



**ST.  
MICHAEL'S**  
Parish Church

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to your March newsletter from St Michael's Parish Church! Several days of biting winds may have misled us into thinking winter was returning - yet Easter is already just a fortnight away. But whatever the season, faith is always active in love and care. To get you in the mood, let's start with some sunshine...**

### Flowers in the Sunshine



Linlithgow Floral Art Club made a generous donation to last month's Singalong for Memory, expressing an already flourishing relationship.

Flowers have an important role at the Singalong. Organised by Myra Lawson, members of the Floral Art Club amongst others kindly provide posies for the tables. The posies give pleasure to Singalong visitors both during the lunch, and afterwards to those visitors given one to take home.

Numbers at the Singalong have steadily increased post-Covid to around 80. The next Singalong for Memory dates are Thursday 14 March and Thursday 11 April at 12 noon in the Kirk Hall. If you have a loved one who is living with memory loss, you're very welcome to bring them along to experience the positive power of much-loved music.



### Come Together Over Him

Starting on Palm Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> March), Holy Week 2024 sees Linlithgow's churches join in a shared calendar of reflection and worship. You can find full details on the Linlithgow Churches website [here](#), or further down this newsletter.

And of course, the week culminates in the all-age service on Cockleroi at 9am on Easter Sunday. Do remember to change your clocks the night before on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March!



**Linlithgow Churches**  
Working Together



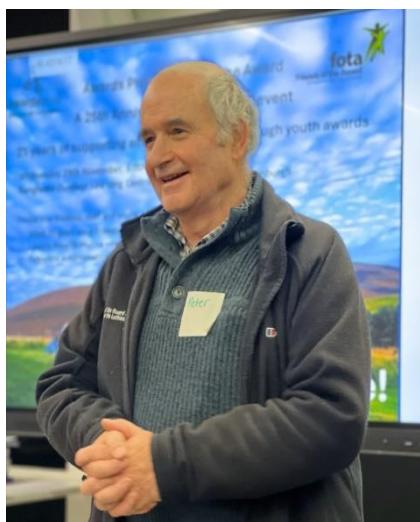
## Foodbank Collection

Speaking of 24<sup>th</sup> March, that's also the date of West Lothian Foodbank's next collection at the Kirk Hall entrance to Cross House. Alison Murray and her colleagues will be delighted to receive your donations of food or finance any time between 11am and 1pm. Currently, they are particularly looking for:

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tins of rice pudding | savoury biscuits                  |
| instant mash         | diluting juice (750ml or 1 litre) |
| shampoo              | cat food or dog food.             |

If you can't make it on 24<sup>th</sup> March, any other time you're in Cross House you can leave items in the Foodbank box by the servery.

The photo shows the results of the last collection. Can we do even better this time?!



## The Cycle for St Michael

Here's your chance to help a local legend finish the fundraising for our landmark Crown of Thorns! As we close in on completing the Crown, town resident Pete Wright MBE has generously decided to cycle 220km in 24 hours on 11-12th May. Can you help complete the Crown by sponsoring Pete in this supreme effort?

Pete explains "St Michael's iconic Crown is the first thing that catches my eye as I head out each morning. The full splendour of the refurbished Crown now emerging from the scaffolding inspired me to undertake this cycle."

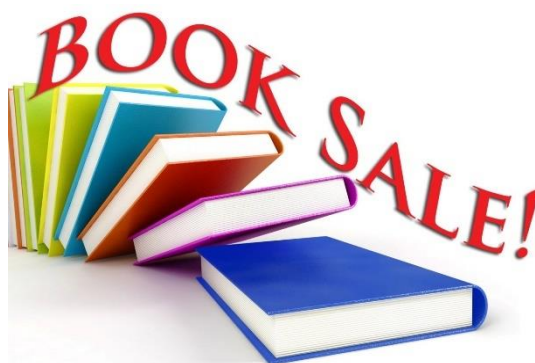
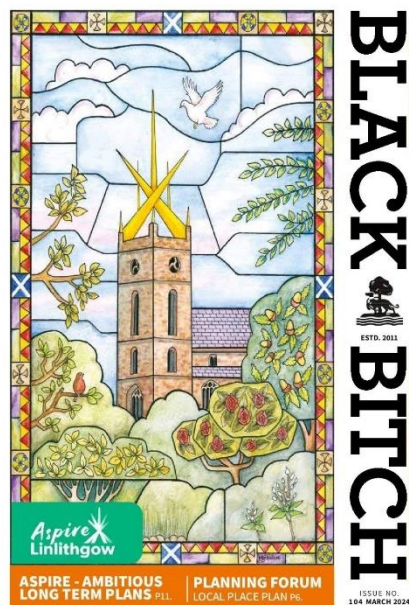
Starting and finishing at St Michael's, Pete's route encompasses Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow and Bowling. This endeavour also celebrates his 77th birthday: mark the occasion with the gift of a donation!

[Sponsor the cycle for St Michael](#)

## New Fundraising Initiatives

The fundraising team were delighted to find Meg Wallace's beautiful impression of the soon-to-be-revealed church spire featured on the front of the current issue of Linlithgow's community magazine. Inside the covers, our article introduces two new fundraising programmes. You can access the article [here](#) on the church website.

'**A House for the Town**' focuses on the planned transformation of Cross House into a welcoming and well-equipped place for all. Meanwhile, '**Project 600**' aims to put right long-term water damage to the church's stonework and to prevent further damage. More on both of these, and on ways to buy a copy of Meg's print, in future newsletters!



## Stamps and Books

Every little really does help. While you can no longer use stamps without barcodes in the post, you can donate them to save money for the church! Tim Brown can exchange them for new stamps that the church office can then use for correspondence.

Tim is also the person to contact if you have good books, DVDs or complete jigsaws for sale online or in person. You can email him [here](#) with details of your donation.

The next book sale is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 10am-12:30pm. Come along to take what you fancy and donate what you wish. Last month's in-person and online sales brought in over £670 towards Aspire Linlithgow's Crown of Thorns fund. Future sales will benefit the 'A House for the Town' programme



## Outdoors Again

Folk from 4 churches gathered at Muiravonside Country Park on the first Sunday of March for Outdoor Church. Children and dogs were also represented! We chatted about some Lent-themed images, enjoyed a gentle stroll together and topped it all off with a stop at the café.

Next month, Outdoor Church visits Torphichen on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. Meet at the parking area in front of Torphichen Kirk to explore another fascinating part of our uniting parish.



## Pray Every Day

**Sunday:** Pray that all those working with refugees will know God's wisdom and blessing as they carry out this vital work.

**Monday:** Pray for Open Doors and their staff, supporting local Christians in parts of the world where the church is persecuted and where Christian worship is often forbidden e.g. North Korea, Somalia, Libya.

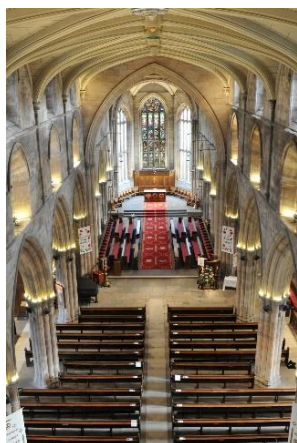
**Tuesday:** Pray for all of our children's ministries at St Michael's and for those who lead them, including Sunday Club, Seedlings, Boys Brigade, Messy Church, Toddlers and Jolly Babies.

**Wednesday:** Pray for those who are isolated due to illness and infirmity, and for our Pastoral Visitors who support many of them.

**Thursday:** Pray for God's guidance in all the planning for the union of Avonbridge, St Michael's, St Ninians Craigmailen, and Torphichen churches.

**Friday:** Pray for St Michael's fundraising team as they promote the various vital church fundraising projects around the Aspire Linlithgow theme.

**Saturday:** Pray that our ministry team may know God's presence and enabling as they juggle the multiple pressures involved in their work of ministry and service



## Spring Clean Time!

Looks immaculate, doesn't it? Well, that's how it seems from the vantage point of the bell tower. But every well-used place benefits from a spring clean, and that's certainly true of the church building as we move towards a full re-opening following the spire works.

Elizabeth Leitch is putting together a team of heroes to Hoover, dust and wipe everywhere. Dates to be confirmed once we know when the scaffolding will be removed. In the meantime, polish up your polishing arm and let Elizabeth know [here](#) if you'd like further details when available.

## LINLITHGOW CIVIC TRUST 2023-24 LECTURE SERIES

Priests, Protestants and PowerPoint:  
The Contested History (and Future) of St Michael's

**Rev Dr Liam Jerrold Fraser, Minister of St Michael's Parish Church**, explores the history of one of the largest burgh churches in the Church of Scotland. While a sacred site, St Michael's has witnessed centuries of political and spiritual conflict, which have etched themselves into the very stones of the building. As Scottish society becomes more secular, the use and character of St Michael's has once again become contested, and Liam will reflect on what the building's past can tell us about its possible future.



7.45 pm

Thursday

21 March 2024

Queen Margaret Hall

53 Blackness Road

Linlithgow

EH49 7JA



## Occasionally: Two Together

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm is your chance to catch two well-known local pianists making wonderful music together. Glyn Eggar and Alan Hastie are joining forces in a programme of piano duet music by Schubert, Ravel, Handel and Mozart. That's twenty flying fingers to marvel at!

Entry by donations, which will be used for maintenance of the church organ

## Occasionally @St.Michael's

A series of recitals by local musicians

In St. Michael's Parish Church,  
The Cross, Linlithgow

**Sunday 14th April 3pm**

Schubert Mozart Handel Ravel

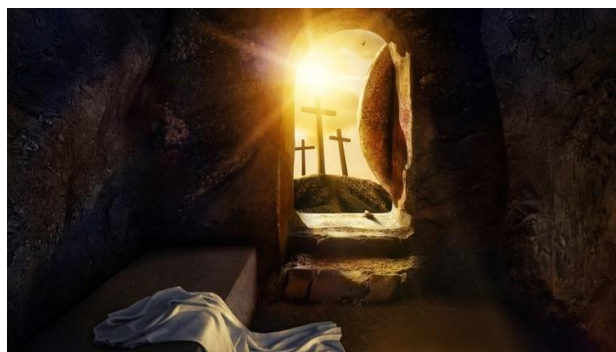
Glyn Eggar ~~~ **PIANO DUETS** ~~~ Alan Hastie



Admission free, donations invited for upkeep of the church organ

## Puzzle Prizewinner

Last month we asked for your anagrams made from the word 'eleemosynar'. Pick of the bunch was this from Lorna Paterson: 'Some yarn, Lee!' Congrats to Lorna for her winning entry. And indeed to Lee for that top-quality yarn...



## Happy Easter!

Many of us have been following Tom Wright's 'Lent for Everyone' readings in Matthew's Gospel this year. Here's part of what he has to say about Easter Day itself:

*What is there to be afraid of, if Easter has dealt with the greatest monster of all, death itself? Why should you be afraid of anything, if Jesus has been raised from the dead, if the old world has cracked open and*

*a new world has been born? This is Jesus' day, the Day of Days. Make it yours too.*

We wish you a joyful Easter!

You are warmly invited by all of Linlithgow's Churches to attend this year's Holy Week Services, commencing Sunday 24 March 2024.

Palm Sunday 6.30 p.m. St Peter's Episcopal, Choral Evensong

Monday 7.30p.m. St Ninian's-Craigmailen CoS

Tuesday 7.30 p.m. St Michael's CoS

Wednesday 7.00 p.m. St Michael's RC

Thursdays Stations of the Cross  
7.00 p.m. St Michael's RC  
Mass of the Last-Supper with Procession to the Altar of  
Repose and Compline at 9pm

7.30 p.m. St Ninian's-Craigmailen CoS

Joint Maundy Thursday Communion

7.30 p.m. St Peter's & St Columba's Episcopal at St Columba's Bathgate  
Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday 10.00 a.m. St Michael's RC

Morning Prayer

11.45 a.m. At the Cross

A public affirmation & reflection

12.15 p.m. St Peter's Episcopal

Stations of the Cross

3.00 p.m. St Michael's RC

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7.00 p.m. St Michael's RC

Stations of the Cross

7.30 p.m. St Michael's CoS

Tenebrae Service

Saturday 10.00 a.m. St Michael's RC

Morning Prayer and Blessing of Gifts

7.30 p.m. St Peter's Episcopal  
Easter Vigil & First Easter Communion

8.00 p.m. St Michael's RC

The Easter Vigil

Easter Day 9.00 a.m. Open Air All-Age Service on Cockleroi.

Christ is risen!

Morning Easter Day Services in all of our Churches

## Cockleroi

For those attending our open air all-age Easter service, please be mindful to respect the land. Bicycles and dogs are not permitted; also, please tidy up your litter (including eggshells) and ensure all gates are closed. Thank you!

# Join us for Worship



**ST.  
MICHAEL'S**  
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Our worship services are every Sunday at 10am. As Covid-19 remains highly transmissible if you feel unwell please consider taking a lateral flow test before attending for worship. We look forward to worshipping with you, safely and joyfully, Sunday by Sunday.

Services at Springfield School are **at 09:45** and you are invited to enter the school hall by the main door.

Our next contemporary evening service will take place at **6:30pm on Sunday 17th March**, in the Kirk Hall. Come early for a cuppa and a chat! **Last service before Easter, resumes Sunday 14 April.**

**If you are not able to attend in person, our main morning services are live-streamed:**

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

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

They are available shortly after the end of the service for 1 week on the Kirk website under 'Faith'/'Worship Replay' or <http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk/replay>

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

**NB: Please note that services that are uploaded to YouTube and elsewhere on the web also remain available for 1 week after each service.**

**CDs 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)

We take our members' privacy seriously, and the information provided will be retained by us for as long as it is required for the purpose for which it was collected or unless you tell us otherwise. A copy of our full Privacy Notice can be found on our website <http://www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk>

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