

**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW**  
**Sunday, 31 March 2019**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

**Today's Services**



- 9.30am Monthly Communion  
**Rev Colin Johnston**
- 10.00am Mothering Sunday Joint Service  
**The Ministry Team**  
**Refreshments and fellowship**  
**to follow in Kirk**

**Welcome to St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow**

Thank you for joining us today. We hope that you feel at home here with us. 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"



Frustrated as we may be about Brexit and our country's future, may we not forget the suffering of the people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, including our friends at the Mulanje Mission Hospital, all of whom have suffered so much in the flooding. We pray for them all, and as we give thanks for our own mothers, remember especially mothers who have lost children and children, their mothers.

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><b>Ministry Team:</b>  Rev John Povey, Interim Moderator  Rev Thom Riddell  Rev Colin Johnston, Locum Minister  Trish Archibald, Youth &amp; Family  Outreach Worker</p> <p><b>Organist &amp; Music Co-ordinator:</b>  Matt Edwards</p>	<p><b>Address:</b>  Church Office, Cross House,  Linlithgow EH49 7AL</p> <p>Telephone: 01506 842188  E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk">info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk">www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk</a></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

<b>Mon</b> <b>1 Apr</b>	9.00am 10.30am	Elders Kirk Knitting Club	7.30pm	Guild
<b>Tues</b> <b>2 Apr</b>	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank	7.00pm	Cross House Improvement meeting
<b>Wed</b> <b>3 Apr</b>			6.30pm	Girls' Brigade
<b>Thu</b> <b>4 Apr</b>	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	3.15pm 6.30pm	Chapters Book Club Boys' Brigade
<b>Fri</b> <b>5 Apr</b>	9.45am 10.00am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group Housegroup WL Foodbank		
<b>Sat</b> <b>6 Apr</b>	9.00am	Prayer Breakfast		
<b>Sun</b> <b>7 Apr</b>	9.15am	Sunday Club & Bible Class	12 noon	YF Brunch

### Forthcoming Events

<b>27 Apr</b>	10.00am	Coffee morning – LAMP ( <b>Kirk Hall</b> )
<b>28 Apr</b>	3.00pm	Scouts St George's Day Service ( <b>Kirk</b> )
<b>4 May</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Project Trust Fundraiser ( <b>Kirk Hall</b> )
<b>11 May</b>	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Linlithgow Reed Band ( <b>Kirk Hall</b> )
<b>15 May</b>	7.00pm	GB Parents' Evening Display ( <b>Kirk</b> )
<b>18 May</b>	7.30pm	The Big Noise and Linlithgow Linties Concert ( <b>Kirk</b> )
<b>24 May &amp; 2 Jun</b>	7.00pm	NYCoS Summer Concerts ( <b>Kirk</b> )

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

## 2019 Stewardship of Prayer

### Prayer for March

Lord God,

You have made yourself known to us through prophets and apostles and above all through Jesus Christ. Make yourself known to us afresh today through your Word and Spirit. Amen

### This Week

**Monday 1 April: Kirk Knitting Club** at 10.30am, Room 1, Cross House – an hour of knitting, chatting and eating cake.

**Monday 1 April: Guild** meets in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm when our speaker The Rev Derek Henderson will give a talk "Following in Christ's Footsteps". Everyone welcome to join us. Further info from Margaret Henderson Tel no 01506 844787. Members are reminded that the balance for the outing is due on the evening.

**Wednesday 3 April: Crosswind**, the making of bundles for the District Elders from 9.30am onwards in the Church.

**Thursday 4 April: 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.

**Thursday 4 April: Chapters Book Club** at 3.15pm, Room 1, Cross House. The book of choice for review for March is 'The Italian Wife' by Kate Furnivall

**Thursday 4 April: Choir Practice** at 7.30pm in the Kirk, all adults welcome. Further info: [matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)

**Friday 5 April: Housegroup**, 10.00am in Room 5, Cross House. The study is Mark 5:1–20, Dealing with Demons. All welcome to join this informal group. Please call Barbara Thomson 845705 for more details.

**Saturday 6 April: Prayer Breakfast.** Please join a friendly group to pray for the work of St Michael's on the first Saturday of each month 9–10am, in the Adam Room. No need to pray out loud or be "holy". Let's give thanks for past blessings and ask for guidance going forward.

### Coming up

**April/May: "Uprooted"** – an exhibition depicting Christian Aid's work among the 40 million people around the World displaced by conflict, climate change and other factors – will be on display in St Michael's Church through April and early May. Please come along and tell your friends.

**Thursday 11 April: Sunshine Sing-along for Memory** at 12 noon, Kirk Hall

**Saturday 27 April: Linlithgow Inter-Church Annual Dinner** held again in our Rugby Club (7pm for 7.30pm). Speaker Rev Keith Short. All most welcome.

### Coffee Mornings – 10am

**27 April** – LAMP (Kirk Hall)

**4 May** – Project Trust Fundraiser (Kirk Hall)

**11 May** – Linlithgow Reed Band (Kirk Hall)

## **Other Notices**

During the service, photographs might be taken and used for Church purposes. For further information, please speak to one of the Welcome Team at the door.

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**Matilda the Musical:** There are a few places left on the GB trip to see this production on Wednesday 10 April (2pm) at the Playhouse, Edinburgh. If you are interested in coming along please speak to Clare 07718068898.

**Christian Aid Door-to-Door Collection (12–18 May) – Volunteers needed!** Even just to distribute envelopes, please telephone 842646 or email [wandeross@hotmail.com](mailto:wandeross@hotmail.com)

**War Memorial:** Repair and refurbishment works to our 100-year-old War Memorial commenced on 25 March. It is anticipated that these works will be over a two week period.

**Life and Work:** The April issue is now available for collection from the north aisle pews.

**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:** 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the Church of Scotland stamp appeal. The World Mission Council is challenging each person to donate 50 stamps (or more!) this year to support the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. There are collecting boxes in the Church and Cross House.

**Fundraiser:** Scott Forsyth is hiking Scotland's three tallest peaks on 6 and 7 April, fundraising for Christian charity The Leprosy Mission Scotland. To find out why or make a donation, visit: [https://tlmsfr.everydayhero.com/uk/SC\\_3\\_Peaks\\_Challenge](https://tlmsfr.everydayhero.com/uk/SC_3_Peaks_Challenge)

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## **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](http://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](mailto:sheila.ruth.rae@gmail.com).

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**Sunday 31 March: 10.00am, Fourth in Lent, Mothering Sunday**

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

**Mothering Sunday – Encourage One Another**

Call to Worship

Hymn: JP2 348, God loves you and I love you (with Sunday Club Band)

Prayer of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Talk one – What is in the bag?

Hymn: WSB 17, He's got the whole wide world in His hands  
(with Sunday Club Band)

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

First Reading: John 2 v 2–12 (p.89) *read by young people*

Hymn: 197, As we are gathered

Second Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (p.628) *read by Luke Davidson*

Choir Anthem: Angel voices ever singing,  
arranged by Christopher Tambling (1964–2015)

Talk two: Encourage one another

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

Hymn: 154, How great thou art

Prayer of Thanksgiving (with Colum Cameron)

Hymn: JP42, Father I place into your hands (with Sunday Club Band)

Offering and Time for Reflection

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

Hymn: As we go now (Seedlings Song)

Benediction

Choral Amen: 820, Dresden

**10.00am**

### **Music for Today**

Continuing on our Lent journey with J. S. Bach, not least as the 334th anniversary of his birth falls today, we look at two more of his great organ works. Being Mothering Sunday, and having given up an hour of sleep (possibly for the last time - random EU reference...) we look to Bach's happier side today.

In my playing at present I am, you may have noticed and even giggled, wrestling with the question – organ shoes or just socks. So, two pieces requiring some fancy footwork... Before the service, the famous 'Gigue Fugue' BWV 577. Dancing in the aisles is not encouraged. After the service the wonderful Prelude BWV 541 – again, the feet are kept busy and an ice bucket may be required if I do go for the socks option...

### **Sunday Club**

Next week Sunday Club and Bible Class will be making bread with Angus in Cross House.

### **Next week's services 9.30am and 11am with guest preacher, Rev Dr Hani Hanna**

Dr Hani Hanna is Professor of Theology and Academic Dean at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. He is in Scotland to participate in a Christian/ Muslim symposium at New College, Edinburgh.

### **Gift Day**

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's Gift Day. So far over £13,000 has been received which, once the tax has been reclaimed for those who were willing and able to Gift Aid their donations, will take us even closer to the target of £20,000 for the restoration and refurbishment of the west doors. The final figure will be announced at the end of April, so it's not too late if you still wish to donate: contact Andrew Jones, Gift Aid Convener for further information (about this or any other aspect of giving to the work of St Michael's) by emailing [giving@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:giving@stmichaels-parish.org.uk) or phoning 840914.

# Cyclone Idai

An estimated 2.6 million people have been affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

At least 700 people have been killed and some 400,000 have lost their homes, with this devastating toll expected to rise in the coming days.

Those affected – especially those in remote areas – are in desperate need of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine.

Christian Aid is acting as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to raise urgent funds.

Working with local partners on the ground they are helping to provide much-needed emergency assistance.

We have a close link with the area through Dr Ruth Shakespeare, previous Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital in Malawi, who was a Mission Partner of the Presbytery of West Lothian. Her successor, Dr Arie Glas visited us recently.

The hospital has been caught up in the floods and there has been considerable damage to crops just before the main harvest.

A more immediate priority is the impact on public health in the surrounding area.

4000 latrines have been destroyed by the floods, and three villages are in urgent need of new boreholes to provide clean water. The damage to crops and food security will become apparent as the water recedes.

The priority is to restore clean water and sanitation to the villages in the catchment area as quickly as possible, to avoid outbreaks of cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

Just £20 provides the basic materials, cement and roofing sheets, to enable the community to rebuild one latrine

£4000 would pay for a new borehole and pump to provide clean water for a whole village

We will be giving an opportunity for you to respond through a retiring offering on **7th April**, which will be sent through the Presbytery of West Lothian direct to Mulanje.

If you wish to donate more immediately, to support the needs of the wider area, you are encouraged to do so through the Christian Aid or DEC websites.

**Thank you**