



St Michael's
Linlithgow

Welcome to St Michael's Newsletter!





Christmas Services

Thursday 24 December 2020

7pm - Christingle

Livestreamed on St Michael's Facebook page. The Ministry Team (no congregation)

11.30pm - Watchnight with congregation

Livestreamed on our website with Rev Dr Liam Fraser and Rev Thom Riddell. Booking essential: Email info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk or Tel: 01506 200 838. Face coverings must be worn.

Friday 25 December 2020

11am - Online Christmas Day Service

11.30am - Livestreamed Holy Communion Service

(Rev Dr Liam Fraser and Rev Thom Riddell)

Sunday 27 December 2020

11am - Online Video Message from The Moderator, The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair

Sunday 3 January 2021

11am - Online service with Rev Thom Riddell





Rev Dr Liam Fraser

A message from your minister

Dear friends

This has been one of the most awful years that any of us have lived through. Some of you will have lost loved ones, and been with faced reduced numbers at their funerals with no reception afterward. Some of you will have faced loneliness and isolation. Others still will be suffering with their mental health, unable to do many of the things that previously

brought you relief.

While we sometimes associate the Christmas story with the innocence of childhood, there was nothing idyllic about that first Christmas night. Mary and Joseph had to face public shame at her being pregnant before marriage, their inability to find an appropriate place to give birth, and then - shortly after Jesus' birth - a flight into Egypt to save the Christ child's life.

Yet it was into this desperate scene that God chose to born. He did this to show that he will always be with those who suffer, and worry, and struggle, and that there is no darkness too deep that he cannot enter into and transform.

One of Jesus' friends said of him that he was the 'light of the world'. 'The light shines in the darkness' he wrote 'and the darkness has not overcome it'. May you experience a little of that light this Christmas season, and find room in your life for the one who is always good, and always true, and always there.



Alison Miller

New Year All Family Ceilidh – Online!

To brighten the dark midwinter, we're planning an online family ceilidh for Saturday 16th January at 7pm. This will feature the breadth of talent in St. Michael's i.e. yourselves!

You could do a recitation, poetry reading, maybe a Burns song, or a pandemic parody, some music, drama, comedy, dancing. Each piece should only be a few minutes long. This could be performed live on the night, or pre-recorded. And you could push back the chairs, (switch off your video?!) and join in with a Scottish dance at home!

To take part, please contact Alison Miller preferably before Tuesday 29th December. 01506 844992 or connect@stmichaels-parish.org.uk. Please also let me know if you'd simply like to join the Zoom for the fun and chat.



Staying in Touch

One of the many aspects of church life that has changed dramatically in 2020 is how our district elders and visitors keep in touch with St Michael's people. The traditional quarterly home visits around Communion time were quickly replaced by phone calls, emails, texts, doorstep chats, walks and letters. Feedback shows that many of you have very much appreciated this change of approach.

Kirk Session has now decided that we should continue to use all potential means of engaging with members and adherents, even after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Your elder / visitor will contact you to discuss how they should best stay in touch with you for now. Whatever you agree can of course be updated once restrictions ease.

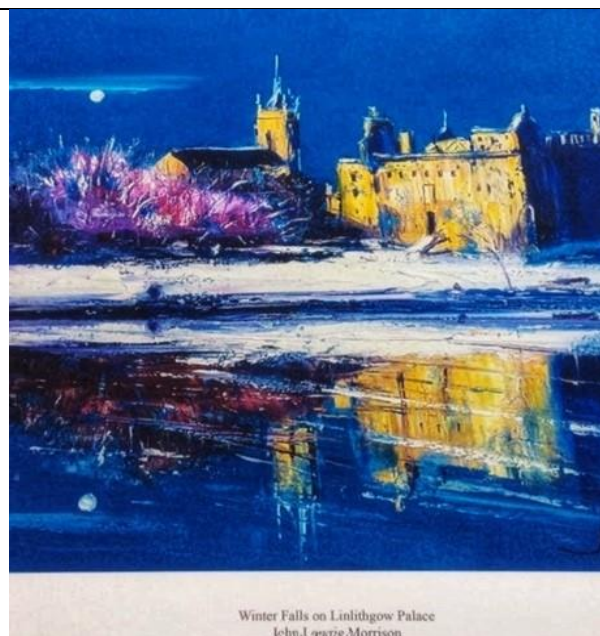


Christmas at LYPP

If you're still scratching your head over Christmas shopping, Linlithgow Young People's Project may have just what you're looking for! They still have stock of high-quality prints of "Winter Falls on Linlithgow Palace" by John Lowrie Morrison, individually signed by the artist. Each unframed print is £75 and, thanks to the artist's generosity, all proceeds go directly to support LYPP's work.

You can also support LYPP by buying a gift voucher. There are no monetary values printed on the vouchers, but the recipient will know what their donation has supported.

Please contact Elaine Kinloch (LYPP Project Manager) at 01506 202610 or on elaine@lypp.org.uk.



Winter Falls on Linlithgow Palace
John Lowrie Morrison



LYPP Christmas Gifts

All donations will go towards our vital work in Linlithgow and Bridgend

£10 - Hot chocolate at 2 outdoor Street Work sessions in Linlithgow and Bridgend (up to 40 young people)

£20 - An Early Intervention Mentoring Session at a local school

£50 - 2 counselling sessions for a young person at our new Youth Counselling Service

£100 - An accredited award such as a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth for 10 young people

LYPP is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Scottish Charity Number SC019826



The Vaccine has Landed...

...and St Michael's member Andrew Mencnarowski, who works as clinical lead of outpatient theatres, made news as the first person in Scotland to receive the first dose, as he prepared to lead the vaccination programme at Edinburgh's Western General Hospital.

Speaking exclusively to St Michael's newsletter (!), Andrew said "I haven't felt any side effects myself, and the worst I've heard from anyone else so far was that their arm felt a bit heavy and slightly sore. The hard work and cooperation that's gone on to get the vaccines developed and fully tested is fantastic. We're aiming to see about 900+ people a week at the Western General alone. Regardless of which vaccine you are offered in the fight against Covid-19 I sincerely hope you will take it, as this is the best way for us all to get back to normal life."

Well done, Andrew, and we wish you and your colleagues well for the busy months ahead.



Fiona Duke

Save your stamps!

At this time when so many cards and letters come through the post, please save all the stamps – even 2nd class. Your used stamps can help fund the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka, to support women who have survived sexual violence and family rejection and to help them return to education or learn new employment skills.

We'll arrange a central collection point for your stamps in due course – or you can forward them now (by post!) to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB. Further information is available at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission/get-involved/campaigns/stamp-appeal>.



Coming Soon – 2030 Vision

Watch out for our first newsletter of 2021 – it will focus on the 2030 Vision which has just been unanimously approved by Kirk Session. Elders described an earlier draft of the vision paper as exciting, clear, ambitious and radical, placing the church at the heart of a vibrant community while trusting God to lead us in our work.

Your district elder / visitor will be happy to discuss this important paper with you. We look forward to hearing your feedback and to journeying into the future together.

Sunday Service and Chat



Our Sunday services continue on Facebook at 11am <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsparishlinlithgow/> and on YouTube from just after 11, available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMichaelsLinlithgow>.

Please join us afterwards for coffee and chat on Zoom!

The meeting ID: 550 085 9322

Password: kirkcoffee.

You'll be able to link direct from:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5500859322?pwd=U0lvbDFnUXdIY01Iak0vNmVidjZkQT09>



Remember that the service is also available by phone.
Just dial 01506 306 036 and the audio recording of the service starts immediately.

Merry Christmas



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This information is for church use only and is not shared with any third parties.



St t Michael's Parish Church Office
Cross House
Linlithgow
EH49 7AL
Tel 01506 842188

**St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow is a Scottish Charity
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