

KNEC NEWS



SEPTEMBER

2033

Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland



Scottish Charity No: SC006973



FROM THE EDITOR

I hadn't even begun to think about a cover picture when Alistair, our minister, sent me a picture of a card that had just arrived for the church. It's a simple 'thank you' card. The sender had received some flowers from the church and wanted to say how much they had been appreciated. When I saw the card, I knew it was a word to me for this issue. Many of you no doubt noticed that this 'quarterly' magazine failed to appear in June. Most of you probably know why. So, apologies for the lapse and bless you all for understanding. When my husband, John, collapsed and died suddenly in Cunnigar Park on a sunny April morning, I went in a matter of seconds from being someone who helped and supported others, whenever I could, to being someone in need of help and support.

I got it in spades from my wonderful church family. I was aware of Christ 'holding me fast' but that he was doing it through *your* unstinting support and kindness. Every time I felt overwhelmed with all that had to be done (we had just sold our house and I had to move six weeks after John's death), the doorbell would ring and there would be one of you offering help and/or a shoulder to weep on. So, I want to take this chance to say - just simply, like that card on the cover does:

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Fran

email:





FROM OUR MINISTER

... for the last time ...

Beginning and Ending in Worship

I'm thinking about worship, sitting in the garden watching the bees come and go into their hives. It's a sunny day which means it's a busy bee-day. They've been waiting for this day for a while as the weather hasn't been so good. But today everything is fine with the world and the bees are dancing, some for the first time and some perhaps for the last.

When young bees emerge from their cells, they spend the first few days on house cleaning duties. Firstly, they clean out their own cells, then go to other areas in the hive wherever there is need. They then spend a few days feeding larvae with Royal Jelly before helping to seal the cells over with wax so that the larvae can pupate.

It's only after having performed these essential duties for the colony that young bees will venture out of the hive to make orientation flights, short flights allowing them to lock into the location of the hive so that they know where to come back to.

It's these flights I'm watching today in the sunshine, and it looks look like the bees are dancing, happy in the warm sun.

The Bible has lots of examples of people dancing in worship, like David before the Ark or Miriam with her tambourine. Here's what I'm thinking (and might include a Sunday sermon): worship can take all sort of different forms, and what might be one person's idea of worship might not be another's.

Whatever the form or the style, perhaps the thing that all worship has in common, is that it is an attempt to give worth to One who is greater than we are and to whom all creatures owe their very existence and every breath.

Made for worship,
We might sing joyfully.
We might sit silently.
We might dance exuberantly.
We might bow reverently.
We might stand, awestruck at a sunrise.
Or lie prostrate, under the stars of night.
We might ponder a leaf,
Watch the bees dance in the garden,
Or touch the hand of a dying friend.
Whatever we do,
as worship,
may God be glorified
and Love be the result.

I can't believe this is the last time I will write for KNEC News. As you already know, full time parish ministry is something I feel I can no longer cope with, as I don't feel I have yet recovered the energy levels necessary to be a full-time parish minister. Maybe I never will. The decision to retire early has been an incredibly difficult one, following months of wrestling with it but it feels right. I have a strong sense of peace about it, which I interpret as God's approval.

I'm so thankful to you and to God for calling Sarah and me to Kirknewton and East Calder, albeit for a shorter time than we'd hoped. It has been a great privilege and you are a wonderfully loving and supportive fellowship. We will miss not being with you and it will be our prayer that you carry on worshipping and growing together in peace and unity, knowing that in all things, God works for good, even though we know not what that looks like at the moment.

I'm glad that Darren Philip has been appointed as Interim Moderator and I know that Darren will do a great job and that you will love him and get on well with him as you have with me.

Sarah and I will be watching your progress and we will keep you in touch with what we find ourselves doing (and being) next.

With love, grace and peace,

Alistair and Sarah



PRAISE GATHERING
IN THE USHER HALL,
ON SATURDAY 16TH
SEPTEMBER
AT 7.00 PM

Our own Janice Anderson will be part of *three hundred voices* lifting in praise to God.

Why not come and be part of this wonderful event?

Graham Kendrick himself will be there, and I am sure there will be many of his much-loved praise songs raising the roof.

To book your seat and obtain your ticket, go to:

<https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/praise-gathering-2023-0>

or just google 'praise gathering 2023'.

If you don't have access to the internet:

phone the Usher Hall to book, tel. no: 0131 228 1155



We had our first meeting back on 15th August and we thought about new beginnings and change. We had a lovely time catching up on what everyone had been up to over summer and enjoying each other's company.

Our Program for the year has been planned and the next few meetings are as follows:

- 5th September – Colin Brett - My cycle around Scotland
- 19th September Alistair Cowper – my favourite psalm
- 3rd October – 1st verse of song 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you' - Elizabeth Pennykid
- 17th October – Getting to know me – Jinty Ramsay

We look forward to having different speakers throughout the year on a range of topics. We will also work our way through the song 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you' and have different people share their thoughts on each verse.

We meet in the downstairs hall at East Calder from 2pm-3pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month. You would be very welcome to join us regularly or as a one off. Please pray for the Guild, its members and its meetings. If you would like to know more about it, or are interested in coming along, please come and speak to me or any of the ladies.

Elizabeth Pennykid

email:



SESSION NEWS

Hi, Everyone

As we go into a vacancy, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Church family to thank Alistair for his leadership, commitment and care of us over the last 5 years. With great sadness, we will say goodbye to Alistair and Sarah, but let's pray for their next chapter and that God will bless them in that.

It was Alistair's wish not to have a big send-off which I think is fitting for his gentle nature so we will have tea/coffee and cake with Alistair and Sarah after the service on the 24th where we will make a wee presentation and pray for them on Alistair's retirement.

As we look forward, I would like to encourage you to remain hopeful, enthusiastic and committed. We are an active church (that is the church being the people, remember!) There are many activities in our busy Church calendar, and we should be encouraged by the skills we are blessed with to have such an active and varied Church life. Can I ask your co-operation and commitment to keep this going during our vacancy process? Hebrews tells us "Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning **to end**".

Our faith is not about buildings or the minister or what biscuits we have - it's about a living, loving saviour who has placed us on earth to serve Him and walk with each other, showing the love that he has given us. It is about prayer, worship, fellowship, growing and learning together, through the good and the bad.

I won't lie to you, the thought of being Session Clerk in a vacancy is rather daunting, but I give you my word that I will do all I can to help this period of change be as smooth as possible, and I will delegate (so if you see me coming towards you - run!) God will provide all that we need, but let's work together, encourage each other, and stay committed in our faith and fellowship to continue God's work in this place.

If there is anything you want to chat about, then please come and see me. Communication is key in the smooth working of all things. Please don't sit and worry or moan because that gets us nowhere - come and speak and let us work together to see God's will be done.

I'd like to leave you with this thought from Corinthians: 'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and, though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is, with Christ.' Each one of us has a part to play, each one of us is unique and important, each one of us is a part of this family.

With love and prayers as we move forward together.

Elizabeth Pennykid , Session Clerk

email:





The Project really feels like it is growing and meeting the community in different ways:

The Hub is a great time for company, games and fellowship, attended by an average of 25 people per day (excluding volunteers). Jean Gilchrist visited in

August to play Scottish songs for us to sing along to - much enjoyed by all.

- Formal listening sessions: people are starting to enquire more as they get to know and trust us.
- Support Groups, building on the Hub:
A monthly *Parent Support Group*. Parents value this time and have benefited from discussions and sharing.
A *Craft-and-Chat Club* - a time of company, escape, and self-care, attended by c 20 people. It is great fun.
- *Community Fun Days*. We have had three, open to families in the community, with over 100 people connecting not only with the project but the church too. This has helped families new to the area who have lost all their previous support networks, allowing them to begin to build new ones.
- We miss our *school visits* during their holidays but look forward to learning what our connection with the schools will look like for the year ahead.

The *Share-to-Care* scheme is up and running. If you are able and would like to financially support the work of the project, speak to me or Robert Alexander (Treasurer). Please continue to *pray for the project* and its visitors and volunteers. I encourage you to come along to any of our initiatives. You will be made very welcome. Elizabeth

kneccommunitylisteningproject@gmail.com





works with Primary 6 children and above. This year they will be taking an active role in leading their program. Only 2 boys (so far) but some great discussions about things we have been exploring together.

This year, the boys decided to make a video of a journey through the Bible, using props, pictures and *Lego*. We start our session with a prayer; then, look at the Bible to learn together what will come next in their video. By the end of the last session, our heads were so full of thoughts about God's creation that they were 'about to explode!'

Youth Church will run with a team of leaders and helpers on a rota system. Thanks to all who are willing to help. I am sure you too will learn from the boys and enjoy your time in YC.

What better can we do for our Church children than make them feel safe, wanted and loved in the Church, and provide opportunities for them to discuss God's love? Both boys are in Primary 7, a challenging time with the thought of High School looming. Please pray for them: to grasp this challenge with excitement and anticipation; and that they will know God's steadfast love holding them as they journey through this final year of Primary School. If there are any other P6+ who would be interested in joining Youth Church, please speak to me. We would love to welcome more young people.

Elizabeth

email:





JOHN YOUNG

by his friend, Brian Bathgate

This was difficult to write; not for me but for the attempt to capture a most beloved man in a few words - an impossible task.

Those who knew John know the depth he was held in regard, the love he gave and instilled in others. I am proud to have known him. He enriched my life and that of so many others.

Our times together varied: one-to-one on a day out; The Men's Fellowship; time spent on Iona; time spent with Katrina and Fran. I met John when he and Fran first visited In Focus. We chatted and I knew he was a man I could like and get on with.

Times spent together, both in church involvement and personal, were frequent and meaningful. We had many discussions on the church and on the ups and downs that life throws at us. John gave great support through times of anxiety and serious illness. I was not the only one to benefit from a relationship with John, special times full of laughter, support and love.

I loved John and counted him as a dear friend. It still doesn't seem possible that he is not around, and that deep voice can't be heard in my ears and his laugh warming my heart.

‘Mr Bathgate!’ I would hear on the phone, ‘Can you do Saturday’s MF prayer or lead the time of sharing?’ I was happy to oblige of course, because my friend John was asking.

I remember John as slight of stature physically but, from a faith perspective, a giant warrior for Christ. His faith shone for me and many others, quiet support through Jesus, an example of a man of God. It was clear to me when he passed that I would miss him, and think of him often, not least when I pass that road end.

I can imagine John at St Columba’s Hospice, quietly listening, not judging, and supporting through difficult times. This must have had an impact on him, but John never broke confidence and obviously gained great support from his faith and experience in dealing with people.

While working for the NHS, driving the out-of-hours doctors, he would have given his colleague confidence in his ability to meet any urgency, but also quiet support when necessary.

John was a ‘people person’, dedicated to understanding and responding with measured advice, no cliches, no stock answers. He made you feel that you were important, as indeed you were to him. There didn’t seem to be an end to his giving of himself.

I try to make no comparisons with John and other men but, in many ways, we had a relationship similar to that of me with my father-in-law. Men do tend to find it difficult to express their feelings, but I am sure that John knew how I felt about him.

He warmed my heart with his presence and soothed my soul with his words, all bound in the love of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER MATTERS

from Dora Bennett

It's a beautiful day as I write but, yesterday morning, there was a nip in the air, a hint of Autumn on the way. As we go through each day, we can have a 'heaven hint' of some kind of change on its way. A word, a picture, something we hear or touch, becomes strangely endued with the Father's grace and favour. We become alert, wondering what it's for: a nudge to write to or visit someone; a knowing' that there is a thing we are to do or say to someone; a situation or a person we are to pray for.

The Lord is very near. The moment we feel him nudge us, we needs must pay attention and obey. If we do, he will speak again, and we will begin to recognise his prompting earlier and act more swiftly. If we ignore this inner prompting it becomes quieter and quieter. If we can sense the changing seasons, then we can increase our awareness of the Lord speaking to us.



PRAYER POINTS

***Alistair and Sarah**

in this last month of ministry to us

and Our Father's plans and purposes for them

***The Boys Brigade**, boys and officers

***The Guild**, its speakers and members

***The Hub**, its funding and outreach

Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask that you speak to us inwardly and show us your presence and working in the world around us. Give us confidence to believe and test your words, to obey and act accordingly We love you and live to serve you. Amen

Prayer Meeting each Monday evening in our Prayer Room

(at back of East Calder Church) from 7.30-8.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

You can also leave written prayer requests in the green bowls,
on the communion tables in either church.

For more information about the life and work of
our church, go to:

knec4jesus.org.uk



*KIRKNEWTON PARISH
CHURCH*



*EAST CALDER PARISH
CHURCH*