



**ST.  
MICHAEL'S**  
Parish church

## July Newsletter

### Sunday Service and Chat

#### Back in Church!

We're delighted that changes in the Covid-19 regulations have made it feasible to resume weekly in-person services in the church Sanctuary: and to sing together! (ok, still with masks on). Services will take place at 10am for the time being. You do still need to book a place as numbers remain limited to 70 plus leaders, stewards, musicians etc.

The best way to book is at <https://stmichaelschurchservices.eventbrite.co.uk>. Click on 'Select a Date' and then 'Register' for the date you're interested in. After that you select how many people you are registering for - it's best to do a single booking for a household, so that we know to seat you together. You then complete contact info for everyone on the booking, and that's the job done. Eventbrite gives you the option to copy data from attendee no 1 to others in the group – but do make sure to change the name!

Alternately, you can book by leaving a message on 01506 200838. Either way, it's best to book early and certainly by 10am on the Friday before the service you hope to attend.



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If you're not able to attend in person, our services are live-streamed:

Website: <https://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsparishlinlithgow>

and later on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMichaelsLinlithgow>

#### Tea, Coffee and Chat

One thing we can't do yet is to have tea or coffee in church after the service, because of the numbers. So why not organise your own for now: patronise some of our many fine High Street cafés, or even bring a flask and cups? Groups of up to 8 from 3 households inside, and up to 12 from 12 households outdoors, are allowed. This could be an opportunity to chat with somebody you don't yet know so well over a cuppa (not to mention a slice of something sweet). Let's 'build back better' by building new relationships and friendships.



**CDs and printed copies of the Sunday service are also available to those without internet. Please check in with neighbours and friends to see if they would like a copy and contact the office: [info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk](mailto:info@stmichaels-parish.org.uk)**



### **Marvellous Musicians**

Another delight now allowed by changing Covid-19 regulations is that up to 8 musicians are allowed to perform together during worship. This young gentleman delighted us with a selection of organ pieces before the service on 27th June, with Alison Hastie and others taking the helm during worship. Well done, Angus!

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### **Kirk Session News**

Here are some key points from the 'Zoom' Kirk Session meeting that took place recently:

- Session has agreed with an expert assessment that the only feasible way to refurbish the Crown of Thorns is by completely replacing the external cladding. Further discussions will now take place with Historic Environment Scotland, West Lothian Presbytery and the Church of Scotland General Trustees, all of whom also have to approve the plans. Expect to hear more soon about the fundraising for this and other exciting planned works.
- Session noted that the decision of this year's General Assembly to cap the number of ministry posts nationally means that St Michael's will likely take on a role supporting other congregations in our area. Further discussions will take place to define the area involved and how this might work.
- Session agreed that we should push ahead with recruiting a new Children and Young People's Worker to replace Trish Archibald. One option is that the job could be shared between 2 people, one focusing on children and families and the other on young people.
- Session also agreed that John Reid will take over the role of Session Clerk when Alan Miller comes to the end of his term of office in September. At a time of great change, when motivation and relationship building will be vital, John's passion for engaging with people will be very welcome.



### Its Your Move

Speaking of Trish, on our behalf she has given every P7 child at Low Port and Springfield primaries a copy of 'It's Your Move', a colourful magazine-style book from Scripture Union Scotland with tips on surviving the step-up to secondary school and on how to pray when you're worried. Both schools have passed on their thanks for our chaplaincy support over the past year. Trish asks that we keep all these young people in our prayers as they go up to secondary in such difficult times.



### Cross House Plans

Our architects Page\Park are working on exciting plans for the transformation of Cross House, on the theme 'A House for the Town'. They are currently in discussion with Historic Environment Scotland and with West Lothian Council planners to try to ensure that their final proposals are likely to be approved. Once the plans are finalised they'll be featured here, on the website and in Cross House itself so that as many people as possible can see them.

### Prayer Guide

Martin Luther once said "The less I pray, the harder it gets; the more I pray, the better it goes". One simple pointer for daily prayer is to use our St Michael's prayer guide. Each day's topic or theme for prayer pops up on Facebook, but you can also access the monthly guide on our website News page at <https://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk/news>.

### Stumped!

A crack squad recently descended on the Manse Garden. No, this was not community service: it was church members intent on removing dead tree stumps. Several hours of graft and sweat produced a great result. Well done, all!



### Happy Holidays!

Whether you're enjoying a staycation somewhere in the UK or simply taking time off at home, we wish you a happy and healthy summer!

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St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow is a Scottish Charity  
Reg No SC016185