

22 December

Many of our congregation have families living far away. Give thanks for the modern communication methods which help them to keep in touch.

Sunday 23 December, Fourth in Advent

We pray for all who will spend this Christmas caring for others. As we celebrate in the childrens' Nativity play and Lessons and Carols tonight, may we remember those who show the love of Christ in service.

24 December, Christmas Eve

"And is it true, this most tremendous tale of all, a Baby in an ox's stall? The Maker of the stars and sea became a child on earth for me?" As we gather in Church may all feel the awe and mystery of this special night.

25 December, Christmas Day

We, lonely as the shepherds, as wayfaring as the kings, as busy as the innkeeper kneel in worship as the noise of the world is stilled, the joy of heaven easily heard and a peace which passes all understanding reaches us from the Baby lying in the manger.

26 December

Pray for all in St Michael's who have been so busy in recent weeks, that today may be a day of peace and relaxation.

27 December

We pray for our community, our country and our world that somehow the peace and joy of Christmas may reach out to all, of whatever race or religion they may be.

28 December

It is so easy to judge people by their outward appearance or behaviour. As we approach a new year we pray for help to see the real person inside and reach out to them in love.

29 December

St Michael's has a team of volunteers who serve meals to homeless people in Edinburgh. We pray for those who need this service, for those who provide it and for Bethany Christian Trust who organise it.

Sunday 30 December

Let us give thanks for the good things in this year, acknowledging those we could have done better, and resolve to try to be the people Christ calls us to be in the coming year.

31 December

A New Year resolution – "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." (St Francis of Assisi)



It would be good if as many as possible could pray together at either 10:00 or 22:00 wherever you are.

Two members of the Sunday Prayer Team are also available for 15 minutes in the Kirk after the Sunday services to pray in confidence with anyone who has a personal need for prayer.

St Michael's Mission:

***Knowing Christ better; Serving Him together;
Making Him known to others***

Web: www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk

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

Prayers for December 2018

1 December

As the Christmas season starts, we pray for the Ministers, for all the duty teams, children and youth leaders, and others in the Church for whom this is a very busy time but also that it will be filled with joy.

Sunday 2 December, First in Advent

On this first Sunday in Advent, the start of the Christian year, despite so much to the contrary, we look forward in hope for a better world, and for our Church, Community and our friends and families.

3 December

We pray that each of us will find a quiet place in the coming weeks to think of the real meaning of Christmas.

4 December

This month we give thanks for all who organise and conduct worship and lead the music in our Church to the glory of God. May we always appreciate the dedication of all who are involved.

5 December

Please pray for all who are ill and their families.

6 December

With growing concern about the catastrophic effects climate change and pollution may have on our planet and the loss of so many species of flora and fauna already, we pray for a willingness on the part both of world leaders and of us as individuals to act before it is too late.

7 December

This weekend we will host another Festival of Christmas trees in the Church which involves the whole community. Give thanks for all the opportunities this brings, including money raised going to Bethany Trust and West Lothian Foodbank.

8 December

The Kirk Session holds its final special meeting tomorrow. Please pray that the outcomes of these discussions will help to guide the Church as we approach the challenges and hopes of the coming year for a new ministry and direction for us all.

Sunday 9 December, Second in Advent

O God, walk towards us on a path of peace, help us to see your glory all around us and to believe that justice, peace and reconciliation can indeed go hand in hand.

10 December

The UN General Assembly declares that having human rights is "the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" but still many suffer prejudice and discrimination every day. On Human Rights Day, we pray that we all may have a

genuine regard for our fellow human beings.

11 December

This evening West Lothian Presbytery will be considering a revised Plan for the number of parishes, and the allocation of ministry and support staff.

There will be challenges for all our congregations as they seek to continue working and witnessing for Christ in their communities. Please pray that the outcome may be positive with a willingness to try new ideas.

12 December

The next few weeks will be a time of excitement for our children and young people as they enjoy lots of parties and fun. Please pray for them all and for their leaders.

13 December

This will be the first Christmas for some following the death of someone they love. Please pray for them however, they will spend this time, and for their comfort and support.

14 December

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas in our plenty, we pray for those who suddenly have lost everything or who have nothing because of famine or other natural disasters.

15 December

We pray for all who organise Messy Church and for all the families who will attend the Christmas party today. Amidst the fun of the party may they also feel the joy of Christmas.

Sunday 16 December, Third in Advent

As we light the third Advent candle of joy, help us to remember that when things are dark, our eyes may be open to the unexpected wonders around us, the hands of friendship, smiles of a stranger, the care for the needy and refugees, and be glad.

17 December

As Christmas comes closer, media pressure increases on families already struggling with budgeting problems. We pray for practical help for them, including more donations to Foodbanks and other charities. Especially, we pray for young carers with family responsibilities.

18 December

Please pray for the Kirk Session as they consider many major issues which will affect the life and work of St Michael's for the future, and give thanks for their willingness to serve the Church in this way.

19 December

We pray for all lonely people and for those who find Christmas difficult. May the quiet meditation at our Blue Christmas service bring comfort and hope to those who attend.

20 December

At this Christmas time, we remember and pray for our friends in Raine, our partner church in Israel/Palestine with all the pressures they have.

21 December

There are several House groups meeting for Bible study and fellowship. We pray for all who take part and for the deepening of faith and relationships through it.