

Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church of Scotland

Unrestricted Call



Parish Profile

www.knec4jesus.org.uk

Welcome

Thank you for taking time to consider the Parish Profile for Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church.

The parish lies in the county of West Lothian with Kirknewton situated to the south of the A71 and East Calder to the north. Both villages are some 12 miles from the centre of Edinburgh and 3 miles east of Livingston. The Churches are only 10 minutes apart by car.

In 1944 the two congregations of Kirknewton and East Calder united into a single parish. While we are one congregation with one Session and Board, worship services are normally held in both Churches each Sunday. However, joint services are held during July and August and also on special occasions.

Our Church became vacant at the end of October 2016, when our Minister was called to Balerno Parish Church following seven and a half years of service to the parish.

The Church roll stands at 306 members with around 150/160 attending regularly. Our congregation is in a positive place as we seek a Minister to take us forward to fulfil our vision and to meet the demands of an ever increasing local population.

Our vision is to ensure that **God's mission is to all people** within the congregation and the parish.

The Church offers:

- A motivated congregation.
- A congregation committed to prayer and worship.
- A core of members able to co-ordinate and lead in worship, children's addresses and corporate prayer.
- Competent and able finance and property management.
- Well maintained church buildings

We are a Christ centred Church, Prayer focused and Mission orientated.

Additional information regarding the parish profile gathered from the Scotland Census 2011 is available via the Church of Scotland's website:

http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/020147.pdf

Our website also contains information regarding our history, services, groups etc, issues of KNEC News (our magazine) and the Annual Report and Accounts. Our website is:

www.knec4jesus.org.uk and



Furthering the Vision

'God's mission is to all people'

Congregational priorities

- Ensure that there are regular worship services in place.
- Ensure that our congregational life is inclusive and welcoming to young people/teenagers.
- Ensure that each and everyone in the congregation has access to pastoral and spiritual care through groups and worship initiatives.

Parish priorities

- Continue to address the needs of our parish.
- Have a presence in times of crisis, bereavement and tragedy in our communities.
- Minister to the needs of the local schools and other youth groups.

To work towards our vision, strengthen our witness for Jesus Christ and increase our service to the community we live in, **we are seeking a minister** who will work under God's direction to lead, guide and motivate us using:

- **Team leadership**
- **Pastoral Care**
- **Faithful Prayer**
- **Faithful Preaching of the Word of God**
- **Recognition, development and use of the gifts of the people**
- **Community outreach**



Ministry Team and Structure

At present the Minister is supported by an Auxiliary Minister who works 10 hours per week.

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session meets 9 times a year with 6 business meetings, 2 study evenings and a joint meeting with the Congregational Board at the end of February to approve the Church's Accounts. Currently there are 37 elders, 17 men and 20 women.

All Groups and Organisations have an Elder allocated to them to maintain a link with Session and to ensure that Session is kept advised of areas of need as well as the positive work being undertaken by the Groups.

The current position of the Kirk Session is not to allow gambling and alcohol on Church premises.

Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and same Sex Marriages Act (Act 1 2015)

The Kirk Session having considered Act 1 2015, agreed that Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church will not depart from the Church of Scotland's traditional stance.

Congregational Board

The Congregational Board meets 6 times a year including the joint meeting with the Kirk Session in February. The Board membership consist of 11 elders and currently 12 members from the wider congregation. Ad-hoc meetings are arranged as necessary.

There are several sub-committees and these are:

- Publications & Communications;
- Social & Community;
- Property; and
- Finance.



Worship Services

There are 3 Sunday Worship Services:

Location	Time	Style
Kirknewton	9.45am	Traditional
East Calder	11.15am	Traditional/modern
East Calder	6.30pm	'In Focus' - Informal

In Focus is led by members of the congregation and it is an informal time of worship and fellowship with internal and external speakers on various topics.

The services in total are attended by approximately 160 adults and young people.

The Break, the Church's midweek time of praise, worship and fellowship, meets on the first Thursday of the month.

During July and August combined services are held at 9.45am in Kirknewton Church and East Calder Church respectively and joint services are also held at other times e.g. family services and Christmas. There are no evening services during the summer months.

Additional services are held during Holy Week and also at Christmas. The Watchnight Service is held in Kirknewton Church following a Torchlight Procession and carol singing through the village of Kirknewton.

We have an annual Bereavement Service held in December when all who have been bereaved are invited to come along to the service and to join us for refreshments afterwards.

Communion services are held on the 4th Sundays of January, April and October with a further communion service being held at the beginning of August. There is also an annual communion service at In Focus. Home communions are provided as and when required.

Currently we use the New International Version of the Bible and hymns from Mission Praise. Singing is accompanied by digital pianos at Kirknewton and East Calder with a Singing Group taking part at Kirknewton and a Praise Band accompanying the piano at East Calder. There is also an organ at East Calder but it is not used at the present time.

We revamped our audio visual system at the beginning of 2016 in all our buildings and, in East Calder, the readings and hymns are now projected on to the Church wall.

Scripture lessons, children's addresses and prayers are often led by members of the congregation.



Groups and Organisations

Youth Groups

The youth work within the Church caters for over 40 young people through the following groups. Children's needs are also catered for in our outreach activities.

EnerJ

For children from age 3 to P7 and meets in the Hall at East Calder on a Sunday morning.

Youth Church

For secondary school young people from S1 to S5 and meets in East Calder Church Hall.

The Boys' Brigade

Meets weekly in East Calder and has Anchor, Junior and Company sections.



EnerJ and friends enjoying a Samba Band

Opportunities for fellowship

Various groups meet on a regular basis and have over the years been sources of education, fellowship and sharing, resulting in a real increase in faith for many of the members. The groups include:



Men's Fellowship visit to Winchester House, Duns

Prayer Group

In addition to the regular Monday evening meetings, the Prayer Group encourages prayer in small groups of 2 and 3 and with individuals as they seek personal prayer for current situations.

Men's Fellowship

Meets once a month on a Saturday morning. The sessions are varied with speakers both internal and external.



Opportunities for fellowship (cont)

House Groups

The weekly programme provides an informal environment for fellowship, sharing, learning and encouragement as God's Word is studied.

Kirknewton Bible Study Group

Meets monthly with the aim of exploring Bible texts or wider Biblical topics in a relaxed and informal surrounding.

The Guild

Meets twice monthly and the members enjoy a varied programme of speakers and activities.

Singing Group

Meets for practise on Tuesday evenings and in addition to leading the hymns in Kirknewton Church the Group also sings on special occasions.

Praise Band

The Praise Band plays for hymns in East Calder Church and provides music for other special services and events.



Outreach and Missionary activities

There are many ways in which we, as the Congregation of Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church, reach out to others in our community and also with those who may be seeking to know and serve The Lord Jesus Christ.

The following activities are some of the ways we have identified to interact with our neighbours in the community.

Lunch Club

Meets twice a month and provides home-made soup and sweets at a very reasonable cost.

Forget-me-not Café (Dementia Café)

The Café meets once a month with leaders and volunteers from the congregation providing a service to those who suffer from dementia.



The Holiday Club

Kosy Kaff

The Kosy Kaff is a weekly community outreach in Kirknewton benefiting local primary school children.

Holiday Club

The annual Holiday Club is a key outreach project and each year there are over 50 children, most of whom are not regular attendees at Church.

The Boys' Brigade and EnerJ also reach out to the community by organising events and issuing open invitations to families, friends and members of the parish to come along and join with them.

As a Church, the 'Back to Church' Services, Remembrance Services and the traditional Easter and Christmas Services provide us with opportunities for direct outreach to the community.

Our presence in the community is enhanced by involvement with the Community Councils, Gala Committees and the use of social media i.e. our Website and Facebook.

Supporting other groups in the community

The Church halls are made available to and used by local groups as we reach out to the community and to assist with meeting the needs of parish residents. Our support is wide, ranging from the Kirknewton Baby and Toddlers, to Girl Guides, dance groups etc.



Missionary activities

As a Congregation we also have other links that are beyond the boundaries of our community. Some are links as a Church while others are work undertaken by individual members. Support is given by prayer and financial giving.

- Africa Inland Mission
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Blythwood Care
- Christian Aid
- Compassion
- Crossreach
- Scottish Bible Society
- Scripture Union West Lothian
- The Vine Trust
- West Lothian Foodbank



Challenges we face

We acknowledge that there are always challenges to be faced in an active church and the two main challenges we have at the present time are:

1. Encouraging new people into the family of the Church (especially young families).
2. Resourcing our current and potential groups.

Encouraging Church attendance

Bringing new people into the Church family is a concern for us especially when we have difficulty in maintaining attendance levels while the village population is rising. East Calder has a population of 5,123 and Kirknewton has a population of 2,200. There are Council plans for East Calder to expand significantly in the next 5-10 years which includes the construction of a new Primary School. So far Calderwood, one of the new housing developments, has 220 dwellings built but this is planned to be a total of 2,300 in years to come.

The challenge here is not only to achieve a good balance between in-reach, making sure our fellowship is nourished and fed, but also looking outwards and bringing the light of the gospel to the community, opening our Church and being welcoming to those in our parish.

Resourcing Groups

Our resources, with regard to leaders and volunteers, require to be strengthened. Currently we are not able to provide crèche facilities on a Sunday morning nor staff the Kids' Klub when EnerJ is on holiday. The Holiday Club, one of our main outreach activities, would have benefited from more help although it is encouraging that additional support has been pledged for the next Holiday Club. However this does not diminish in any way our thankfulness for the resources that are available which enable us to do so much.

As well as seeing this as a challenge, we also see it as an opportunity to identify gifts and abilities in ourselves as well as in others around us. Making sure the right people are in the right jobs and encouraging those with the ability but lacking in confidence to step out of their comfort zone in faith and with the knowledge that those around them will encourage and support them.

We pray that our new Minister will have qualities to help us to develop the opportunities that are present in this parish and the attributes of the Minister that we seek to lead us forward are included with our Vision on page 3 of the Profile.



Week in the life of the Congregation

Sunday	Morning Worship Services		
	Kirknewton	9.45am	
	East Calder	11.15am	
	EnerJ		During Service at East Calder
	Youth Church		During Service at East Calder
	Opportunity for individual prayer ministry after the Service in East Calder Church		
	Evening Worship		
	In Focus	6.30pm	East Calder Church Hall
Monday	Prayer Meeting	7.30pm	Prayer Room, East Calder Church
Tuesday	Singing Group Practice	7.30pm	Kirknewton Church
	The Guild	7.30pm	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays of month East Calder Church Hall
Wednesday	Kirknewton Bible Study	10.00am	Last Wednesday of month Kirknewton Church Hall
	Alpha Course	7.30pm	January to March 2017 East Calder Church Hall
	House Groups	7.30pm	(Not meeting during Alpha Course)
Thursday	Lunch Club	11.30am	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays of month East Calder Church Hall
	The Break	12.30pm	1 st Thursday of month Prayer Room, East Calder Church
	Forget-me-not Café (Dementia Café)	10.00am	Last Thursday of month East Calder Church Hall
Friday	Kosy Kaff	4.00pm	Kirknewton Community Hall
	Boys' Brigade	6.30pm	Anchor Boys Junior Section Company Section } East Calder Church Hall
		6.45pm	
7.30pm			
Saturday	Men's Fellowship	8.00am	Second Saturday of month East Calder Church Hall



Church Buildings

Kirknewton Church is on the edge of Kirknewton village near to the railway station and has attached halls.

The current building was completed in 1750 although the Church has been active in Kirknewton since 1246.



East Calder Church is on the main street of East Calder and has halls directly next to the Church building.

In 1886 the present church building was erected to serve a 'United Free' congregation. The history of both Churches is available on our website.

The Manse is in East Calder a short distance from the Church, in a cul-de-sac overlooking the park. It was built in 1985 and was refurbished and renovated eight years ago and subsequently maintained to a high standard.

On the ground floor there are a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, study and shower room. On the upper floor there are four bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and a bathroom. There is double glazing and gas central heating throughout with gas fire in the lounge. There is a single garage attached to the house and a mature medium sized garden.



Amenities local to the Manse

- Primary Schools
- Health Centre
- Dentist
- Library
- Shops and Post Office



Contact Details

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator:

Rev Jaco Boonzaaier
The Manse
2 Church Street
BROXBURN. EH52 5EL.

Telephone: 01506 337560
Email: jboonzaaier@churchofscotland.org.uk

A curriculum vitae, covering letter and two references should be submitted to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

Mrs Rosemary Hastie
84 Overton Crescent
EAST CALDER. EH53 0RH

Telephone: 01506 881182
Email: rosemaryhastie@hotmail.com

