

**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, LINLITHGOW**  
**Sunday 9 December**  
**Second Sunday in Advent, Peace**



**Today's Services**

9.30 am	First Service <b>Rev Colin Johnston</b>
9.45 am	All age Service at Springfield School
11.00 am	Second Service <b>Rev Colin Johnston</b>

**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"



As we light the second Advent candle, the candle of peace, we pray for ourselves, our Church, our country and our world :-

"Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body; come,  
O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people."

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. Or 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  
 Vestry hour: 7pm Thu by appointment.

**Organist & Music Co-ordinator:**

Matt Edwards



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**This week in Cross House**

<b>Mon 10 Dec</b>	9.00am	Elders	7.30pm	Guild
<b>Tue 11 Dec</b>	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank		
<b>Wed 12 Dec</b>			6.30pm	Girls' Brigade
<b>Thu 13 Dec</b>	10.00am 10.00am	Seedlings Thursday for Coffee	12 noon 7.00pm	Sing- along for Memory Minister's Vestry
<b>Fri 14 Dec</b>	9.45am 10.30am	Parent & Toddler Group WL Foodbank		
<b>Sat 15 Dec</b>			4.30pm	Messy Church
<b>Sun 16 Dec</b>	9.15am – Sunday Club & Bible Class 9.30am and 11am services with Rev Colin Johnston 1pm – YF Outing			

**Forthcoming Events**

<b>Today</b>	2pm–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>
<b>19 Dec</b>	7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service – <b>Kirk</b>
<b>23 Dec</b>	7.00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – <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**

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**

**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** 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 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:** resumes **Friday 11 January 2019**. Please call Barbara Thomson 845705 for more details.

## **Serving Him together**

**The Guild** meets on **Monday 10 December** in the Kirk Hall at 7pm when Wiltshire Farm Foods will give a Demonstration and Tasting. Everyone welcome to join us. Further info: Margaret Henderson Tel no 01506 844787.

**Time of Stillness:** On Thursdays at 2pm 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. Nothing will be asked of 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 'Shoes for Anthony' by Emma Kennedy. All welcome. Info from Sally Chambers (07732722146). Next review meeting **Thursday 10 January**.

## **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. **Thank you.**

**Knitting Club:** The Kirk Knitting Club meets once a month on a Monday in Cross House at 10.30 am in Room 1. **Next meeting Monday 7 January.**

**CD's-Church Service:** If you would like to borrow a recording of the service, you will find 2 CDs at the Church shop. A recording of the sermon is to be found weekly on pod cast on the Church website.

## General Notices

**Urgent! Bethany Care Night Shelter** have just informed us that they have not been able to source a team to provide meals for the homeless of Edinburgh on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. We already have a team on the 28 December. Please contact Marshall on 07967112137 for further information. Thanks!

**Choir Practice: Thursday 13 December at 7.30pm**, all adults welcome. Further info: [matt@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto: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!

**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.

**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](http://www.westlothianfoodbank.org.uk). Many thanks.

**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.

**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](mailto:wandeross@hotmail.com) Thank you. Watch out for the Christian Aid Tree at the forthcoming Display in St Michael's 7, 8, 9 December.

**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.**

**Thursday for Coffee:** Come along and enjoy a cuppa, home baking and chat with the group which meets on Thursdays in Cross House between 10–11am. All are welcome.

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

**Sunday 9 December 2018: 9.30am, Second in Advent, Peace**

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

Call to Worship

Hymn: 715 (vv 1-2, 5-7), Behold the mountain of the Lord

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayer of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the Second Candle in Advent

Hymn 284 (vv1-2), Hope is a candle (*please remain seated*)

Hymn: 253 (vv1-2, 5-6), Inspired by love and anger

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 1-6 (p.57)

*(Today's reader is John Needham)*

Hymn: 334, On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Sermon

**We respond to God**

Hymn: 476, Mine eyes have seen the glory

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

Time with young People

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

Hymn: 143, Who put the colours in the rainbow?

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**

#### **Take two!**

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...

### **Blue Christmas Service**

If Christmas leaves you 'feeling blue,' then the churches of Linlithgow warmly invite you to a service of prayers, readings and music. We give thanks to the God whose advent meets us where we are, bringing peace, hope and love. Refreshments after the service with an opportunity to talk with the ministers and with each other. Come and join us in the Kirk on Wednesday 19 December at 7.30pm.

**Sunday 9 December: 11.00 am, Second in Advent, Peace**

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

Call to Worship

Hymn: 715 (vv 1-2, 5-7), Behold the mountain of the Lord

Scripture Sentences (*please remain standing*)

Prayers of Approach and Confession with Lord's Prayer

Lighting of the Second Candle in Advent

Hymn 284 (vv1-2), Hope is a candle (*please remain seated*)

Hymn: 528, Make me a channel of thy peace

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

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1–4 (p.904)

*(Today's reader is Paddy MacArthur)*

Choir Anthem: This is the Truth – Traditional

arranged R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Second Reading: Luke 3: 1–6 (p.57)

Hymn: 334, On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Sermon

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

Hymn: 253, Inspired by love and anger

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Offering and Time for Reflection

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

Hymn: 476, Mine eyes have seen the glory

Benediction

Choral Amen: 820, Dresden

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## **Peace The Second Candle in Advent**

Leader: Prepare the way!

**People: Clear a path!**

Leader: Make way, for the Lord is coming!

**People: The Prince of Peace.**

Leader: The Christ child whose gift is Shalôm. Salaam. Peace.

**People: Peace not as the world gives, but as Jesus gives;  
Not a shallow or a fleeting peace,  
but the peace of God come among us in Christ,**

**All: *We light the second candle in Advent, the candle of peace.***

Prayer: Let all who long for peace take heart in this light. By its light let us recognise the things that make for peace, and reject the things that fuel revenge. By its light let us walk with each other, in all our diversity in this world, working for just and lasting peace. This is the light of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen