

**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW**  
**Sunday 25 November 2018**  
**Christ the King Sunday**



**Today's Services**

- 9.30am First Service  
**Rev Colin Johnston**
- 9.45am All age Service at Springfield School
- 11.00am Second Service  
**Rev Colin Johnston**
- 12 noon Holy Communion  
**Rev Thom Riddell**
- 5.00pm Evening Service in the Kirk Hall led by music@stmikes. Amnesty International Greeting Cards for Prisoners of Conscience. All welcome

**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 teas and coffees, between the morning services.** Children aged 3–10 may join in with the Sunday Club, which meets in Cross House from 9.15am. The children are accompanied up to the church for the last part of the 9.30am service and can be collected from the front pews. A crèche is available at the 9.30am service 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"



Today, Christ the King Sunday marks the end of the Christian year through which we have moved from welcoming a Baby in the stable, through his Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension and now celebrate and worship as Christ the King, Head of the world-wide Church of which we are part. We pray that we may be worthy of Him in all we do as individuals and as a Church.

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 phone 822603 or 670980.

**Ministry Team:**

Rev John Povey, Interim Moderator  
 Rev Thom Riddell  
 Rev Colin Johnston, Locum Minister  
 Trish Archibald, Youth & Family  
 Outreach Worker

**Address:**

Church Office, Cross House, Linlithgow EH49 7AL  
 Telephone: 01506 842188  
 E-mail: [info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)  
 Web: [www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk)

Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, 9am– 1pm. Tue by appointment  
 Fri 11am-1pm

**Organist & Music Co-ordinator:**

Matt Edwards

Vestry hour: 7pm Thu by appointment.



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**This week in Cross House**

<b>Mon</b> <b>26 Nov</b>	9.00am	Elders	7.30pm	Guild
<b>Tue</b> <b>27 Nov</b>	9.45am 10.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank	7.30pm 7.30pm	Church Visitors Communion Elements Group
<b>Wed</b> <b>28 Nov</b>	9.00am	Christmas Unwrapped	6.30pm 7.30pm	Girls' Brigade Stewardship & Finance
<b>Thu</b> <b>29 Nov</b>	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade
<b>Fri</b> <b>30 Nov</b>	9.45am 10.00am 10.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup WL Foodbank		
<b>Sat</b> <b>1 Dec</b>	9.00am 10.00am	Prayer Breakfast Scouts Coffee Morning		
<b>Sun</b> <b>2 Dec</b>	9.15am Sunday Club & Bible Class 9.30am and 11am services with Rev Thom Riddell			

**Forthcoming Events**

<b>1 Dec</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning – 4 <sup>th</sup> West Lothian Scouts – <b>Cross House</b>
<b>2 Dec</b>	7.30pm	NYCoS Concert – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>7,8 &amp; 9 Dec</b>	10am-7pm	Festival of Christmas Trees – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>14 Dec</b>	7.00pm	Pub Carols – <b>Meet in Cross House</b>
<b>15 Dec</b>	4.30pm	Messy Church Christmas Party – <b>Cross House</b>
<b>16 Dec</b>	7.00pm	Linlithgow Reed Band Christmas Concert – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>17 Dec</b>	7.00pm	Linlithgow Academy Carol Concert – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>18 Dec</b>	6.30pm	Springfield School Carol Concert – <b>Kirk</b>

**NB:** Great care should be taken by those using the small car park at the Kirk Hall as children are often in the vicinity.

## **Stewardship of Time**

As the new day dawns, as first light spills across morning and gives a glimpse of a future yet unborn, may there be born in me a desire to know you better and follow you more nearly.

**Amen**

## **Knowing Christ better**

**Prayer Breakfast: Saturday 1 December** 9.00am to 10.00am sharp, Adam Room, Cross House. Directed time of praying together. Tea, coffee and a light breakfast bite will be provided. [2 Chronicles 7 vs 14.....if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven....].

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

**The Help Centre.** Wondering where to access support for yourself or another? Tel 842646, or look at [www.helpcentre.org.uk](http://www.helpcentre.org.uk)

**Bereavement Support:** The Bereavement Support Team offers confidential one-to-one support with the aim of helping you make sense of the painful and bewildering array of responses to bereavement, and to help you adapt to the loss. Positive Pathways informal support group meets fortnightly in the Canal Tearoom. Contact Sheila Rae 847538 or [sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com).

**Housegroup:** On **Friday 30 November** at 10.00am in Room 5, Cross House. Deuteronomy 30 – The future is what you make it. All are welcome to join this informal group. Please call Barbara Thomson 845705 for more details.

## **Serving Him together**

**Guild:** Next meeting, **Monday 26 November** at 7.30 pm in the Kirk hall when the Speaker Sandra Thomson will take us on her Jute Journey. Everyone welcome to join us. Further information from Margaret Henderson Tel no 01506 844787.

**Time of Stillness:** On Thursdays at 2pm we meet in St Katherine's Aisle (**entrance via south door during winter opening hours**). Come and discover what 15 minutes of stillness can do for you. Tea and cake afterwards. All welcome.

**☞Chapters:** Our book club meets on the first Thursday of every month 3.15-4.30pm, Cross House. Coffee cake and book discussion. Our book of choice is 'Death in Tuscany' by Michele Giuttari. All welcome. Info from Sally Chambers (07732722146). Next meeting **Thursday 6 December**.

## **Making Him known to others**

**Welcome:** If you worship with us here in St Michael's and are not a member, but would like to receive a copy of Crosswind and other information circulated to our members, please add your name to the Adherents List, which is at the back of the church today and will remain there until Sunday 9 December. **Thank you.**

**Knitting Club:** The Kirk Knitting Club meets once a month in Cross House on a Monday at 10.30 am in Room 1. **Next meeting Monday 3 December.**

**Life and Work:** The December issue is available for collection at the back of the church

**Amnesty Cards: Today, Sunday 25 November** evening service led by music@stmikes, 5pm in the Kirk Hall. Hot drinks served – signing cards for Prisoners of Conscience, come and hear their stories, and let them know they are not forgotten!

**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.

## General Notices

**Thank you** to all who took part in the Tear Fund Big Quiz Night. Eight teams took part here, and had an amazing evening, raising £311, which will help refugees from Syria and around the world. 500 churches and more than 15,000 people took part up and down the UK. A fantastic effort and a fun evening.

**Christmas Unwrapped** (presentation run by the Linlithgow churches for local primary schools) is fun, fast moving and creative while giving children the chance to explore the real meaning of Christmas. **Wednesday 28 November at Cross House**, and **Monday 3 December at Longcroft Hall** (both 10am-noon). Further info Lorraine Orr on [lorraine@stjohnslinlithgow.org](mailto:lorraine@stjohnslinlithgow.org).

**Choir Practice: Thursday 29 November at 7.30pm**, all adults welcome. Further info: [matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)

**Sunshine Singers:** Next sing-song at 2.30pm on **Friday 30 November** at St Michael's Hospital.

**Christmas Ecumenical Carol Singing** in the High Street pubs with refreshments at the last one, The West Port! Meet at Cross House on **14 December** at 7 pm – really need a good number of voices please – all churches were represented last year!

**Coffee Morning:** 4<sup>th</sup> West Lothian Scouts, **Saturday 1 December** in Cross House (10am-12 noon).

**Linlithgow Care Home:** Christmas Fair, **Saturday 1 December**, 2–4pm.

**Our Sunshine Sing-along for Memory**, in the Kirk Hall on the second Thursday of each month 12–1.30pm. All those living with memory loss and their carers are welcome. No church connection necessary. Light lunch and singing. Further info from Norma Costley 01506 843255. **Next Sing-along, 13 December.**

**Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar:** Can you donate an item daily from 1–24 December? Items required include: tinned goods, toiletries, UHT milk, diluting juice. You will find a full list at [www.westlothianfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.westlothianfoodbank.org.uk). Many thanks.

**Stamp Appeal 2018:** We need your used stamps! Please look out all those postcards you received over the summer holiday (does anyone actually send postcards these days?) or other snail mail and put the stamps into the collection boxes in the Church and the Kirk Hall foyer. They will contribute to the World Mission Council's Stamp Appeal to support centres for young people with learning difficulties in the Ukraine.

**Sunday 25 November 2018: 9.30am, Christ the King Sunday**

**We gather as the people of God...**

Call to Worship

Hymn: 129, The Lord is King!

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayer of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 252, As a fire is meant for burning

**We listen to stories of faith and hope...**

Scripture Readings: Psalm 93 (p.560)

John 18: 33–37 (p.110)

(*Today's reader is Anita France*)

Hymn: 374, From heaven you came

Sermon

**We respond to God's word...**

Hymn: 458, At the name of Jesus

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

Time with Young People

**We leave with God's blessing...**

Hymn: 641, Seek ye first

Benediction

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.*

9.30am

### Music for Today

For the last Sunday in the church calendar, we look to Bach to provide an appropriate piece to open and close our worship. He is known for some of the most technically challenging and rewarding organ works ever written. The prelude is often associated with the Resurrection with its triumphant opening. For the organist it is one of the scariest ever written as it begins with several scales - for the feet! The work is the famous Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532, which forms part of two Fellowship exams that are drawing ever closer. The postlude is the fugue, fast moving and offering little rest for the hands or feet. A fantastic fugue requiring energy throughout and to the very last page, where a pedal solo bring the last chords ever closer. The challenge, as any who dare to watch will see, is staying on the organ bench without falling off!

### A Warm Welcome to The Rev Colin Johnston, our locum minister

Born and bred in Ayrshire, Colin studied at St Andrew's and Edinburgh universities, before being ordained in 1986. His first charge was Larkhall: Trinity in Lanarkshire. He was always interested in the World Church, however, and in 1993 was accepted as a mission partner and trained for a semester at Selly Oak. He served for fifteen years with the United Church of Zambia, working in rural and urban areas. In Lusaka his congregation membership ranged from the President and government ministers and diplomats to people living in the shanty towns. His last 4 years in Zambia he taught at the Theological College. In 2009 he became minister of St Andrew's Galilee in Israel/ Palestine, networking with the local Christians (including St Michael's partner church in Reineh) as well as those of other faiths. In 2016 he moved to Egypt, working in international relations with the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, but also involved with the work of St Andrew's, the former Church of Scotland congregation, and its refugee project, StARS.

### Festival of Christmas Trees

Come along and see our Christmas trees in the Kirk decorated by church/community groups and organisations on **Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December (10.30am–7pm)**, **Sunday 9 December (2pm–7pm)** with refreshments served at our Hot Chocolate bar. All welcome! Entry: Adults £5, Child £2, Under 5's free, Family ticket £10 available from the church (Mon–Sat 11am-12.30pm) or at the door.

**Sunday 25 November 2018: 11.00am, Christ the King Sunday**

**We gather as the people of God...**

Call to Worship

Hymn: 129, The Lord is King!

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayers of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 641, Seek ye first

**We listen to stories of faith and hope...**

First Reading: Psalm 93 (p.560)                      (*Today's reader is Louisa Cervoni*)

Choir Anthem: Cantate Domino by Anna Laura Page (b.1943)

Second Reading: John 18: 33–37 (p.110)

Hymn: 374, From heaven you came

Sermon

**We respond to God's word...**

Hymn: 252, As a fire is meant for burning

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

**We leave with God's blessing...**

Hymn: 458, At the name of Jesus

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Dear Friends

### **What's Happening at Kirk Session?**

Kirk Session had its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday. We heard a presentation by Rev Amanda MacQuarrie of Bo'ness Old Kirk, who are piloting a Church of Scotland project called 'Path of Renewal'. This aims to support ministers and churches to find new ways to grow in faith, and to connect the Good News with people who now have little or no idea what it is. One of Amanda's many memorable comments was "If you wrap the Gospel up in 'church', people will avoid it." It was exciting to hear about new things budding into life just over the hill, and the presentation stimulated lots of discussion about how to develop our focus on outreach at St Michael's.

St Michael's has been busy again raising funds for other charities. Our retiring offering at the October Communion of £435 has been split between Bethany Care and the Blythswood Trust. Erskine Hospital will receive a tremendous £1,540 from the Remembrance Sunday retiring offering. And the Tear Fund quiz night last Saturday was a fun way to raise donations of over £300 for their international work.

Kirk Session is continuing to work through the recent tensions and disappointments in St Michael's with the Very Rev John Christie. At our final special meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December, we hope to draft a statement of values or conduct as a guide to how we work together in future. I believe that we are finding renewed unity and purpose through this process. John Christie will lead us in a special, single service of rededication on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 10am, to share some of this journey with the whole congregation.

Finally, please look out for 2 papers on the church website. I've put together a proposal to introduce more flexibility in how we organise the roles of leading and visiting in St Michael's. Kirk Session will discuss this on 18<sup>th</sup> December: please have a look at my ideas and let me know what you think! Val in the office will be happy to provide a paper copy if you can't access the website.

And next month, a more detailed paper will appear about the future of Cross House. Session will consider this on 15<sup>th</sup> January, so there will be plenty of time for everyone to think about the proposals and to have your say.

Yours in Christ,  
Alan D Miller