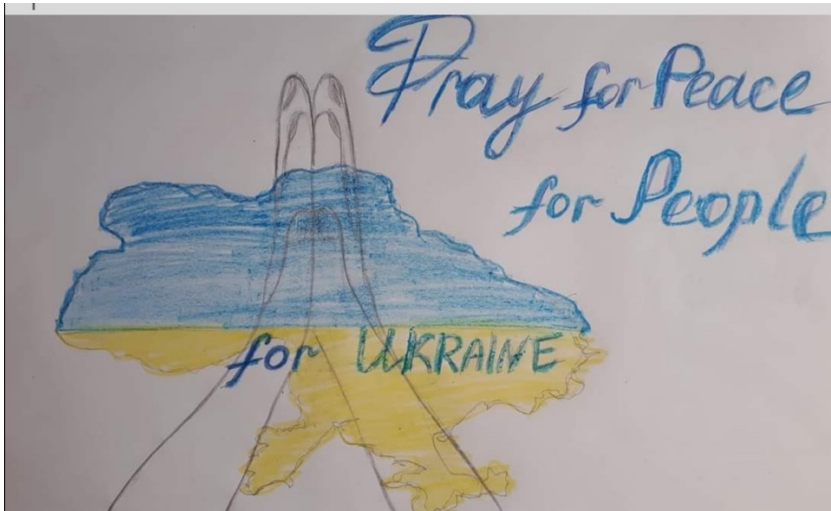


# KNEC NEWS

MARCH 2022



*when the power of love overcomes the love of power,  
the world will know peace (Jim Hendrix)*



Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity No: SC006973





## COVER PICTURE: LIGHT A CANDLE FOR UKRAINE

Sunday 27th February, a short service, an opportunity for church and community to reflect, pray, and light a candle.

A local Ukrainian family joined us. They are part of our church family, and we hold them close in prayer while their own family are all in Ukraine. They shared with us about the terrifying scenes and great fear there. They have had contact with their family, and we pray this can continue. We lit candles and prayed God's light to shine into the darkness of this war. We read Isaiah 54 :10, *'Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed'*. Ukraine is feeling the ground shake. They need God's covenant of peace now, more than ever.

We sang "Amazing Grace", then listened to it sung in Ukrainian. It was a very special and moving service.

Please keep this family in your prayers, along with the many other Ukrainian families living so far from home. The mum drew the cover picture: praying hands over her motherland.

And from a Christian Russian professor ...

'Russia must suffer a terrible punishment for this unjust war, for the blood and suffering. All of us Russians are guilty of allowing the dictator to engage in robbery and violence for twenty-two years. I'm ashamed that I have a Russian passport that has the colour of blood and gore. Military censorship has been introduced in Russia. People who criticize the president's actions, and are against the war, are regarded as criminals. I cannot write a long letter. The situation is very bad here.'

***There are no winners in this war. Pray for peace. Our God is able.***

## FROM THE EDITOR

*'All you need is love ...'* (The Beatles)

*'There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more'* (Philip Yancey).

**God's love is unconditional:** even when it is undeserved.

*'Love means never having to say you're sorry'* (the film *Love Story*).

**God's love is forgiving:** We receive forgiveness when we repent.

*'I noticed that the Queen was wearing beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands. They were covered with mud.'* (Bobby Moore, receiving the 1996 World Cup from the Queen).

**God's love is sacrificial:** Jesus died to give us access to God's love

*'And leaving the Spirit; 'til the work on earth is done'* (from the song, 'There is a Redeemer', by Keith Green).

**God's love is empowering:** Jesus died to give us access to the power of the Holy Spirit.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

*Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age'. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Jesus was sent into the world on a mission, so that *all who would believe would not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). The mission of the Church is this mission of Christ. You and I, as members of the Church, must naturally be involved. But how? On page 7, you will read about 'Five Marks of Mission'. If we concur, all five will be seen in our witness together:

- proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- respond to human need by loving service
- try to transform unjust structures, challenge violence, and pursue peace and reconciliation
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth

You may think one mark more important than another, but most of us will probably agree they all matter. I wonder how you would score *our* Church against each mark. I can think of at least one example of our engagement in each of the marks.

We are all watching the horrendous unfolding of events in Ukraine. People in all walks of life look to see how the Church is responding. Gathering to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia is an important mark. And, as we approach Lent and Easter once more, let us together proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (the first mark). Whenever we can, let us pray/act *together*, in accordance with these marks. Grace and peace everyone.

## ACTIVITIES, SERVICES, MEETINGS, FUNERALS ...

### Easter Week Services at 7pm (11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> April)

- Monday: EC
- Tuesday: KN
- Wednesday: EC
- Thursday: KN - with Communion
- Friday:

### Lent Study

Resource material has been sent out by email for people to make use of individually or in groups together. The material will be used during the Online Café on Thursdays at 10.30 am, starting 10 March.

### ASM

This will not happen this year. The annual report and accounts have been approved by the Kirk Session, are available on request, and will soon appear on the church website.

### Guild

Meeting in person (Hurrah!) at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the month in EC church hall.

### EnerJ

Meeting every fortnight on EC Sundays

## THE PRESBYTERIES MISSION PLAN (decided in General Assemblies 2019 and 2021)

### Aims:

- to ensure the Church uses its finite resources effectively
- to ensure it is properly equipped
- to deliver the Good News in a dynamic, sustainable way
- to embrace innovative, imaginative ways to do this

### Plans:

- presbyteries to be reduced from 43 to 12
- ministry posts to be reduced by 40% to 600 (FTE)
- buildings to be 'appropriate spaces and places'
- the number to be reduced where there are too many
- a place of worship to be retained in each community

### Implications for us:

- In W. Lothian, single congregations will be the exception
- Edinburgh and W. Lothian Presbyteries to unite (as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022)

The Assembly encourages us to pursue '**Five Marks of Mission**' (Alistair refers to them in his letter on page 4). These are:

- proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- respond to human need by loving service
- try to transform unjust structures, challenge violence, and pursue peace and reconciliation
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth

**KNEC** forms part of **Mission District 3**, within which:

- Kirk of Calder /Livingston Old /Livingston United form a ‘Parish Grouping’
- Polbeth/West Calder and **KNEC** remain unchanged
- the West Lothian/Edinburgh border (KNEC/Ratho) may see further change in the future

District 3 wants local worship communities to be preserved. The talents and gifts of all congregation members will therefore be needed, and there will be training in how to:

- lead worship
- cover school chaplaincy
- perform funerals and other minister duties

#### Way forward for KNEC

- Meet with Mission District 3 churches to clarify our role
- Consider links with other congregations on the West Lothian/Edinburgh border
- Consider the location and use of our buildings
- Agree KNEC’s vision and the most appropriate way to embrace the ‘Five Marks of Mission’

***KNEC congregational online consultation on 8<sup>th</sup> March (Zoom)***

***Thereafter the Session will prepare its vision and plans***

# Our COMMUNITY CAFÉ is now up and running!

Let's get out of the house and mix with others again! An opportunity for an informal blether - with friends, with strangers. Time and space to talk and to be listened to. Games and crafts if you want to do something while you have your cuppa.

The café is only one small part of the Listening Project. We have funding for a one-year pilot. If it proves its value, it will be extended for 3 more years

**Pulling together as a community to listen to each other.**  
**Giving each other the gift of time and company!**

**GO FOR IT**  
Kirknewton & East Calder Parish Church of Scotland, Scottish charity Reg. No. SC006973

**KNEC Community Listening Project**  
For our community and beyond

**Helping to combat effects of isolation**

**Coffee/Tea/Biscuits and most importantly company!**

**Come and join us for a cuppa.**  
**Mondays 1pm-3pm**  
**East Calder Church Hall**  
**All welcome for as little or long as you want.**

**For more info please contact us:**  
☎ 07593007068  
✉ [kneccommunitylisteningproject@gmail.com](mailto:kneccommunitylisteningproject@gmail.com)  
f KNEC Community Listening Project

Training of our staff and volunteers continues. Two have almost finished the *Listen Well Scotland* advanced course. Look out for our different ventures throughout the year and come along. We would love to see you!





## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We started the new year in January, the meetings being held online. 'Zoom' has been a great blessing, keeping our group together and enabling us to have speakers from many 'airts and pairts'.

- On the 15<sup>th</sup> January, Hermione McMillan spoke of her work in healing ministry, and prayer was offered to those who requested it: taking the power of prayer to another level!
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> February, Natalie Pelttari told us about the work of the Edinburgh City Mission: outreach to homeless people and asylum seekers: a way of life far removed from the comforts that we enjoy.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> February, Callum Henderson spoke of the fascinating work of *Comfort International*: bringing God's word and blessing, along with aid and practical help, to many countries in Africa.

We have a full programme of speakers until the end of May, as well as sessions which we call a 'time of sharing', when the group can share – and encourage each other to share - bible study, ideas thoughts, concerns, sad times, happy times, uplifting times ... and even jokes!

We would love to have some new members or even occasional visitors. Let us know if you would like to join us.

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## TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

Sunday services continue to be in alternating locations between Kirknewton and East Calder. With COVID rules easing, we are resuming lifts to enable people to worship together and enjoy the fellowship in these services.

Do you need a lift to either location? Would you be willing to give someone a lift?

If so, let us know.

**THE BOYS'**  
**BRIGADE**  
in SCOTLAND  
>the adventure begins here  
1st East Calder Boys Brigade



Great to meet back as a company in this New Year!

There is always a buzz in the hall on a Friday night. Boys and leaders enjoy their time together and always leave with a smile. We have boys from 5 different schools, between Anchor Boys and Junior Section, who have all formed lovely friendships. Our Young men in Company Section are the same - some at school, some at college, but all there to learn, have fun, and be friends.

Our Christmas service was cancelled due to Covid, but the lead up to Christmas saw us doing lots of crafts and being reminded of the Christmas Story.

We now have some new sports equipment, kindly funded by West Lothian Battalion from money donated for this purpose. There are some real competitors in our company! Along with sports and games, the boys love crafts.

We enjoy a game of sweetie bingo, and a Friday night would not be complete without running around wild! Each week, we fit in Bible story-time when we pray, and the boys all take home a message from it. For us leaders, this is a great pleasure, opportunity, and responsibility which we all take seriously.

Please pray for the boys, the homes they come from, the leaders and their families, the team as they work together, and the planning/running of each Friday meeting.



Three inspirational women talk about their ground-breaking work:

**Debora Kayembe**, first black female Rector of Edinburgh University  
**Lama Zangmo**, Tibetan Buddhist Nun  
**Olivia Marks-Goldman** of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 6.00 - 7.30pm.** Register in advance at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TDqFu0d3RkO1BsXd56Y3Ow](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TDqFu0d3RkO1BsXd56Y3Ow)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email

*Religions for Peace UK, Women of Faith Network, & Edinburgh Interfaith Association*

## SONGS OF PRAISE

Our monthly Zoom on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the evening. Themes have included:

- favourite/comforting songs
- God's peace
- a message from the children /schools
- a message from friends
- a new stage in life
- God's grace in times of illness and bereavement



Last month, we thought specially of:

- ↑ Members who have been ill and their recovery
- ↑ Members who have been recently bereaved

It lifts the heart and the spirit to worship together again, even on Zoom, and it is very informal.

Do join us to catch up with friends. Keep your camera off if you prefer! The link will come into your email inbox a few days before.



## PRAYER

Father we thank you so much for the gift of prayer, that we can speak to you, and always listen to you.

### ***Weekly Prayer Meeting***

Monday evenings 7.30-8.30 in East Calder church (Prayer Room)

We are so glad to be back in our room to pray together. Because of the new WIFI router, you can now also join in from home, on Zoom.

### ***Prayer Bowls***

On each Communion table, there is a bowl with paper and pen. If you have a prayer request, please write it down and place it in the bowl. We will pray for it at the Monday meeting. You do not need to put names. The Lord knows who we are praying for.

### ***Individual prayer***

Prayer ministry available after a church service,

### ***Jesus, we lift to you the silent prayers of our hearts:***

- the world in all its disarray
- the people of Ukraine in shock and under brutal attack
- families struggling with rising council tax, fuel, and food prices
- our Minister and family: his mum's health is very poor - grant strength and your tangible presence on this journey
- recently bereaved families in these days of grief and pain - may their memories bring peace in the midst of mourning
- as we travel through Lent towards Easter, help us to keep our hearts and spirits focused upon you, our risen saviour

***Amen***

