

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW
Sunday, 13 January 2019



Today's Service

10.00am Join Service of Rededication
The Very Rev John Christie

Welcome to St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow

Thank you for joining us today. We hope that you feel at home here with us. **We would love to meet you so please join us for tea and coffee after the service.** A crèche is available in St Katherine's aisle for younger children. Please ask one of our team at the door for help if needed. If we can assist you in any other way, please complete one of our pew cards. Thank you.

Knowing Christ better – Serving Him together – Making Him known to others

Prayer Focus

" Why the clock? To remind us all to join in prayer regularly either at 10am or 10pm"



This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone. This is our prayer as we, the whole Church family of St Michael's rededicate ourselves to the future, acknowledging and giving thanks for our long history and promising to use the many gifts we have been given in the service of Christ in our Church, our community and our world.

You are welcome to join us for Weekly Prayers in the Queen's Aisle on **Wednesdays at 12.30**. There is a box in the Queen's Aisle in which to put requests for prayer. Alternatively please call 822603 or 670980.

<p>Ministry Team: Rev John Povey, Interim Moderator Rev Thom Riddell Rev Colin Johnston, Locum Minister Trish Archibald, Youth & Family Outreach Worker</p> <p>Organist & Music Co-ordinator: Matt Edwards</p>	<p>Address: Church Office, Cross House, Linlithgow EH49 7AL</p> <p>Telephone: 01506 842188 E-mail: info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk Web: www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk</p> <p>Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, 9am–1pm. Fri 11am–1pm Tuesday by appointment</p> <p>Vestry hour: Thursday evening by appointment</p>
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This week in Cross House

Mon 14 Jan	9.00am	Elders	7.30pm	Guild Leadership
Tues 15 Jan	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank	7.30pm	Kirk Session
Wed 16 Jan	10.00am	Magazine Committee	6.30pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	Girls' Brigade Friends Committee BB Battalion Meeting
Thu 17 Jan	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade
Fri 18 Jan	9.45am 10.00am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup WL Foodbank		
Sat 19 Jan				
Sun 20 Jan	9.15am	Sunday Club & Bible Class	12 noon	Youth Fellowship Brunch

Forthcoming Events

2 Feb	10.00am	Chogoria Coffee Morning (Kirk Hall)
2 Feb	4.30pm	Messy Church (Cross House)
16 Feb	10.00am	Linlithgow Grange Rotary Coffee morning (Kirk Hall)
24 Feb	3.00pm	Girl Guiding Thinking Day Service (Kirk)

Next Week's Sunday Service 9.30am and 11am

Sunday 20 January, Souper Sunday led by Elders

2019 Stewardship of Treasure Prayer for January 2019

Lord God, at the beginning of this New Year when what lies ahead is unknown to us, help us to focus on what we do know. We thank you for the many gifts that we have received over the years and pray that we may focus on these as signs of your goodness, kindness and faithfulness. Amen

This Week

Thursday 17 January: Time of Stillness 2pm in St Katherine's Aisle (entrance via south door during winter opening hours). Discover what 15 minutes of stillness can do for you. Tea and cake afterwards. All welcome.

Choir Practice at 7.30pm in the Kirk, all adults welcome. Further info: matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

Friday 18 January: Housegroup: 10.00am in Room 5, Cross House. The study is: Tom Wright's 'The letters of John'. 1 John 2:3–14 – The New Old Command. All welcome to join this informal group. Please call Barbara Thomson 845705 for more details.

Saturday 19 January: Linlithgow Arts Guild Concert in the Kirk at 7.30pm. The Gesualdo Six – A Cappella spiritual to lighthearted singing. Tickets: Far From the Madding Crowd or 07731 614 179. Full price £14 (u26 £6). Children free accompanied by an adult.

Sunday 20 January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019, St Michael's RC Church at 6.30pm – all Linlithgow churches taking part. Refreshments after service in St Margaret's Hall. All welcome.

Coming up

Saturday 2 February: Chogoria Coffee Morning. With the New Year comes our first fundraiser coffee morning in aid of Chogoria Hospital, Kenya from 10am to 12:30pm. Donations of home-baking, tablet, jam and marmalade welcomed. Please contact Margaret Henderson (Tel. 844787) or Sue Ratcliffe (Tel. 844922).

Saturday 2 February: Messy Church at 4.30pm, Kirk Hall

Monday 4 February: Kirk Knitting Club at 10.30am, Cross House

Thursday 7 February: Chapters Book Club at 3.15pm, Cross House – January book of choice is "Extraordinary People (Enzo MacLeod Series)" by Peter May

Thursday 14 February: Sunshine Sing-along for Memory at 12 noon, Kirk Hall

Coffee Mornings – 10am

19 January – St Michael's RC (St Margaret's Hall) in support of Mary's Meals

2 February – Chogoria Coffee Morning (Kirk Hall)

16 February – Linlithgow Grange Rotary (Kirk Hall)

Other Notices

During the service, photographs might be taken and used for Church purposes e.g. in Crosswind, on our website, notice boards, Facebook etc. If you and/or your family would prefer not to be included, please speak to one of the Welcome Team at the door, who will be happy to help.

CDs-Church Service: If you would like to borrow a recording of the service, you will find two CDs at the Church shop. A recording of the sermon is available weekly on podcast on the Church website.

Stamp Appeal: Please bring in all your stamps for the World Mission Council appeal to help young people with learning difficulties in the Ukraine. Boxes in the Church and Kirk Hall.

Christian Aid: In tune with the upcoming presentation of "Exile" by St Michael's Drama group, Christian Aid delivers assistance to refugees around the world. Please help in this year's door-to-door collection 12–18 May. For further information, please telephone 842646. Thank you every offer of help.

Re-Act (Action for Refugees) would like to thank all those who donated warm clothes/sturdy footwear/blankets/ camping equipment etc during 2018. Similar items will be welcomed through 2019. The Re-Act collection point in Linlithgow is at 26 Friars Brae.

Support Teams

House Groups: For information about fellowship groups meeting within St Michael's, please call Alison Miller 844992, Margaret Henderson 844787 or Barbara Thomson 845705.

The Help Centre offers information covering many concerns. Wondering where to access support for yourself or another? Tel 842646, or look at www.helpcentre.org.uk

Bereavement Support: The Team offers confidential one to one support to help you adapt to your loss. In addition, Positive Pathways support group meets fortnightly in the informal setting of the Canal Tearoom. Contact Sheila Rae 07719966273 or sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com.

Intimations All notices need to be in the church office by Thursday morning.

Sunday 13 January 2019: 10.00am, Baptism of the Lord

We gather as the people of God...

Call to Worship

Hymn 63, All people that on earth do dwell

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayer of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Time with Children

Hymn 516, We are walking in the Light of God

We listen to stories of faith and hope...

Scripture reading: Isaiah 43.1-7 (p.682)

(Today's Reader is Alan Miller)

Scripture Reading: St Luke 3.15-17, 21-22 (p.57)

Hymn 600, Spirit of God unseen as the wind

Sermon: 'A dove descending'

We respond to God's word...

Hymn 592, Like the murmur of the dove's song

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

Dedication and Covenant

Hymn 497, Almighty Father of all things that be

We leave with God's blessing...

Benediction

Hymn 786, May the God of peace go with us

Choral Amen: 820, Dresden

Two members of the Sunday Prayer Team are available for 15 minutes in the Queen's Aisle after this service to pray in confidence with anyone who has a personal need for prayer.

10.00am

Music for Today

A belated Happy New Year to you. I am writing this from Huddersfield as I await two further exams and trust that my audience on Sunday will be infinitely more welcoming and significantly less critical... Before the service we have Sweelinck's wonderful variations on the melody Unter der Linden Grüne. Four short sections of early keyboard music. After the service we have a delightful trumpet tune from the pen of John Stanley, in keeping with the same era and roughly how old I feel post exams...

A Warm Welcome to the Very Rev John Christie, Guest Preacher

We welcome the Very Rev John Christie to our service this morning. John was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2010, and served for a number of years as a an Interim Minister, a role he describes as 'helping congregations over hurdles'.

John skilfully led the Kirk Session in a series of special conferences during the autumn, at which elders talked about the past issues that had caused confusion and disunity. Elders recognised the need to let go of the past and to re-commit ourselves to work together in renewed unity and purpose. One tangible sign of that is a covenant (mutual agreement) about how we will work together.

This special service offers an opportunity for John to share with the whole church family the journey that Kirk Session has undertaken, and for us all to respond by rededicating ourselves to partner with our God in his plans for St Michael's.

Notes on Today's Scripture

Isaiah describes the situation in which the faith community finds itself in exile. A better future is, however, promised. The voice of God has promised redemption, and those who travel through the heartbreak and regrets of their circumstances - no matter how difficult the journey - will not be alone. Gerald Markland's hymn beautifully sets the scene. *'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; You are mine. When you walk through the waters I'll be with you, You will never sink beneath the waves. You are mine, O my child; I am your father, And I love you with a perfect love.'*

The words draw us into the story of Jesus' Baptism. It too begins with a prophetic voice issuing a call to repentance and to the renewing waters of baptism. The Jesus of the stable, the exile, the carpenter's son is about to begin his ministry. But first, despite John's protests, he submits to being baptised by John. The Holy Spirit descends and Jesus' ministry is affirmed. It is the new beginning affirmed by the dove descending.



Prayer of Rededication

We are no longer our own, but yours.
Put us with what you will,
rank us with whom you will;
put us to doing, put us to suffering;
let us be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let us be full, let us be empty;
let us have all things, let us have nothing;
we freely and wholeheartedly
yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are ours, and we are yours.
May this covenant, now made on earth,
be ratified in heaven,
to the glory of your name. Amen



As forgiven people who God loves and has called to work together in his church, we commit ourselves to these shared values:

respect

- we will talk to each other, not about each other

encouragement

- we will acknowledge and support each person's contribution

sensitivity

- we will listen to how others see things and not jump to conclusions

partnership

- we will pray for each other and share the work God has called us to

empathy

- we will seek to walk in each other's shoes

courtesy

- when we communicate what we believe to be true, we will do so in love and humility

tolerance

- we won't always agree, but if need be we will agree to differ.