

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW
Sunday 2 December 2018
First Sunday in Advent



Today's Services

9.30 am	First Service Rev Thom Riddell
9.45 am	All age Service at Springfield School
11.00 am	Second Service Rev Thom Riddell

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 and are then accompanied up to the Kirk for the last part of 9.30am service. 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"



At the start of the Advent season, we pray that we may ready to hear the voice of the prophets proclaiming the coming of light into a dark and weary world. In our own times surrounded as we are by concerns about the state of the world and our own country, may we use this time to look forward in hope and expectation to the coming of Jesus.

You are welcome to join us for Weekly Prayers with Communion in the Queen's Aisle on **Wednesday at 12.30**. There is a box in the Queen's Aisle in which to put requests for prayer. Alternatively call 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
 Web: www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk

Open: Mon, Wed, Thu, 9am–1pm. Tue by appointment,
 Fri 11am-1pm
 Vestry hour: 7pm Thu by appointment.

Organist & Music Co-ordinator:

Matt Edwards



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This week in Cross House

Mon 3 Dec	9.00am 10.30am	Elders Kirk Knitting Club		
Tue 4 Dec	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank	7.00pm	International Team
Wed 5 Dec			6.30pm 7.30pm	Girls' Brigade Business Team
Thu 6 Dec	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade
Fri 7 Dec	9.45am 10.00am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup WL Foodbank		
Sat 8 Dec				
Sun 9 Dec	9.15am Sunday Club & Bible Class 9.30am and 11am services with Rev Colin Johnston 12.30pm Elders' Conference			

Forthcoming Events

2 Dec	7.30pm	NYCoS Concert – Kirk
7,8 & 9 Dec	10am-7pm	Festival of Christmas Trees – Kirk
14 Dec	7.00pm	Pub Carols – Meet in Cross House
15 Dec	4.30pm	Messy Church Christmas Party – Cross House
16 Dec	7.00pm	Linlithgow Reed Band Christmas Concert – Kirk
17 Dec	7.00pm	Linlithgow Academy Carol Concert – Kirk
18 Dec	6.30pm	Springfield School Carol Concert – Kirk
19 Dec	7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service – Kirk

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

Lord God,

At this time of thanksgiving we ask for your blessing that we might work for peace, pray in hope and be a reconciling presence which this world and every home and community desperately needs. Amen

Knowing Christ better

The Greatest Gift: God's gift to us, the Greatest Gift, is the theme of the Church of Scotland's 2018 Advent calendar. You are invited to sign up for a daily email or check the online Advent calendar for some daily inspiration at www.churchofscotland.org.uk

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

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.

Housegroup: On **Friday 7 December** at 10.00am in Room 5, Cross House. Deuteronomy 31:1–13 – Trusting God at the turning point. All are welcome to join this informal group. Please call Barbara Thomson 845705 for more details.

Serving Him together

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.**

Thank you everyone who supported this year's signing of Amnesty International cards which are sent to Prisoners of Conscience. 138 cards were signed (an increase of 21% compared with last year) and ready to send to women around the world who are facing injustices of various kinds. These cards are always very well received and bring hope that they have not been forgotten.

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.**

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

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 **Monday 3 December at Longcroft Hall** (10am-noon). Further info Lorraine Orr on lorraine@stjohnslinlithgow.org .

Choir Practice: Thursday 6 December at 7.30pm, all adults welcome. Further info: matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk

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!

Stamp Appeal: How many Christmas cards will you receive? Whether it is 1 or 100, every stamp is important to the World Mission Council's Stamp Appeal, which supports centres for young people with learning difficulties in the Ukraine. Please put your stamps into the collection boxes in the Church and the Kirk Hall foyer.

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.**

Coffee Morning: Fund raiser for one of St Michael's RC's young adults to do voluntary work with the Vine Trust in Peru. Queen Margaret Hall (10am-2pm) on **Saturday 8 December**. Tickets £2.50 adults and £1 for schoolchildren

Sleep In The Park. Along with thousands of others, Olivia Allatt will be sleeping out in Slessor Park, Dundee on 8 December. The event is organised by The Social Bite charity (SC045232) to raise money for services for homeless people and last year £4m was raised. Please consider sponsoring Olivia. Donations can be made at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/OliviaAllatt

LYPP: Looking to give a Christmas gift with a difference this year? Linlithgow Young People's Project are selling Christmas Gift Cards to help support our work here in the town. Available in values of £5, £10 and £20 – all money raised allows us to keep "bringing hope" to the young people of Linlithgow and Bridgend. Available to buy from the LYPP Office at 29 The Vennel (01506 202 610) or via our Facebook page until 14 December.

Christian Aid: Advent reminds us that the babe of Bethlehem was to have a bias towards the Poor. Christian Aid Week reminds us each year to have that same bias. The dates of the 2019 Week are 12 to 18 May. Simply post your name and address into Cross House at any time between now and 31 March 2019 or email wandeross@hotmail.com Thank you. Watch out for the Christian Aid Tree at the forthcoming Display in St Michael's 7, 8, 9 December.

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

Notice Board - In addition to the specific notices on this intimation sheet, please note there are a number of posters publicising particular events displayed on the notice board in the servery area of the Kirk Hall.

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

Sunday 2 December 2018: 9.30am, First in Advent, Hope

We gather as the people of God...

Call to Worship

Hymn: 273, O come, O come, Emmanuel

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayer of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the First Candle in Advent

Hymn 284, Hope is a candle, verse 1 (*please remain seated*)

Hymn: 277, Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

We listen to stories of faith and hope...

Scripture Reading: Luke 21: 25–36 (p.82)

(Today's reader is Jean McKeown)

Hymn: 477, Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Sermon

We respond to God

Hymn: 475, Christ is coming! let creation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

Time with young People

We leave with God's blessing...

Hymn: JP 128, Jesus bids us shine

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

Two ends of the musical scale this morning, pun intended. The prelude comes from the prolific pen of Sweelinck, a master of early keyboard music. Written in approximately 1600, this set of four variations on a theme named Under der Linden Grüne, is a delightful trip into the hands only repertoire. Although my feet get a, dare I say it, well earned rest after the Bach last week; this piece calls upon some scalic fireworks... The postlude is the finale from an organ sonata by Oscar Lindberg, some 300 years later. This calls once again for the hands with seven fingers and a liberal application of Irn Bru...

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 2 December 2018: 11.00 am, First in Advent, Hope

We gather as the people of God...

Call to Worship

Hymn: 273, O come, O come, Emmanuel

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayers of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the First Candle in Advent

Hymn 284, Hope is a candle, verse 1 (*please remain seated*)

Hymn: 277, Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

We listen to stories of faith and hope...

First Reading: Isaiah 51: 4–8 (p.692)

(Today's reader is Kate Keter)

Choir Anthem: This is the Truth – Traditional
arranged R. Vaughn Williams (1872–1958)

Second Reading: Luke 21: 25–36 (p.82)

Hymn: 472, Come, thou long expected Jesus

Sermon

We respond to God's word...

Hymn: 475, Christ is coming! let creation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

We leave with God's blessing...

Hymn: 477, Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Benediction

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Hope The First Candle in Advent

Leader: What do we wait for?

**People: Our hope is in God.
We wait for God to tear open the heavens and come down,
so that God's presence may be known!**

Leader: When we turn away, God's deeds become hidden from us.
We forget God's ways and lose hope in a world of terror and tears.

**People: We are God's people, the work of God's hands.
The light of God will shine upon us
that we may be saved.**

Leader: Keep us alert and waiting
with hope, expecting that God will
come to save us, to forgive us, to restore us
and shape us to be the people of God.

**People: We wait for Christ to come
with great power and glory!**

All: We light the first candle in Advent, the candle of hope.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, let all who wait in hope take heart, finding strength to affirm that even in the face of injustice and disaster, love, peace and joy will find a way. As an expression of Christ's own hope, peace, joy and love, may we continue to work towards a sustainable, compassionate and peaceful world.