit. We too – children of the 'new covenant' with God - are filled with this Spirit, that very light which *will* find a way out through the smallest crack in the dirtiest vessel and make the ground we stand upon become holy ground.

She exhorted us to remember Esther who was 'born for such a time as this' and to rise up to accept that we are born for *this* time. God has placed us right here, right now, for a purpose: to put on the armour of God and stand firm, now that this day of evil has come.

In another sermon a few weeks later, she spoke of seasons in people's lives and urged us to ask God to make plain to each of us what season we are in. Is it a time to weep or a time to dance? A time to act or a time to wait? One thing is plain for all of us: it is a time, as the old song says, to 'let our little light shine'!

The Church's Financial Position - August 2016

The 2016 Annual Budget presented to the Congregational Board members earlier this year projected income of £110,775 and expenditure of £116,461 which would result in a deficit of £5,686.

From an accounting perspective, the Congregational Board agreed in June to move from Fully Accrued Accounts to Receipts and Payments reporting with immediate effect. The accounts produced at the end of this year will be in a different format, but will continue to show comparative figures for the previous year.

All of the following financial information is correct as at 21st August 2016.

Our current overall income is £74,608 which is ahead of budget by £465 (0.6%). Within this figure, our offerings total of £55,658 is ahead of budget by £1,324 (2.4%).

The income derived from people and groups using our church premises is under budget by £802 (23%). However, our income from both weddings and funerals and fundraising activities is ahead of budget by £2,296 (229%) and £584 (39%) respectively.

Our general expenditure to date is £80,602 which is over budget by £196 (0.2%).

The cost of looking after our church buildings is £14,610 to date, which is £1,923 (15.2%) over budget. This is primarily due to investing in upgrading the audiovisual equipment in our church buildings and painting the church hall in Kirknewton. As a church family, we remain indebted to the volunteers who help to maintain our church properties.

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. Our Stewardship Convenor, will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding Gift Aid.

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



IN FOCUS

In Focus will restart on Sunday 18th September (this will be a welcome back and introduction to the year ahead).

The Boys' Brigade 1st East Calder Company



We're back!!
All Boys welcome to come
along and join in the activities

Friday nights – East Calder Church Hall
Ages – from 5 to 18 years

Anchors	P1 (5 years) to P3	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Juniors	P4, 5 & 6	6.45pm – 8.15pm
Company	P7 to 14 years	7.30pm – 9.45pm
Seniors	15 – 18 years	7.30pm – 9.45pm





The Guild

We meet in East Calder Church Hall at 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Our Syllabus for 2016/17 as below:

23 rd Aug	Dedication and Communion Service - Rev Dr AJ Groenewald
27 th Aug	<i>West Lothian Summer Gathering "Simply Church"</i>
6 th Sep	Project Haiti - Mission International - Hugh Henderson
20 th Sep	Mission to Seafarers - Rev Tim Tunely
4 th Oct	National Youth Assembly Moderator - Andrew MacPherson
11 th Oct	<i>Autumn Rally - St. Ninian's Craigmalen, Linlithgow 7.30pm - Linda Young - National Convenor 2015-2016</i>
18 th Oct	Harvest Supper - A Guild Fellowship Evening
1 st Nov	Women at War - Janette Hannah
15 th Nov	The Guild then & Now - Recognising Long Service
6 th Dec	Christmas Evening of Carols and Readings
15 th Dec	<i>Christmas Festival - St John's Church, Bathgate. 7.30pm - Brightons Praise Group</i>

2017

3 rd Mar	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>
7 th Mar	Update on the HIV Project - Speaker coming from 121 name to be confirmed
21 st Mar	Bible Study - Gordon Pennykid
28 th Mar	<i>Spring Rally & AGM Armadale Parish Church 7.30pm - Salvation Army</i>
4 th Apr	Guest Night - Entertainment by Tryst
18 th Apr	AGM
2 nd May	St Cuthbert's Way - Audio Visual Presentation - Chris Gunstone
16 th May	Close of Session with Fish Tea and Fellowship

GUILD WEEK: 13-20 November

Simply Church



‘Summer Gathering and Songs of Praise’

As mentioned over the last few weeks, West Lothian Presbytery was organising a ‘Summer Gathering and Songs of Praise’ at the Peel in Linlithgow on Saturday, 27th August. As KNEC News is due out on the 28th there has not been sufficient time to provide feedback on the event in this issue.

However, next month’s magazine will include an article and photographs to let you know and see what happened.

Worship Service times

Normal worship services take place in Kirknewton Church at 9.45am and in East Calder Church at 11.15am.

The following exceptions/special services will take place between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017.

Sep 25 th	BB Enrolment Service	East Calder 11.15am
Oct 2 nd	Back to Church Sunday	Both Churches
Oct 9 th	Harvest Thanksgiving	Both Churches
Nov 13 th	Remembrance (Joint Service)	Kirknewton 9:45 am
Dec 4 th	Bereavement Service	East Calder 3.00 pm
Dec 18 th	Joint Christmas Family Service	East Calder 11:15 am
Dec 24 th	Joint Christmas Family Service	East Calder 7.00 pm
Dec 24 th	Joint Christmas Eve Service	Kirknewton 11:30 pm
Dec 25 th	Joint Christmas Service	East Calder 11.15 am
Jan 1 st	Joint Service	Kirknewton 9.45 am
Apr 9 th	Joint Palm Sunday Service	East Calder 11:15 am
Apr 10 th , 11 th & 12 th	Church open for prayer	East Calder 7.30 pm
Apr 13 th	Maundy Thursday Service	Kirknewton 7.30 pm
Apr 14 th	Good Friday Service	East Calder 7.30 pm
Apr 16 th	Joint Easter Day Service	Kirknewton 9:45 am
June 4 th	In Focus Communion	East Calder 6:30 pm
June 25 th	Joint Family Service & Picnic	East Calder 11:15 am
July	Joint Services	Kirknewton 9:45am
August	Joint Services	East Calder 9:45 am

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'



Alpha Courses. Session has agreed that 2 Alpha Courses will be run which will be organised and led by our minister. The first is aimed at our own congregation and will run every Wednesday from 28th September 2016 to 7th December 2016 inclusive. The second is aimed at folk from our Parish and will run every Wednesday from 18th January 2017 to 29th March 2017 inclusive. Both courses will be held in East Calder Church Hall and will start at 7.30pm. Please note the dates and spread the word. If you are interested or know of anybody who might be interested, then please speak to the minister.

The ASM in 2017. A date for your diaries. The ASM will take place on the evening of Tuesday 14th March 2017. The business will be followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit.

From **Stewardship and Finance Department at 121** a note of thanks for this congregation's support of the work of the Church through our Ministries and Mission Contribution. In 2016 we will give £65,361. £55,753 of this contribution will go Ministries to support the costs of providing ministers and parish workers. As the cost of providing a minister is £41,507, we are meeting the full cost of our ministry and supporting other congregations whose income is not sufficient to meet the cost of a minister. Do note that this figure is not what our minister is paid – it includes all the overheads of employing somebody e.g. National Insurance. The balance of £9,608 will go to Mission and is used to support the Church's work and administration.

What happens to £10 in the offering bag? £4.20 is kept by us; £4.88 pays for our ministers; £0.92 provides important help for congregations and supports the mission of the Church.

EnerJ



It doesn't seem that long ago since we all stopped for summer. The Family Outing to Scoughall was a great success and a fantastic way to end the term. We had about 50 people aged between 2 and 102 all chatting, eating, playing and paddling together. There was a great feeling of fellowship and sharing.

Our new year of EnerJ starts on 4th September. This year we are taking one of our songs each week and will look at what it teaches us. Once a month, we will have a different week where we will look at a character in the Bible and explore what they did.

Please remember our children who are starting nursery, school and of course our girls that left last year who are going on to high school, in your prayers.

Please also pray for God's guiding and sustaining of the leaders as we seek to do His will.

Many thanks

EnerJ Team



Menu

The Lunch Club resumes
on Thursday 1st
September at 11.30 am.

Soup,
Sweet,
Crackers and cheese,
Tea or coffee

Cost - £2

Please join us in East
Calder Church Hall where
a warm welcome awaits
you.

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 Rev Dr André Groenewald.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

If you have an article for KNEC News please pass it to preferably by email using the dedicated address: kneccnews@btinternet.com The deadline for articles will be **Sunday 25th September.**

The Singing Group



The Singing Group meets weekly throughout the year on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Kirknewton Church for an hour of singing, laughter and fellowship followed by coffee and biscuits. Although primarily formed to rehearse the hymns for the Sunday services we also practise other music - spiritual, classical and popular. We aim to sing several pieces a year as a group at some of the important anniversaries within the Church such as Easter and Christmas. We would love to welcome anyone who just likes to sing to come and join us any Tuesday evening.

In addition should anyone wish to suggest a favourite hymn for the Singing Group at the end of the service as people exit the Church in Kirknewton on Sunday mornings please let me or any other member of the group know.

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.

Pants for Ghana!

My daughter was quite overwhelmed by your response for my appeal in the May magazine for children's pants. She goes out to Ghana every year, with a group from her church in Prestonpans, to partner with local churches out there and offer spiritual teaching and practical help. The rule in Ghana, no doubt for hygiene and infection control reasons, is that children cannot come to school if they have no pants. Many families are single-parent and very poor with several children. Some families have no parents (the AIDS epidemic is largely to blame) and the oldest child is doing his or her best to fill the parental role for the younger ones. Even putting pants on all of them is beyond the means of such families and so the children miss out on their education.

Your generosity was tremendous and I took two enormous bags, labelled BOYS and GIRLS, down to my daughter a few weeks ago. She was in the middle of moving house so the bags were put into a cupboard for the time being. She phoned me a few days later: 'I can't believe how generous your church has been! Please thank them all from me. I think you are wonderful!'

I will ask her to write a wee report on this year's visit in late August, especially how the pants went down - so to speak!

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday	1 st Sep	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am The Break East Calder Church Prayer Room 12.30pm
Friday	2 nd Sep	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	4 th Sep	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am
Tuesday	6 th Sep	The Guild - Project Haiti – Mission International- Hugh Henderson East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm The Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	7 th Sep	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Friday	9 th Sep	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	11 th Sep	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am
Tuesday	13 th Sep	Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	14 th Sep	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Thursday	15 th Sep	Lunch Club East Calder Church Hall 11.30am
Friday	16 th Sep	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm

CHURCH CALENDAR cont'd

Sunday	18 th Sep	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday	20 th Sep	The Guild - Mission to Seafarers Rev Tim Tunely East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	21 st Sep	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm
Friday	23 rd Sep	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	25 th Sep	Morning Worship Services Kirknewton 9.45am East Calder 11.15am Boys' Brigade Enrolment In Focus: East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
Tuesday	27 th Sep	Congregational Board East Calder Church Hall 7.00pm Kirk Session East Calder Church Hall 8.00pm Singing Group Kirknewton Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	28 th Sep	Prayer Group East Calder Church Prayer Room 7.30pm Alpha Course East Calder Church Hall 7.30pm
Friday	30 th Sep	Kosy Kaff Kirknewton Village Hall 4.00-5.00pm Boys' Brigade East Calder Church Hall 6.30pm
